



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

JULY, 2025

BULLETIN
Vol. 3, NUMBER 4

Dear Esteemed Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the July 2025, Volume 3, Number 4 edition of our bimonthly newsletter.

Once again, this edition showcases the remarkable dedication and commitment to excellence exemplified by the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM) now known as Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) in the implementation of the World Bank supported Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

One of the significant strides of IPESS JOSTUM in recent months is the successful training of over 2000 trainees through online and face-to-face sessions. This dual approach to learning has enabled a wide range of individuals from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government as well as the public to enhance their skills and knowledge in a flexible and accessible manner. The customized trainings which held in Makurdi, Lafia, Keffi, Jos and Abuja aimed to address the critical knowledge and skills gap in the fields of procurement, Environmental and social standards to enable participants, thrive in their respective duties and by extension provide a ground for them to become professionals.

Also, to enable her students broaden their horizons, gain global perspective and experience, IPESS JOSTUM within this period facilitated the sending of another batch of students comprising eight postgraduate students to participate in a one-month exchange programme at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in Accra, Ghana. This not only enriches their academic experience but also promotes cultural exchange and understanding among students from different regions.

In addition to these achievements, IPESS JOSTUM recently scaled through the SPESSE 6th Round Independent Third-Party Verification exercise which aimed to verify acclaimed milestones as well as ensuring compliance to SPESSE stipulated guidelines. The post exercise commendation from the verification agency (Binomial Optimus Limited) was a testament to IPESS JOSTUM's commitment to transparency and quality assurance in the implementation of the SPESSE project.

Furthermore, to under score IPESS JOSTUM's commitment to environmental sustainability and

raise awareness about pressing environmental issues, the Institute in collaboration with the Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), Benue State Chapter jointly commemorated the 2025 World Environment Day with the theme "Ending Plastic Pollution." Environmental concerns remained one of the core focus areas of the SPESSE project and concerted efforts towards environmental sustainability remain sacrosanct at the Institute.

It is worthy to note that the glaring achievements of IPESS JOSTUM around human capacity building and physical infrastructure received high praises from the Vice Chancellor of JOSTUM, Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo, recognizing the institute's excellence and contributions to the academic, environmental and social sectors.

This further lends credence to the hard work and dedication of the management and staff of the Institute in delivering on the objective of the SPESSE project.

Overall, by embracing a holistic approach and prioritizing quality, IPESS JOSTUM will continue to set a standard of excellence in her quest to address the deficit in skills and knowledge in line with the mission and vision of the SPESSE project.

I therefore implore you to read with me the details of our remarkable progress captured in text and pictures for your informational and educational needs.

Accept the assurances of my esteemed regards.



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, FICCON, FCSN, FSTAN, PMP
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, FSTAN, PMP
CENTER LEADER & DIRECTOR, IPSS



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, IPSS

Table of Contents

Headline	Page
*From the Center Leader and Director's Desk -----	2
*Management Team-----	3
*IPSS JOSTUM Awards 280 Certificates to Staff of MDAs in Lafia and Keffi-----	4
*Federal Ministries' Staff Commend SPESSE Project Initiative -----	5
*JOSTUM Vice Chancellor Scores IPSS JOSTUM High-----	6
*IPSS JOSTUM Commemorates 2025 World Environment Day -----	7
*Sustainable Human Capacity Development: IPSS JOSTUM Beams Light on FMWA -----	8
*Our Stories In Pictures -----	9-12
*IPSS JOSTUM Commences Training of Over 280 MDAs Staff in Makurdi and Abuja-----	13
*SPESSE Begins 6 th Verification Exercise at IPSS JOSTUM -----	14
*SPESSE Students Exchange Programme: Eight IPSS JOSTUM Students Conclude Training in Ghana -----	15
*SPESSE 6 th Round Verification Exercise: ITPVA Commends IPSS JOSTUM-----	16
*IPSS JOSTUM Graduates 6 th Cycle of Online Short Course Trainees -----	16
*Customized Short Course Training: IPSS JOSTUM Graduates 140 in Jos-----	17
*IPSS JOSTUM Center Leader Sues for Commitment Towards Certification -----	18
*Call for Applications into Short Executive (Track A) and Advanced 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



In her quest to build sustainable human capacity to instil basic skills and knowledge that will better the society, the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) on Wednesday, 18th June 2025 issued certificates of participation to a combined number of 280 trainees drawn from Ministries Departments and Agencies of Government in Lafia and Keffi, Nasarawa State.



Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The Examination Officer, Social Standards, Dr Hephzibah Obekpa in a presentation titled “Drivers of Change” admonished the graduands to be the change they seek through the application of the knowledge and skills garnered during the training to better their workplaces and the society. Dr Obekpa stated that, though the actualisation of a positive change could be challenging in an unfavourable environment, it takes men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and prosperity to make a mark. She charged the graduands to uphold integrity, professionalism, patriotism, and as well as contribute to reducing the incidences of corruption and mismanagement of public resources. The examination Officer while encouraging graduands not to relinquish their quest of becoming professionals further called on them to sustain the already established relationship and seek more learning opportunities at the institute.

