



INSTITUTE OF PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (IPESS)

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI (FUAM)
NOW KNOWN AS JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY,
MAKURDI (JOSTUM)



FEBRUARY, 2026

BULLETIN
Vol. 4, NUMBER 1

Dear Reader,

I extend my gratitude to you for your support, which is continually propelling the Institute of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (IPESS) at Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), to break new ground and achieve new heights. We have come thus far because of your unflinching support, and we remain undaunted in pursuing initiatives and practical approaches that will culminate in the actualization of project-set objectives.

Once again, I am privileged and honoured to present to you the February 2026 issue of our bimonthly bulletin chronicling the giant steps and milestones attained by IPESS JOSTUM in line with her mission and mandate since the beginning of 2026.

IPESS JOSTUM has distinguished itself through its firm dedication to quality and professionalism. Its robust training programs are not only aligned with international best practices but are also tailored to meet the evolving needs of both the public and private sectors. Through our training programmes ranging from short executive to advanced certificate courses, postgraduate diplomas, and degree programmes at both bachelor's and master's levels, the Institute is ensuring a steady pipeline of highly skilled professionals ready to tackle real-world challenges.

On February 24, 2026, IPESS JOSTUM elevated its impact even further by organizing an international symposium titled “Responsible Procurement in Action: Pathways to Environmental Stewardship and Social Equity.” This event brought together distinguished leaders, policymakers, and practitioners from across the globe, such as Engr Dr Emeka Eze, OFR; Engr. Prof. Sylvester Obinna Osuji; and World Bank consultant Oluwatosin B. Oso, to explore actionable pathways for embedding responsibility and sustainability into procurement practices. With discussions spanning governance, environmental integration, and social inclusion, the symposium reinforced IPESS JOSTUM's stature as a thought leader and convenor of transformative dialogues.

The recent graduation of over 500 Track B participants from Makurdi and Jos is another

remarkable achievement of this issue, demonstrating the institute's dedication to scaling high-quality training. Equipped with contemporary skills in procurement and environmental and social standards, the graduands now stand poised to influence standards in both the public and private sectors. Their expertise will be a critical resource for promoting transparent procurement processes, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility in their respective organizations and communities.

It is worthy to note that IPESS JOSTUM's capacity-building initiatives are felt far beyond individual career advancement. As the challenges facing procurement, environmental, and social standards grow more complex, so too does IPESS JOSTUM. The recent milestones from large-scale graduations and high-profile symposia reaffirm its commitment to excellence and relevance. With its eyes set on the future, IPESS JOSTUM remains a beacon of progress—charting the way towards a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous society.

I therefore urge you to peruse the pages of this issue to keep abreast of our continuous progress and achievements, which are in tandem with the vision and mission of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

Read with me.



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, PMP, FICCON, FCSN, FSTAN, PMP
Center Leader & Director,
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RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT: A WALKWAY TO SECURING THE FUTURE – PROFESSOR NNAMONU

The Center Leader and Director of the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) at Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM), Professor Lami A. Nnamonu, PMP, has emphasised that upholding procurement standards in line with global best practices is a surer way of building a secured future for the forthcoming generation.



Professor Lami A. Nnamonu, PMP
Centre Leader and Director, IPESS

Professor Lami A. Nnamonu stated this on 24th February 2026 at the Food Technology and Human Ecology Auditorium, JOSTUM, during the IPESS 2026 Symposium on the theme, “Responsible Procurement in Action: Pathways to Environmental Stewardship and Social Equity”.

The Center Director stated that, across the globe, procurement is no longer viewed as a transactional function. It is increasingly recognised as a strategic lever for sustainable



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo
(3rd left) and Guest Speakers during IPESS JOSTUM
2026 International Symposium

development – capable of driving environmental protection, promoting social inclusion, strengthening governance, and delivering value for money. She noted that in Nigeria, public procurement accounts for a substantial proportion of national expenditure. When aligned with environmental and social standards, it becomes a powerful instrument for achieving climate resilience, protecting communities, promoting gender equity, supporting local enterprise, and safeguarding future generations.

