



INSTITUTE OF PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (IPESS)

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



Excellence & Professionalism

JANUARY, 2025

BULLETIN
Vol. 3, NUMBER 1

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM), Engr Professor Isaac Nathaniel Itodo, and the Centre Management Team of the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), may I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for your unalloyed support, which is contributing to the attainment of greater heights at the institute.

I feel elated to present the January 2025 edition of IPESS JOSTUM's bulletin, documenting extraordinary milestones, high-profile engagements, and other commendable initiatives executed at the institute in fulfillment of its mandate and objectives.

In recent months, IPESS JOSTUM has demonstrated a commendable and inspiring level of dynamism and purpose. From high-profile engagements with key stakeholders to transformative training sessions and workshops for civil servants, IPESS JOSTUM is proving to be a beacon of progress in Nigeria's public and private sector landscape.

A significant development for the center has been the recent approval by the 9th Governing Council of JOSTUM for its conversion from the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) to the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS). This milestone recognizes the center's growing impact and potential to contribute even more significantly to national development. As an institute, IPESS now has an expanded mandate to develop and implement programs that address the evolving needs of Nigeria's public and private sectors. This new status enhances its credibility and positions it as a key player in shaping policies and driving innovation.

One salient impact of IPESS on JOSTUM is its facilitation of the establishment of a Distance Learning Center (DLC) at the university. The National Universities Commission (NUC), under the auspices of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (SPESSE) project, has already assessed the institute's and university's facilities to drive this process. In a technology-driven world, Distance Learning Centers play a crucial role in enhancing education, making learning accessible and inclusive. These centers bridge the gap between learners and educational opportunities, overcoming barriers such as location, time, and financial constraints.

Another notable accomplishment of IPESS JOSTUM during this period has been its strategic outreach to critical government offices. The institute has visited the offices of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction. These engagements signify more than courtesy calls; they underscore IPESS JOSTUM's commitment to fostering partnerships that drive sustainable development in line with the objectives of the SPESSE project. The SGF's office plays a pivotal role in coordinating government policies, and IPESS JOSTUM's collaboration with this office reflects its alignment with Nigeria's broader development agenda. Similarly, the institute's outreach to the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation underscores its focus on sustainable resource management, a crucial area for national

growth. Furthermore, its engagement with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction highlights its commitment to addressing pressing social issues through its programs.

Again, IPESS JOSTUM has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to human capacity building by organizing an executive workshop for civil servants in Nasarawa State, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to enhance their performance. Workshops like these are essential in a country where the public sector often faces inefficiency and a lack of innovation. This initiative has not only provided public servants with essential skills and knowledge but also reinforced IPESS JOSTUM's role as a catalyst for professional development and excellence in public administration.

In a testament to its innovative approach, IPESS JOSTUM has celebrated the graduation of the first batch of online Advanced Certificate course (Track B) participants, marking a significant milestone in harnessing technology for inclusive learning opportunities. As digital learning becomes increasingly important, IPESS JOSTUM's online programs offer a flexible and cost-effective way for participants to gain valuable skills. The graduation of this first batch is not just a celebration of achievements but also a validation of the institute's innovative approach to education and training.

Additionally, IPESS JOSTUM has commissioned postgraduate students for the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES), a program designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical experience. Involving postgraduate students in the SIWES program, as stipulated by the SPESSE project, is the first of its kind in Nigeria. By doing so, IPESS JOSTUM is ensuring that the next generation of professionals are well-prepared to meet workforce demands.

As we reflect on these remarkable achievements, we anticipate even greater strides, deeper impact, and transformative outcomes as IPESS JOSTUM continues to inspire, educate, and empower individuals towards building a more efficient, accountable, and inclusive society.

This bulletin is a full package of our continuous progress and achievements in line with our vision and mandate.

Read on!



