

**Welcome Address by the President, Nigerian Academy of Engineering - Engr. (Mrs.) J. O. Maduka, FIET, FNSE, FAEng, MFR, at the Press Conference of the Academy held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 in the Conference Room of the Academy Secretariat, Chemical Engineering Complex, University of Lagos, Akoka.**

The Council Members, Nigerian Academy of Engineering

Fellows of the Academy

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great joy that I welcome you all to this press conference, which also marks the end of our financial year as an academy.

First, I wish to thank you all for making it to this press conference. The last one year, which also happened to be my first year in office as the president of this academy, was – without doubt – a fruitful one. I remember in the beginning, during my investiture, I reiterated our responsibility as the Nigerian Academy of Engineering, which is to leverage the unique knowledge and experiences of our members to provide advice to government and the business community on issues that have to do with application of technology to our needs.

This period marks the end of the first half of my tenure, and thankfully, we had a score of events that propelled us forward, and towards the goal we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year. Our public lectures touched on two important national infrastructural concerns – communication and electricity; and thankfully, our guest speakers, who were also major stakeholders and influencers in those sectors, did justice to the topics. They also got useful feedback, which we hope they penciled down for implementation. We all know that power is a major issue, especially in our context. Hence, in addition to the public lecture on electricity, we also organised a forum on sustainable power.

One very important theme we focused on, during this past NAE year, was engineering education. A landmark achievement on this regard was the commencement of our

partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering on the Africa Catalyst Project (ACP). I am glad to state here that the ACP (which aims at specifying the competences required of different grades of engineering practitioners in Nigeria, through a document called the Nigeria-SPEC) is in its final stages, and will be concluded this month. We hope to see policy impacts from the provisions of the Nigeria-SPEC in the near future; policy improvements in engineering education are now overdue.

Furthermore, we have not reneged on our quest for leaders amongst us who have shown exceptional commitment to the engineering profession. Therefore, part of our activities this season is the induction of new fellows into the academy. Professional quality remains an important index for selection of fellows into this academy. In other words, fellows are nominated on the basis of their remarkable contributions to engineering research and practice. Competition for this year's fellowship was remarkably high, as we got applications from many high-performing academics and practitioners. I seize this opportunity to congratulate the candidates who made this year's list of inductees.

Finally, as we transit to the second half of my term, I still solicit the support of all our stakeholders. I will be asking you, my colleagues and fellows of the academy to be more involved in the activities of the academy. There will be programmes and meetings at various levels in the coming months; I ask that you invest more of your time, expertise and treasures, and rise up towards delivering the mandate we have placed on ourselves as think tanks, and veterans in the Engineering profession. I welcome you all to this press conference.

**Engr. (Mrs.) J. Olu Maduka, FIET, FNSE, FAEng, MFR**  
**President, Nigerian Academy of Engineering.**