She called on participants to use the symposium to ignite partnerships, inspire reform, and strengthen their collective resolve to institutionalise sustainable procurement

practices in Benue State, Nigeria, and beyond.

The Premiere Director General, Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), and Chairman, FCT Civil Service Commission, Engr Dr Emeka Eze, OFR, while speaking on the theme "Reimagining Procurement: Governance, Transparency, and Accountability for Responsible Public Procurement", asserted that responsible public procurement goes beyond compliance. It includes integrity, value for money, fairness and competition, and social and environmental responsibility. Engr Dr Emeka Eze stated that responsible public procurement that is rooted in good governance, transparency, and accountability is essential not only for saving money but also for building a state that citizens can trust, a market that rewards competence and integrity, and a future where public resources are used to deliver tangible, equitable benefits to all Nigerians.

He added that if governance, transparency, and

accountability are strengthened, Nigeria will see improved value for money, reduced corruption, fewer procurement scandals, and greater confidence in government institutions. The Chairman, FCT Civil Service Commission, advocated continuous

training, regular posting, declaration of assets, and sectoral development of procurement officers, among others, as things that could be done differently to reduce ill practices in the procurement sector.

In a presentation titled “Greening the Supply Chain: Integrating Environmental Standards into Procurement Decisions”, the Center Leader of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement Center of Excellence (SPESSECE), Engr. Prof. Sylvester Obinna Osuji said, 'Greening the supply chain through the integration of environmental standards into procurement decisions is no longer optional – it is a strategic imperative.' The



centre leader asserted that procurement is not simply a transactional function but a powerful tool for advancing sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity. According to him, embedding environmental standards into procurement processes ensures that organisations ensure that every contract, supply, and purchasing decision contributes to reducing ecological footprints, promoting social equity, and achieving long-term economic value.



Engr Dr Emeka Eze
Delivering a Lecture during IPSS
JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium

Prof. Osuji added that greening the supply chain requires collaboration – between procurement specialists, environmental experts, suppliers, and stakeholders – to build trust, accountability, and continuous improvement, saying these initiatives will not only safeguard natural resources and reduce pollution but also foster innovation, strengthen resilience, and create inclusive growth opportunities.

In his presentation titled "Procurement as a Tool for Social Equity:

Advancing Fair Labour, Inclusion, and Local Economic Development," a World Bank consultant and a development and social specialist, Oluwatosin B. Oso, submitted that procurement is a powerful instrument for achieving social equity. The World Bank consultant stated that by embedding principles of fair labour, inclusion, and local economic development in procurement policies and practices, organisations can extend their impact far beyond their immediate operational needs. In doing so, procurement transforms from a back-office function to a strategic driver of positive

change – building fairer, more inclusive, and more prosperous communities. According to Oluwatosin Oso, by aligning procurement policies and practices with the principles of social equity, organisations – both public and private can play a significant role in advancing fair labour standards, fostering inclusion, and stimulating local economic development.

The Vice-Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Engr. Prof. Isaac N. Itodo, in a welcome address, stated that Universities are not only centres of learning and research; they are also institutions of leadership and example. The Vice Chancellor noted that responsible procurement represents a deliberate commitment to environmental stewardship, ethical sourcing, transparency, and social equity – and institutions entrusted with public resources must ensure that procurement systems go beyond compliance.

The Vice Chancellor, while commending the organisers, particularly the Institute of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards led by Prof. Lami Nnamonu and the



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (left) delivering an Award Plaque
to Engr Dr Emeka Ezeduring IPSS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium

Central Planning Committee for conceiving the symposium idea, said, "I must state here again, just as I have always done in various forums and without any equivocality, that IPSS remains the flagship program of JOSTUM." Today's

ceremony is another justification of my long-standing postulation on how IPSS continues to implement the World Bank-supported SPESSE Project since 2019." Engr Professor Itodo reiterated the University's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote accountability, sustainability, and inclusive growth and further encouraged participants to use the platform to exchange ideas frankly, challenge assumptions constructively, and propose actionable solutions that will influence policy, strengthen institutions, and inspire ethical leadership.