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, FICCON, FCSN
Center Leader & Director,
Institute of Procurement Environmental
and Social Standards (IPESS)

MANAGEMENT TEAM



ENGR. PROF. ISAAC N. ITODO
FNSE, FNIAE, FSES, FAEng, NPOM
VC. JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI



PROF. LAMI A. NNAMONU
FICCON, FCSN
CENTER LEADER & DIRECTOR, IPESS



PROF. S.T. KPELAI
DEPUTY CENTER LEADER
PROCUREMENT STANDARDS



PROF. RUFUS SHA'ATO
DEPUTY CENTER LEADER
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS



PROF. A.A. NASWEM
DEPUTY CENTER LEADER
SOCIAL STANDARDS



Dr. C.O. ECHE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, IPESS

Table of Contents

| Headline | Page |
|---|-------|
| - From the Center Leader and Director's Desk ----- | 2 |
| - Management Team ----- | 3 |
| - Nigeria's SGF Lauds IPESS JOSTUM'S Achievements: Urges Sustained Dedication ----- | 4 |
| - JOSTUM Governing Council Converts CIPESS to IPESS ----- | 5 |
| - NUC Inspects IPESS JOSTUM: Seeks to Establish Distance Learning Center ----- | 5 |
| - IPESS JOSTUM Trains 132 Senior Civil Servants in Nasarawa State ----- | 6 & 7 |
| - Our Story in Pictures ----- | 8-13 |
| - IPESS JOSTUM Seeks Collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation ----- | 14 |
| - IPESS JOSTUM Visits Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction: Seeks Collaboration ----- | 15 |
| - IPESS JOSTUM Commissions Postgraduate Students for Industrial Training ----- | 16 |
| - IPESS JOSTUM's Track B Online Trainees Hail Programme ----- | 17 |
| - IPESS: The Value we Bring ----- | 17 |
| - A Culture of Risk Awareness in Individual and Shared Office Spaces. ----- | 18 |
| - Call for Applications into Short Executive (Track A) and Advance Certificate (Track B) Courses ----- | 19 |

Editors

Editor in chief: Prof. L.A. Nnamonu

Copy Editors: Dr. J.I. Ona

Uche Michael A.

Sub-Editors: Dr. Oladipo Olotu

Emmanuel Ziakere

Grace Ebe

Adejo Williams Enemona

Emmanuel Ijogo

NIGERIA'S SGF LAUDS IPSS JOSTUM'S ACHIEVEMENTS: URGES SUSTAINED DEDICATION

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Sen. Dr George Akume has commended the management of the Institute of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (IPSS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (JOSTUM) for attaining amiable milestones in their human capacity building strides in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards.



Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (R) Presenting a Souvenir to the Nigeria's SGF, Sen. Dr George Akume (L) as the DCL, PS, Prof. S.T. Kpelai (M) Looks On.

The SGF made the commendation on 12th December 2024 in his office when the management team of IPSS JOSTUM led by the National Coordinator of Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project, Dr Joshua Attah and Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu paid him a courtesy visit in Abuja.

Sen. Dr. George Akume welcomed the IPSS JOSTUM team and expressed his admiration of IPSS JOSTUM's consistency in staying atop the ranking ladder of Centers of Excellence. He commended Dr Joshua Attah's leadership qualities and encouraged the team to sustain the efforts to ensure that all Centers of Excellence achieve greater successes. The SGF assured the team of government's support and praised IPSS for its impactful work, urging continued dedication to expanding the programme's benefits across Nigeria. He further directed the delegation to liaise with the Director of Procurement for centralized coordination of

nominations for a Master Class and International Conference to be held in April, 2025.

The SPESSE National Coordinator, Dr. Joshua Attah in his remarks introduced the SPESSE Project and highlighted the six Centers of Excellence under its framework and emphasized IPSS' outstanding performance among them. Dr Attah shared updates on the National Universities Commission's (NUC) application for an additional \$40 million in funding, which is anticipated to be approved by June 2025.

Earlier in her address, the Center Leader and Director Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu while conveying JOSTUM Vice-Chancellor's best regards congratulated the SGF on his appointment and stated that the visit was to seek the SGF's partnership and support for IPSS initiatives. Prof. Nnamonu also updated the SGF on the Master Class and International Conference scheduled for April 2025, inviting him to officially open the conference. The Center director further requested sponsorship of participants for the Master Class at a subsidized amount come April 2025.

Members of the delegation were Dr Joshua Attah (National Coordinator, SPESSE Project), Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (Center Leader and Director IPSS JOSTUM) and Prof. Simon Kpelai (Deputy Center Leader,



Nigeria's SGF, Sen. Dr George Akume (5th Left), SPESSE National Coordinator, Dr Joshua Attah (4th Left), IPSS' Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (5th Right) and IPSS Management Team During a Courtesy Visit on the SGF.

Procurement Standards). Others were, Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato (Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards) Prof. Ebenezer Ekefan (Academic Programme Coordinator, Environmental Standards) and Mrs. Larai Gbum (University Liaison Officer).