Participants of the advanced certificate course (Track B) programme at the Institute of



IPESS JOSTUM Participants in Class during Advanced Certificate Course Training in Makurdi, Benue State

Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM), have expressed satisfaction with the level of intelligence, excellence and professionalism demonstrated by facilitators of the programme.

The Track B participants made this known on Wednesday, 11th February 2026 in Makurdi while sharing their experiences with the IPESS JOSTUM media team.

In separate speeches, Mrs Kadev Mimidoo Ann, Gbamwuan Terkula and Richard Azaage of the Social, Procurement and Environmental Standards Cohorts, respectively, lauded the uncommon commitment, dedication and energy put in by the facilitators in the delivery of the courses. Mrs Kadev Mimidoo, who is a Special Adviser to the Executive Governor of Benue State, Rev. Dr Hyacinth Iormem Alia, on Humanitarian Affairs stated that the high level of expertise shown by the

facilitators of the programme was a clear indication that the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project is yielding positive results.

The trainees while thanking the management of IPESS JOSTUM, led by the Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu for recruiting competent hands to handle the assignment further urged facilitators of the various standards to sustain that level of commitment and professionalism to enable the project to achieve its set targets.

On the other hand, the participants called for the training of higher office executives and policymakers to balance their level of understanding with their subordinates who have received training under the SPESSE project. Fanyam Babara Iornem of the social standards node stated that if



IPESS JOSTUM Team and Graduands during Track B Valedictory Event in Jos, Plateau

there is a gap in the level of understanding between subordinates and higher executives, the quality and quantum of output will be greatly affected.

Newly admitted postgraduate students in the Departments of Procurement Management, Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Social Development at the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) have been urged to be dedicated and hardworking to excel in their respective fields of study.

The Center Leader and Director, Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) JOSTUM, made the call on Wednesday, 14th January 2026 during an online orientation event organized by the Institute to sensitize the newly admitted postgraduate students on basic issues that will facilitate the timely and successful graduation.

The Center Leader who was represented by the Deputy Director of IPESS JOSTUM, Dr Christopher Eche congratulated the students and stated that, their provisional offer of admission in the highly sought after courses was an opportunity that must not be taken for granted to enable them to advance their careers. She charged the students to remain resolute in pursuit of excellence in their chosen fields.

Speaking on the topic, “Postgraduate Lecture modus operandi for SPESSE-supported programmes”, the Head of Department, Environmental Sustainability, Dr Christopher Eche stated that the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards enhancement (SPESSE) project is aimed at building capacity in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards. He added that the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka

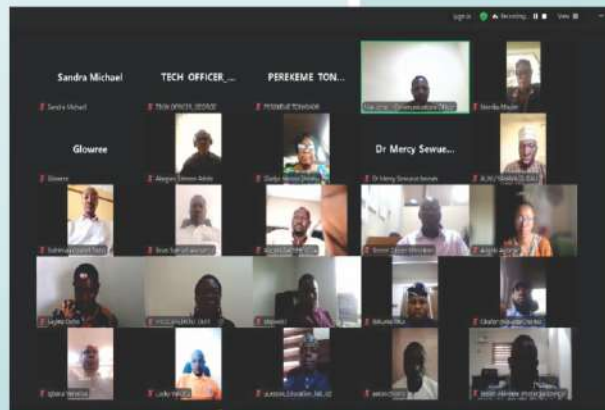
University Makurdi (JOSTUM) is the Center of Excellence (CE) implementing the SPESSE project within the North-Central region of Nigeria. Dr Eche encouraged the students to be committed to the programme and attend all classes, download all shared lecture materials, submit all assignments as at when due and endeavour to write the semester examinations for the successful completion of their respective courses.