The 9th Governing Council of the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, (JOSTUM) at its 134th meeting held on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2024 approved the conversion of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) to Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS).



L-R: IPESS Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Prof. I. N. Itodo and Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council, Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso During a Crucial Event in JOSTUM

The Council ratification is sequel to the earlier approval by the Senate of JOSTUM at its 319th meeting held on 28th March 2024 where it considered and approved the conversion of CIPESS to IPESS to sustain the gains and impacts of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement, (SPESSE) project.

This transition to an institute is one of the core sustainability milestones of the World Bank-supported SPESSE project.

A team from the National Universities Commission (NUC) under the aegis of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement, (SPESSE) project on 18th October 2024 assessed facilities at the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) for the establishment of a Distance Learning Center (DLC) in the University.

Debriefing the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Professor Isaac. N. Itodo after a critical assessment of the Institute and University's facilities, the team Leader, Peter Tobrise expressed satisfaction on the adequacy and quality of facilities in the University and, stated that, the University had all that was required to establish a Distance Learning Center to facilitate online teaching and learning. Peter Tobrise commended the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM and the IPESS JOSTUM team for their conforming support that eased their assignment and further encouraged the University administration to improve in critical areas for the center to thrive.



IPESS Center Leader and Director and NUC Inspection Team Interfacing with the Director of Academic Planning Prof. Simon Irtwange during an assessment visit in JOSTUM

Collaborating, another member of the two-man team, Engr Afolabi Ogunusi also commended the quality and available infrastructure on campus during the appraisal tour. Engr Afolabi stated that the exercise was paramount to enable the University to capitalize on the window of opportunity presented by the SPESSE project to seamlessly establish a Distance Learning Center in the University. He maintained that, as a system, the NUC was ready to adequately assist Centers of Excellence to achieve this milestone and called on the University administration to be at the nucleus of activities as approval of a DLC will be dependent on the buy-in of university management via a Memorandum of Understanding.

Reacting, the Vice Chancellor, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Professor Mrs Comfort D. Tuleun commended the NUC team for the painstaking exercise and pledged the University administration's commitment to unflinchingly support the establishment of a Distance Learning Center in the University to reap the benefits thereof. Professor Tuleun further assured that all critical areas that needed special attention will be attended to for the establishment and operation of the Center.



IPESS Center Leader and Director,
Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu

No fewer than 132 senior civil servants comprising Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Parastatals and other top government functionaries in Nasarawa State on 1st November 2024 received certificates of participation following a customized 5-Day Executive Workshop organized for the civil

workforce in the state by the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM). Three 5-day Executive Workshop on the themes “Best Practice in Environmental Sustainability, Procurement Management, Supervision and Audit and, Building Social Equity in Governance” were organized through the office of the Head of Service, Nasarawa State and held from 28th October, 2024 to 1st November 2024 at Tazu Luxury Hotel, Lafia.

The Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, Engr Abdullahi A. Sule commended the Federal Government of Nigeria for initiating the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement, (SPESSE) project and IPESS JOSTUM team, led by the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu for finding senior civil servants in Nasarawa State worthy to benefit from the life changing programme. Engr Sule said, his administration believes in transparency and accountability and that civil servants in the state remained the corner stone of the entire development of Nasarawa State.

Governor Sule further expressed his administration's commitment to leave Nasarawa State better than he met it, stating that, the programme was timely, and aligned with his administration's yearnings to build a formidable civil workforce in the state. The Governor charged the participants to share the knowledge gained and courageously put to practice the take aways of the workshop even in the face of daunting challenges to improve their workplaces and the society at large.

Speaking during the valedictory event, the Center Leader and Director, IPESS JOSTUM, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu expressed appreciation to the Nasarawa State government led by Engr Abdullahi

Sule and the Head of Civil Service, Barr. Abigail Waya for creating an enabling environment that culminated to the success of the programme. The Center Leader stated that the skill sets were essential for any government trying to build a resilience and prosperous workforce, stating that, the 5-day intensive training workshop was foundational to the future growth and sustainable development of Nasarawa State. Professor Nnamonu said, though IPESS JOSTUM had trained practitioners in the six states of the North Central region and the FCT, the training in Nasarawa State was the first of its kind to be hosted by a State Government, adding that, the training was a significant step forward for Nasarawa State's journey towards ethical governance, sustainable development and social responsibility.