The Gender and Social Development Officer Prof. Alachi O. Amali while delivering a presentation on the topic “Addressing Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Harassment and Exploitation” stated that sexual harassment constitutes gross misconduct

and could lead to termination or other consequences related to employment and employment status. Prof. Alachi who encouraged the students to uphold the principles of diversity, inclusion and equality further called on the students to endeavour to

read and sign the Code of Conduct document and to report any instance of Gender Based Violence or grievance whether they are victims or witnesses.

On “Navigating the Virtual Learning Environment”, the Information and Communication Technology Officer, Engr Terngu Tingir delivered a step-by-step demonstration that would enable the participants to gain seamless access into the virtual learning environment and engage fully for the successful completion of the programme. Engr urged the participants to commit their time and have an open mind during the programme, adding that mutual respect is a key requirement to complete the programme.



A Snapshot of IPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Students during Online Orientation Event



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (right) delivering a Plaque to Oluwatosin Oso during a Courtesy Visit in the Vice Chancellor's Office



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (right) delivering a Plaque to Head of Civil Service, Nasarawa State, Abigail Waya during a Courtesy Visit in the Vice Chancellor's Office



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (right) delivering a Plaque to the Center Leader of SPESSECE, University of Benin, Prof. Sylvester Obinna Osuji during a Courtesy Visit in the Vice Chancellor's Office



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (right) delivering a Plaque to Engr Dr Emeka Eze Prior to IPESSE JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Members of IPESSE Management Team and Guest Speakers at IPESSE 2026 International Symposium During a Courtesy Visit on the Vice Chancellor.

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Oluwatosin Oso Delivering a Lecture during IPESS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



Head of Civil Service, Nasarawa State, Abigail Waya (left) Delivering Award Plaque to Oluwatosin Oso (2nd left) as the Center Leader and Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu Looks on



Head of Civil Service, Nasarawa State, Abigail Waya (right) Delivering an Address during IPESS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



Prof. Sylvester Obinna Osuji Delivering a Lecture during IPESS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



Academic Programme Coordinator, Prof. E.J. Ekefan (right) Presenting Award Plaque to Prof. Sylvester Obinna Osujiduring IPESS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (left) delivering an Award Plaque to Engr Dr Emeka Eze during IPESS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards, Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato Delivering a Talk during IPESS JOSTUM Track B Orientation Event in Makurdi



Deputy Center Leader, Social Standards, Prof. Adolphus A. Naswem Delivering an Address during IPESS JOSTUM Track B Orientation Event in Makurdi



Standard Quality Officer, Social Standards Prof. Simon Ejembi Delivering a Lecture during IPESS JOSTUM Track B Orientation Event in Makurdi



L-R; Prof. Ebenezer J. Ekefan, Prof. Adolphus A. Naswem and Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato Seated during IPESS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



Invited Guests, Guest Speakers and Participants Seated during IPESS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



The Director of ATEK & CROSS Limited, Obiora Ifezue, has lauded the management of the Institute of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standard



IPSS JOSTUM Staff in Session during a 5-day Intensive Training Programme in Cotonou, Benin Republic.

s (IPSS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM), for approving and releasing ten of the institute's administrative staff for training by the organisation.

Obiora Ifezue gave the commendation on 26th January 2026 at Paradisia Hotel, Cotonou, Benin Republic, during a 5-day intensive training programme on the theme “Administrative Effectiveness, Ethics and Time Management” designed to strengthen administrative professionalism, ethical standards, communication effectiveness, documentation quality, workflow management, and time optimisation for staff supporting the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project at JOSTUM. The Director thanked the IPSS JOSTUM Management team led by Professor Lami A. Nnamonu (PMP) for recognising the importance



IPSS JOSTUM Staff Showcase Certificates After a 5-day Intensive Training Programme in Cotonou, Benin Republic.

of training and retraining of staff of the Institute to enable them to perform optimally in their respective roles. He urged the management of the Institute to sustain the gesture, saying, staff training is a surer way of maximising output to attain institutional set objectives.

Reacting, the Administrative Team Leader, IPSS JOSTUM, Dr Mercy Sewuese Iannah also thanked the Management of the Institute for availing her team the privilege to participate in the life-changing workshop. Dr Mercy Iannah commended ATEK & CROSS for putting up the carefully designed programme and urged the participants

to engage actively to grasp the lessons of the training to enable them to perform excellently in their various roles.

The five-day training, which was held from 26th to 30th January 2026 covered areas such as administrative excellence in donor-funded projects, stakeholder engagement and service delivery improvement, and ethics, professionalism, confidentiality, and responsible conduct. Other areas include effective communication, documentation, minute writing and reporting, and time management, workflow organisation and productivity tools.

HOW IPESSE JOSTUM IS CONTRIBUTING TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESSE), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) is among the leading institutions on the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project, making a significant impact in developing sustainable human capacity in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards in the North Central region of Nigeria. The institute has not only carved a niche for itself not only through its high-quality training programmes but also through its consistent drive to sustain and expand its capacity-building efforts.



An Advanced Certificate Course Participant Showcasing Certificate of Participation

Through her programmes designed with a clear focus on practical relevance and compliance with international best practices, IPESSE JOSTUM has a proud history of equipping thousands of participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate complex terrains in the fields of procurement, environmental and social standards in public and private sectors.

Recognising the ever-changing dynamics of procurement, environmental management, and social governance, the institute continues to onboard new applicants ranging from short executive and advanced certificate courses, Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Science, and Bachelor of science Degrees. This sustained tempo is a testament to IPESSE JOSTUM's ongoing efforts to ensure that a steady stream of qualified professionals is ready to meet the demand for skilled personnel in the specialised fields of procurement, environmental and social spheres.

Another key factor behind IPESSE JOSTUM's success in sustaining its training tempo is its ability to develop, adapt and tailor its curriculum to address

current and emerging challenges. In line with Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI 4), which is linked to the development of curricula on procurement, environmental and social standards, the institute has developed course content to reflect changes in procurement laws, environmental policies, and social standards both locally and internationally. For example, the growing emphasis on green procurement and sustainable supply chains has led IPESSE JOSTUM to incorporate modules on environmental impact assessments, waste management, and resource efficiency into its training. Similarly, social standards training emphasises human rights, labour laws, and community engagement, preparing participants to implement socially responsible practices in their organisations.

Also, certification is a powerful motivator for professionals seeking to advance their careers. Employers increasingly recognise the value of hiring certified professionals, which translates into better job opportunities and career progression for IPESSE JOSTUM's alumni. Following IPESSE JOSTUM's trainings, hundreds of participants have been certified by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv) and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards, respectively. Graduates have emerged as

certified practitioners, equipped with the skills to influence procurement processes, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility initiatives within their workplaces.

Again, one salient contribution of IPESSE JOSTUM is the building of a community of practice. Beyond training and certification, IPESSE JOSTUM fosters a vibrant community of practice that connects past and present trainees. This network becomes a platform for knowledge sharing, mentorship, and collaboration on projects that advance procurement and sustainability standards. Alumni engagements, workshops, and seminars organised by the institute help maintain professional relationships and encourage continuous learning. This community aspect amplifies the impact of the training



A Class session during Advanced Certificate Course Training in Makurdi



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programmes, as practitioners share insights and best practices that benefit the broader sector.