Executive Governor Nasarawa State, Engr Abdullahi A. Sule (3rd Right) Presenting Certificate to a participant During Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop for Civil Servants in Nasarawa State.

The Center Director appreciated the management teams of Nasarawa State University Keffi (NSUK) and JOSTUM for sustaining the partnership as well as facilitators for their invaluable guidance, dedication, and knowledge sharing which led to the success of the programme. Professor Nnamonu while praising the remarkable commitment and resilience of Participants noted that the training was not just about impacting knowledge but also transforming perspectives and nurturing a new generation of public servants who are committed to a higher standard of service. She called on the participants to apply the knowledge acquired not only to improve their immediate work environment but also inspire by leading by example. “As you return to your departments, I encourage you to carry the principles you have learned here with pride and conviction. Lead by example and inspire your colleagues to also pursue excellence in all that they do. By doing so, you will create a ripple effect that will not only transform your immediate work environment but will contribute significantly to the growth and prosperity of Nasarawa State.” She said.

Contd. on page 7

In a presentation titled “Agents of Change” the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer IPESS JOSTUM, Professor Simon A. Shomkegh stated that, by the virtue of the training, participants had assumed the roles of change agents to forcefully drive the positive change the society was craving. Professor Shomkegh said, as change agents, participants were expected to contribute to reducing incidences of corruption & mismanagement of public resources, believes in equality, diversity and inclusion of human beings as well as be committed to providing mentorship to young professionals. The Monitoring and evaluation Officer further enjoined participants to be firm in the application of their newly acquired skills, saying, “A positive change is possible through men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and prosperity.”



Engr Prof. I. N. Itodo
Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM,

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor JOSTUM, Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo while expressing gratitude to the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the World Bank asserted that, IPESS was the most cherished of the University's divisional outreach programmes

which had in no time established its command on the subject of procurement, environmental and social aspects in North Central, Nigeria. Engr Professor Itodo disclosed that, the university has ensured a well-structured sustainability plan to ensure the continued delivery of the programme even after the expiration of the sponsorship period of the World Bank. One of which was the approval by the senate of the University for the transformation of the Center to an Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS). The Vice Chancellor appreciated IPESS team for the focused and coordinated delivery of the programmes and congratulated the participants for attaining the feat. He further lauded the Nasarawa State Government for reenergizing her workforce and expressed optimism that, the government will soon harvest the fruits of the training.

On her part, the Vice Chancellor, Nasarawa State

University, Keffi (NSUK), Professor Sa'adatu Hassan Liman reiterated that, the programme was designed to increase the skills, knowledge, and overall capacity of the state civil servants in the areas of procurement, environmental of Nasarawa State. The Vice Chancellor expressed satisfaction on the success of the programme and asserted that, as civil servants, participants were the pillars of development at all levels of governance in Nasarawa State as their work will impact communities, the environment and the citizenry.

Professor Sa'adatu Liman charged participants to apply the knowledge acquired, uphold integrity, and provide exemplary leadership for the good of humanity. “As you return to your duty post, you shall carry your enhanced competencies, renewed desire and, a deeper understanding of your critical responsibilities as implementers of the plans, strategies and policies of the Nasarawa State government.” The Vice Chancellor also thanked the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, Engr Abdullahi A. Sule the organizers and facilitators for approving the special training, hosting the programme in the state and, allowing the civil servants in the state to tap from their wealth of experiences respectively.



A section of Graduands During Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop for Civil Servants in Nasarawa State.

Participants who spoke during the event including, Zainab Musa, Nuhu Murtala and Fulera Usman Bako in separate remarks expressed profound gratitude to Nasarawa State Government and IPESS JOSTUM for organizing the programme and stated that, the themes of the workshop were apt, and the knowledge acquired was sufficient to improve not just their working environment but the larger society.



Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof Joseph T. Utsev (Right) Exchanging Pleasantries with the Prof. S.T. Kpelai, Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards During a Courtesy Visit



Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof Joseph T. Utsev (Right) and IPESS Management Team Seated During a Courtesy Visit on the Minister.



Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof Joseph T. Utsev (Right) Exchanging Pleasantries with the Center Leader and Director, Prof Lami A. Nnamonu.



Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof Joseph T. Utsev (Right) Exchanging Pleasantries with the Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards, Prof. Rufus Sha-Ato.



Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof Joseph T. Utsev (Right) Exchanging Pleasantries with the Deputy Center Leader, Social Standards, Prof. Angol A. Naswem.



IPESS Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (3rd Left) Presenting a Souvenir to Nigeria's SGF, Sen. Dr George Akume (Left) as the SPESSE Coordinator and Team Members Look on.



Nigeria's SGF, Sen. Dr George Akume (Middle) Interacting with Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards, Prof. Rufus Sha-Ato (Left) and, Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards (Right) Prof. S.T. Kpelai



Nigeria's SGF, Sen. Dr George Akume (Right) Exchanging Pleasantries with the SPESSE National Coordinator, Dr Joshua Atah.



SPESSE National Coordinator, Dr Joshua Atah and IPESS Management Team During High Profile Visitation Tour in Abuja.



L-R; JOSTUM Liaison Officer, Mrs Lanrai Gbum, DCL, ES, Prof. Rufus Sha-Ato Nigeria's SGF, Sen. Dr George Akume, IPESS Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, DCL, PS, Prof. S.T. Kpelai & APC, ES, Prof. E.J. Ekefan

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh Delivering his Remarks During IPESS Postgraduate SIWES Orientation Event



Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu Delivering and Address During IPESS Postgraduate SIWES Orientation Event



JOSTUM SIWES Coordinator, Prof. Bibiana Igbabul (Left) Delivering a Keynote Address During IPESS Postgraduate SIWES Orientation Event



Dr Macsamuel S. Ugbaa, IPESS Industrial Liaison Officer, Making a Presentation During IPESS Postgraduate SIWES Orientation Event



IPESS Facilitators and Prospective Postgraduate Interns Seated During IPESS Postgraduate SIWES Orientation Event



IPESS Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu Delivering a speech during a Courtesy Visit on the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction Engr Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe



Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction Engr Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (Left) Exchanging Pleasantries DCL, PS, Prof. S.T. Kpelai During a Courtesy visit on the Minister in Abuja



Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction Engr Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (Left) Exchanging Pleasantries IPESS Project Management Officer Dr J.I. Ona During a Courtesy Visit on the Minister in Abuja.



Engr Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (Left) Exchanging Pleasantries with DCL, SS, Prof. Angol A. Naswem During a Courtesy visit on the Minister in Abuja



Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction Engr Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (Middle) Interacting with SPESSE Officials and IPESS Management Team During a Courtesy visit on the Minister in Abuja



Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, Engr Abdullahi A. Sule in a Warm Handshake with the Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



Vice-Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (2nd Right) Presenting Certificate of Participation to a Social Standard's Graduand During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



Vice Chancellor, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Prof. Sa'adatu Liman (Right) Presenting Certificate of Participation to a Graduand During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Simon A. Shomkegh Delivering a Speech During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



A Group of Participants and Facilitators Presenting During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



Nasarawa State Head of Service, Barr. Abigail Waya Delivering a Keynote Address During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



Dr Peter Tsue, Representative of the Center Leader and Director Delivering a Welcome Address During the Orientation Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo Presenting Certificate to a Social Standards' Graduate during the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



Prof. Sa'adatu Liman, Vice Chancellor, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Presenting an Address During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.



IPESSE Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu looks on as Prof. Sa'adatu Liman, Vice Chancellor, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Presents Certificate to a Participant During the Valedictory Event of the 5-Day Executive Workshop in Lafia.

IPESS JOSTUM SEEKS COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION.

The Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (JOSTUM) has moved to foster collaborations with the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation for sustainable human capacity development in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards.

IPESS JOSTUM management team, led by the Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, on 11th December 2024 paid a courtesy visit on the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Professor Terlumun Utsev to concretize arrangements for the robust partnership.



Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (Left) Presenting a Souvenir to the Minister of Water resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof Joseph T. Utsev

The Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor JOSTUM extended warm regards to the Minister and stated that, the visit was to introduce the activities of IPESS and explore opportunities for collaboration with the Ministry. Prof. Nnamonu congratulated the Minister on his appointment and expressed gratitude for accommodating the delegation at a short notice. The Center Director outlined the achievements and objectives of IPESS and highlighted the processes that led to the selection of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University as the host institution for the Federal Government's Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project. She asserted that IPESS, representing the

North Central region, has consistently ranked highest among the six Centers of Excellence established across Nigeria.