A notable example is the historic IPSS 2026 symposium anchored on the theme “Responsible Procurement in Action: Pathways to Environmental Stewardship and Social Equity.” The event brought together big actors who are excelling in their chosen fields of endeavour. They include, the Premiere Director General, Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), Engr Dr Emeka Eze, OFR, the Center Leader of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement Center of Excellence (SPESSECE), at the University of Benin, Engr. Prof. Sylvester Obinna Osuji, and a World Bank consultant and a development and social specialist, Oluwatosin B. Oso who delivered on key topics ranging from “Reimagining Procurement: Governance, Transparency, and Accountability for Responsible Public Procurement,” “Greening the Supply Chain: Integrating Environmental Standards into Procurement Decisions,” and “Procurement as a Tool for Social Equity: Advancing Fair Labour, Inclusion, and Local Economic Development,” respectively. Over 2000 participants attended the event virtually and physically, making it one of the most attended events in the history of JOSTUM.

The impact of IPSS JOSTUM's capacity-building efforts extends beyond individual career advancement. By enhancing the skills of procurement professionals and environmental and social standards practitioners, the institute contributes to improved governance, transparency, and sustainability in public and private sectors. This, in turn, supports national and regional development goals by promoting efficient resource use, reducing environmental degradation, and fostering social equity. IPSS JOSTUM's work aligns closely with regional frameworks that emphasise good governance and sustainable development, making her a key player in advancing the change for a better agenda.

The true measure of IPSS JOSTUM's impact lies in the testimonies of her trainees. Many alumni attest to

the transformative nature of the training programmes in enhancing their professional capabilities.

One participant, Terkula Gbamwuan of procurement standards shared; my experience on the IPSS JOSTUM programme has been wonderful.' The programmes are well packaged and efficiently delivered. The facilitators are professionally delivering on the job and I am quite impressed. Based on the training, I have come to realise that some of the things we did previously were not best practices in procurement. The practical knowledge I received from IPSS JOSTUM has significantly boosted my confidence and effectiveness in managing procurement processes.

Another trainee, Kadev Mimidoo Ann of environmental standards, highlighted the institute's role in promoting sustainable practices: “The environmental and social standards training helped me understand how to integrate sustainability into our operations. My experience has been very enriching because the training exceeds my expectations. It's not just about compliance; it's about making a positive impact.”

On her part, Fanyam Babara Iornem, of social standards, said, "I have learned a lot from this training." It has enlightened me more on what social standards are all about and what I am expected to do during projection execution. Indeed, my expectations have been met.”

As the world increasingly prioritises ethical procurement and sustainable practices, the role of IPSS JOSTUM becomes even more critical. Her ongoing commitment to empowering professionals with the right skills and knowledge contributes not only to individual success but also to broader societal progress. Through continuous training, certification, community building, and strategic partnerships, the institute will continue to exert its relevance and be responsive to the ever-changing demands of specific sectors. With its legacy of achievement and forward-looking vision, IPSS JOSTUM is well-positioned to continue leading the charge in human capacity building, sustaining its vital tempo for years to come.



A Section of Advanced Certificate Course Graduands in Environmental Sustainability during IPSS JOSTUM 2026 International Symposium



By Hajara Dan-Musa: *IPESS ALUMNUS*

Development projects, whether infrastructure development, energy development, water development or urban development, offer economic growth prospects and better livelihoods. However, these projects carry environmental and social risks that require professional evaluation and management. In the modern era of a fast-changing world, the inclusion of environmental and social aspects is no longer optional in both project planning and implementation; rather, it is a compulsory requirement to attain sustainable development outcomes.



Hajara Dan-Musa
Water Resources and Environmental Engineer.

The international development community is gradually realising the importance of integrating environmental safety, social inclusion, and economic growth. Models like the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) also underline the need to identify, evaluate, and control environmental and social risks during the life cycle of the project. The ESF encourages the concept of a risk-based approach, which ensures that development activities are done in a way that safeguards people, ecosystems and community livelihoods as well as enhances economic development. The most important principle of environmental and social standards is active risk management. The projects should be initiated with an extensive evaluation of the environmental and social effects that may arise.

Environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) assist in identifying the risks associated with pollution, depletion of resources, loss of bio diversity, and health and safety in communities. After the identification, such risks should be mitigated using suitable mitigation strategies, environmental management strategies, and constant monitoring.