According to the Center Leader, the partnership would benefit the Ministry through capacity building programmes for the Ministry's staff and utilization of IPESS Environmental Testing Laboratory for environmental and water analysis services. The Center Director requested the Minister to serve as a resource person during the Master Class and International Conference planned by IPESS in April 2025.

The Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Professor Terlumun Utsev expressed delight on the visit and commended IPESS JOSTUM management team for the milestones attained by the Center. The Minister stated that, the Ministry focuses on capacity building and expressed readiness to collaborate with IPESS JOSTUM for the training of her staff. Prof. Utsev informed of his planned visit to Makurdi within the month of December 2024 and indicated an interest in meeting with the IPESS team to discuss further details and potential engagements. The Minister while confirming his willingness to attend the International Conference and serve as a resource person at the Master Class



Minister of Water resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof. Joseph T. Utsev and IPESS Management Team During a Courtesy Visit on the Minister in Abuja

in April 2025 further revealed that the Ministry manages approximately 15 testing laboratories nationwide and expressed interest in establishing one at JOSTUM for the benefit of all concerned.

The courtesy visit, which was facilitated by the University Liaison Officer, Mrs. Larai Gbum was aimed at establishing a firm foundation for collaboration between IPESS and the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation.

IPESS JOSTUM TEAM VISITS MINISTER OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND POVERTY REDUCTION: SEEKS COLLABORATION

The management team of the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi on 12th December 2024 paid a courtesy visit on the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Engr. Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe to seek collaboration in executing the centre's mandate in line with the objectives of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project. Speaking during the visit, the Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, JOSTUM Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo congratulated the Minister on his appointment and stated that the visit was to seek collaboration with the Ministry in executing the SPESSE Project. Prof. Nnamonu provided updates on the mandate and achievement of IPESS JOSTUM and requested collaboration with the Ministry for the Center's upcoming initiatives, including a Master Class and International Conference. She urged the Minister to facilitate the sponsorship of at least 300 participants for the International Conference. The Center Leader again called for the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry to support internships and other related activities.

SPESSE Project also congratulated the Minister and updated him on the project's progress. He emphasized the significance of the collaboration to the success of the SPESSE project.



Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction (4th Left), SPESSE National Coordinator (3rd Left), University Liaison Officer (3rd Right) and IPESS Management Team During a Courtesy Visit on the Minister in Abuja

Responding, the Honourable Minister, Engr. Prof. Nentawe Yitwada Goshwe expressed delight on the visit, describing it as a family gathering due to his ties with the University. The Minister commended the team's efforts and acknowledged the alignment between the SPESSE Project's objectives and the Ministry's focus areas. Engr Prof. Nentawe presented the Ministry's concept and goals for review, encouraging the team to explore areas of potential collaboration.

The Minister added he was well-acquainted with the Social Standards curriculum and noted that it aligns perfectly with the mandate of his Ministry. He assured the team of the Ministry's willingness to accept internships in areas such as IDP management. According to him, the Ministry is implementing a land development initiative for IDPs and youths, focusing on linking participants with markets and the private sector.



Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (Right) Presenting Souvenir to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction Engr Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe

Dr. Joshua Attah, National Coordinator of the



IPESS JOSTUM COMMISSIONS POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS FOR INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) has commissioned her Post-Graduate (PG) students in the fields of Procurement Management, Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Social Development to embark on Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) for the acquisition of practical skills in their respective fields.

Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) and Master of Science (M.Sc.) students at the institute received the nod on Wednesday, 8th January 2025 during an orientation event which held at the Shared Large Hall, Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department, IPESS complex, JOSTUM.



Dr Macsamuel Ugbaa, Industrial Liaison Officer & Environmental and Social Safeguard Officer,

The Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu congratulated interns for attaining the feat and stated that, PG Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme is the brainchild of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project and the first in the country. The Center Leader who was represented by the JOSTUM SIWESS Coordinator, Professor Bibiana Igbabul asserted that, PG students at the Institute were privileged to have benefited from the scheme and urged them to be good ambassadors of the Institute by upholding the rules and policies of their host organizations for a maximum impact.

Professor Igbabul said the exercise has an ample chance of presenting employment opportunities to exceptional and disciplined interns by host organizations and further urged the students to choose organisations that were relevant to their fields of study.

Highlighting the objectives of the scheme, the SIWES Coordinator said, the scheme was established to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical knowledge and enable the students to garner the required practical skills they'd need to increase their chances of getting employment after graduation from tertiary institutions. She added that, SIWES programme prepares the students for the real-life situations they would face in the career world, provides an opportunity for students to acquire industrial skills for experience during their course of study and, expose students to work methods and techniques that may not be available during their course of study. According to the Director, enabling an easier and smoother transition from school by equipping students with better contact for future work placement, and, introducing students to real work atmosphere are other objectives of the scheme.

Speaking on the topic; Expectations and Obligations for a Successful Internship, the Industrial Liaison Officer, IPESS JOSTUM, Dr Macsamuel Ugbaa called on the students to pay attention to and respect organizational culture, fill their logbooks daily and respond timely and adequately to any request for information from the Monitoring and Evaluation team or any officer(s) of IPESS. Dr Macsamuel added that, the Institute would carry out adequate supervision to ensure



IPESS Postgraduate Students During SIWES Orientation Event Held at IPESS Complex.

that the internship meets its target goals and also urged prospective interns to choose organizations that were relevant and would add value to their learning experiences.

First set of online Advanced Certificate course (Track B) trainees at the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPSS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) have commended the Center for availing them the opportunity to remotely participate in the life changing programmes implemented by the centre.

The trainees made this known on Friday, 6th December 2024 during the Track B online valedictory event to mark the end of the three weeks training programme in procurement, environmental and social standard



A Snapshot of IPSS Online Track B Participants During Online Valedictory Event.

One of the international participants from India, Sujith Vasanthakumar of Procurement Standards lauded IPSS JOSTUM for effectively implementing the programme online which is serving the informational, educational and professional needs of a wide spectrum of people across the globe. Vasanthakumar stated that participating in programmes at the centre has elevated his knowledge to understanding contemporary issues especially in the procurement sphere and urged his fellow trainees to apply the knowledge gained during the programme for the betterment of the society.

Fatima Abdullahi of Social Standards and Peter Deor of Environmental Standards thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria for the project and further commended IPSS JOSTUM for providing a platform for them to enrol and participate in the online course. The participants in separate remarks stated that the programme has opened their eyes to contemporary issues in their respective fields and promised to judiciously use the knowledge acquired for the benefit of mankind and the society.

During a presentation titled "Drivers of Change" the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Simon Shomkegh enjoined graduands to courageously apply the knowledge and skills gained during the training to drive the needed positive change. Professor Shomkegh encouraged the graduands to be committed to promoting best practices by upholding integrity, professionalism, and patriotism. According to him, improving the quality of life of the people, as well as contributing to reducing the incidences of corruption and mismanagement of public resources, were the core responsibilities of the ordained agents of change. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer called on the graduands to sustain the already established relationship by responding to inquiries emanating from the Center and other implementing units, saying, the training was the beginning of a symbiotic lifelong journey.

Earlier in a welcome address, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu congratulated the first batch of online Track B participants on their resolve to get trained in the viable areas of procurement, environmental and social standards. The Center Leader who was represented by the Deputy Center Leader of Social Standards, Professor Angol A. Naswem noted that, the programme was designed to meet the educational and professional needs of participants especially in the field of procurement, environmental and social standards. She encouraged participants to make the most of the opportunity and apply the skills acquired to better their workplaces and the society at large.

By Macsamuel Ugbaa

We facilitate world class knowledge gain and skills development through unique learning pathways in the areas of procurement management, environmental sustainability and sustainable social development to provide transformational impact and facilitate career growth and organizational change. The experience and knowledge of our top-class facilitators, along with our purposefully and carefully designed learning content are the cornerstones of the value we bring to our clients.

We leverage ICT and digital tools to deliver fit-for-purpose pedagogy in an engaging, interactive, and memorable learning environment, creating an unforgettable immersive learning experience for our clients.

We spice up your learning with a unique mosaic of international subject matter experts, deliberately and strategically pooled from around the global academic space to prepare participants in our programmes as well rounded and grounded graduates.

We prepare our graduates to be workplace ready by offering a unique internship programme for our undergraduate and postgraduate students that provides a veritable opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge and gain hard and soft workplace skills.

We foster a conducive learning environment, characterised by a cordial relationship between students and facilitators, lecturers and Center staff, with a zero tolerance for violence and sexual abuse and exploitation, with access to a robust grievance redress mechanism.

IPSS ensures top-notch quality in all operations and services, with quality control systems in place at all levels and a well-structured result-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism that ensures progressive, and data based timely decisions.