Especially in rapidly urbanised and industrialised areas, resource efficiency and pollution prevention are of great importance. Economic activities can produce pollutants that negatively impact the ecosystem and people's health by contaminating air, water, and soil. The environmental standards thus mandate project developers to reduce waste, ensure efficient resource utilisation, and consider cleaner

production methods that will decrease environmental footprints. It is equally important to protect the communities that development projects impact. Environmental and social structures acknowledge that development processes may affect the health, safety, livelihoods, and cultural heritage of a community. Proper project planning should, therefore, incorporate measures that will prevent or reduce harm, especially to vulnerable groups, such as marginalised populations, indigenous communities, and low-income families, who are often disproportionately affected by development activities. By managing these risks, we not only safeguard communities but also enhance and accept development initiatives over time.

Another principle of responsible environmental and social management is stakeholder engagement. Open communication and consultation with communities and civil society organisations and other stakeholders in a meaningful manner will contribute to ensuring that the decisions made about the project are based on local realities and concerns. The open interaction enhances trust, improves project design, and creates greater accountability for the development process. As a practitioner, I view environmental and social standards not as regulatory requirements but as tools that facilitate better developmental outcomes.

The professionals can contribute to the development of sustainable projects by ensuring that they bring environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and stakeholder involvement into the project implementation to ensure that development projects do not undermine the interests of people or the environment. We are not just compliant as environmental and social practitioners. We are custodians of sustainable development, and we make sure that projects are structured and executed in a manner that incorporates economic development, environmental conservation, and social justice. Improving environmental and social risk management frameworks will remain the focus of attention as nations pursue resilient, inclusive, and sustainable developmental paths.

Ultimately, sustainable development hinges on the responsible planning of projects, the effective management of risks, and the serious involvement of stakeholders. Practitioners can help to protect the communities, ecosystems, and future generations by adhering to high environmental and social standards, thereby ensuring a successful project.



GOODWILL ADDRESS BY DR JOSHUA ATAH, SPESSE NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR AT IPSS JOSTUM 2026 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



Dr Joshua Atah
SPESSE National Project Coordinator

IPSS International Symposium 2026 - Responsible Procurement in Action: Pathways to Environmental Stewardship and Social Equity Distinguished delegates, esteemed colleagues, and partners.

It is a great honor to extend my warmest goodwill to all of you gathered for the IPSS International Symposium 2026. Our theme, Responsible Procurement in action, speaks to a powerful truth: procurement is no longer simply about acquiring goods and services, it is about shaping the future. Every purchasing decision carries influence. It affects ecosystems, economies, and communities.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the significant role of the SPESSE project in contributing to this dialogue. The SPESSE Project (Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement) continues to demonstrate leadership in strengthening institutional capacity, promoting professionalization in public procurement, and embedding sustainability principles within governance frameworks. Through its focus on education, research, and policy innovation, SPESSE is helping to redefine procurement as a strategic tool for national development and social transformation.

Responsible procurement is not a constraint; it is an opportunity. An opportunity to innovate, to collaborate across sectors, and to demonstrate that sustainability and economic performance can move forward together.

As we engage in dialogue and share expertise during this symposium, let us focus on turning principles into practice and commitments into measurable outcomes. The real impact of our discussions will be seen in the policies we shape, the partnerships we build, and the actions we take beyond this gathering.

May this symposium inspire bold thinking, meaningful collaboration, and decisive action.

Thank you and I wish you a productive and impactful event.

www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

UCHE MICHAEL AONDOHEMBA, *arpa*
Communications Officer



SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS ENHANCEMENT (SPESSE) PROJECT



SPESSE

MISSION

To produce a critical mass of highly skilled and fit-for purpose professionals in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards for sustainable development.

VISION

To be a Dynamic Regional Hub for Expert Training and Research in Public Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Based on Global Best Practices.

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