We are a well organized and performance-oriented Center of Excellence, with a motivated quality award winning management team and motivated workforce that is available and ready to serve your best interest.

This is IPSS- we are driven by Excellence and Professionalism.

The modern workplace is a dynamic environment where individuals and teams work together toward achieving shared goals. However, whether you're working alone in your office or collaborating in a shared space, one critical factor often overlooked is the culture of risk awareness. Cultivating such a culture is essential for enhancing safety, productivity, and fostering a sense of responsibility among all employees.

Risk awareness matters because it is not just about avoiding accidents or incidents; it is about recognizing potential hazards and taking proactive steps to mitigating them. In the context of office spaces, risks can range from physical dangers such as slippery floors and improperly stored equipment to digital threats like phishing emails or unsecured networks.

For organizations such as IPRESS, a lack of risk awareness can lead to costly disruption, and even harm to employees. For individual staff or officers, it could mean low productivity, stress (which may impact on mental health), or personal injury. Recognizing and addressing these risks—both individually and collectively ensures a safer, more efficient work environment.

18 Building Risk Awareness in Individual Work spaces

Our individual work spaces (offices) are often considered low-risk areas, but even these environments require vigilance. A few important key ways to build risk awareness at the individual level are highlighted thus:

Ergonomics and Personal Safety: Ensure that your chair, desk, and computer setup support proper posture. Also be aware of proper postural positioning in the use of office furniture and equipment. Poor ergonomics can lead to chronic pain and reduced productivity.

Clutter Management: Keep your workspace organized and free of items that could cause tripping, spills, or other hazards.

Electrical Safety: Avoid overloading power outlets and ensure all electrical equipment is in good condition.

Cybersecurity: Be cautious with email attachments sent to you, web links sent to your email, WhatsApp etc., and passwords to protect

sensitive data and systems from breaches.

Shared office spaces on the other hand pose unique challenges and to foster a culture of collective risk management, consider the following strategies

Clear Communication: Communicate openly about potential risks and encourage others to do so too. For example, if someone notices a wet floor or malfunctioning equipment, they should alert others and report it immediately.

Shared Responsibility: Develop a culture where everyone feels responsible for maintaining a safe environment. This includes simple actions like returning shared items to their designated places and adhering to office protocols.

Be conscious of safety signs: Be safe, and let others too be safe! Read safety signs, be conscious of them and remind others too.

Emergency Preparedness: Be familiar with emergency exits, muster point, and the location of safety equipment like fire extinguishers and first aid kits.

Adopting a culture of risk awareness offers numerous benefits to both individuals and organizations including increased safety, high productivity, stronger collaboration and cost reduction.

Ultimately, risk awareness is not just a responsibility. It is a mindset. By cultivating this culture in both individual and shared office spaces, organizations can create an environment where employees feel safe, valued, and empowered. Together at IPRESS, we can transform our workplaces into havens of productivity and collaboration, free from unnecessary risks and be the University community model.

Let us all take a step toward greater awareness and action, ensuring that our office spaces remain not only functional but also secure for everyone

A culture of risk awareness achieves dual goals of safety and productivity and in turn makes the workplace better for all.

Written by:

Macsamuel Sesugh Ugbaa (ESSO/ILO) & Igba John Igba (AESSO/PTA)





**INSTITUTE OF PROCUREMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (IPESS)**
JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI
(FORMERLY FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS INTO SHORT EXECUTIVE (TRACK A) & ADVANCED CERTIFICATE (TRACK B) COURSES


**Applications are open to Professionals, Civil Servants,
Experts, Graduates and other interested individuals
at Institute of Procurement, Environmental and
Social Standards (IPESS) in the fields of Procurement,
Environmental and Social Standards**


Mode of delivery: Online and Face-to-face


Register here: <https://portal.cipessfuam.edu.ng>

**prospective applicants must be Tech Savvy and must have an internet
enabled smart phone or computer**

Participation is strictly by invitation upon registration

 www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

 info.cipessfuam.edu.ng

 +2348036412077

UCHE MICHAEL AONDOHEMBA
Communications Officer



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



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.

FOLLOW US

[@cipessuam](#) [@cipessfuam123](#) [@cipess_fuam](#) [@cipess_fuam](#)

CONTACT US

[09073888870](tel:09073888870) info@cipessfuam.edu.ng

www.cipessfuam.edu.ng