In Lafia, the representatives of Procurement, and Environmental standards classes, Engr Adamu Ahmed and Umar Lubabatu Adamu respectively, in separate valedictory speeches commended the Federal Government of Nigeria for the initiative and praised the uncommon level of coordination and seamlessness in the delivery of the courses by the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards. The class representatives stated that the training has empowered and equipped them with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive meaningful change in their respective places of work. Engr Adamu while appreciating the facilitators and support staff for their uncommon dedication which culminated to the success of the programme encouraged his fellow trainees to diligently and

responsibly apply the knowledge gained in the service of their various organizations, communities, and the nation.

Collaborating, the social standards class representative, Epi David Joshua while speaking in Keffi stated that the training was a transformative journey that broaden their knowledge of the concept of social justice, inclusion, equity, and human rights. He also charged the graduands to put to practice the knowledge gained for the good of humanity. “As we step forward from here, let us carry the lessons we've learned not only in our minds, but in our words, actions, and choices. Whether we serve in government, education, civil society, or the private sector, let us become voices for justice, champions of inclusion, and examples of ethical leadership in our respective spheres.” Epi David stated.

Earlier in a goodwill message, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu, represented by the Academic Programme Coordinator of Social Standards, Dr Peter Tsue congratulated the graduands for their commitment and resilience which aided the delivery of the course. Dr Tsue thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Management teams of Naraawa State University Keffi and IPESS JOSTUM for playing critical roles in the implementation of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project in north central Nigeria. The Academic Programme Coordinator called on the graduands to use the acquired knowledge to improve the society.



IPESS JOSTUM management Team and Graduands
During Short Course Graduation Event in Keffi.

The high point of the events which occurred simultaneously in Lafia and Keffi was the award of certificates to not less than 280 trainees comprising 70 social standards trainees in Keffi and 105 each of procurement, and environmental standards in Lafia.



Staff of prominent Ministries Comprising Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (FMHUD), and Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE) have expressed satisfaction on the human capacity building strides of the World Bank Sustainable Procurement Environmental and Social Standards, Enhancement (SPESSE) project owing to the positive impact within its period of implementation.

The short course graduands made this known on Friday 18th, 2025 during a valedictory event organised by the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) for staff of the Ministries.

Onwuzurike Gloria Chinedu, Douglas Omachugo and Lawrence Ikenga of Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment respectively in separate valedictory

speeches thanked the Ministers of the three ministries and commended the profound impact of the SPESSE project. The participants stated that the training did not just provide them with basic knowledge for effective practice but also opened their eyes to real life situations that were hitherto unknown to them. Lawrence Ikenga

thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria for the project and IPESS JOSTUM for implementing the project efficiently in the North Central region of the country. The participants called for the sustenance of the project and promised to apply the acquired skills for the good of all.

The Assistant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Patricia Kuma Tabe in a presentation titled "Drivers of Change" emphasised that, the application of the knowledge and skills garnered during the training to better the society is mandatory for the ordained change agents. Patricia Tabe stated that, though it may be challenging for a positive change to occur in an unfavourable environment, it takes men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and prosperity to make a mark. She charged the graduands to uphold integrity, professionalism, patriotism, and as well contribute to reducing the incidences of corruption and mismanagement of public resources.

The Assistant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer encouraged the graduands not to relinquish their quest of becoming professionals. She called on them to sustain the already established relationship and seek more learning opportunities available at the Institute.

In brief statements, Burki Yohana, Mrs Oluwatoyin Olugbami and Benjamin Okwesa representing the Honourable Ministers of Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs respectively in their individual remarks also thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria for instituting the SPESSE project which is no doubt flying high and delivering on her mandate. Benjamin Okwesa emphasized the need for the trainees to hold the certificates in high esteem and apply the knowledge and skills gained to better their workplaces. He also charged them to stop at nothing to ensure that they become certified professional especially in the area of social standards.

In a vote of thanks, the Project Management Officer, Dr John Ona thanked the Ministers and the Management of National Open University of Nigeria as well as facilitators and other supporting staff for their immense impact. The Project Manager informed that, the growing positive impact of the SPESSE project has led to its extension and further urged all concerned to take advantage of the benefits offered by the project.

Earlier, the Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, represented by the Deputy Center Leader, Social Standards, Prof. Adolphus A. Naswem on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Prof. Isaac N. Itodo congratulated the graduands and stated that, their commitment and resilience facilitated the success of the training. The Center Leader encouraged the participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained in the course of the training for the betterment of their respective organisations. Prof. Nnamonu while commending the Ministers of Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim, Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, and Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Dr Mohammad Maigari Dinyadi for their robust partnership further charged the participant not to relent in their quest of becoming certified professionals.



A graduand Delivering a Valedictory Speech During IPESS JOSTUM Graduation Event in Abuja



**Prof. Isaac N. Itodo
Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM**

The Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), formerly known as Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM), Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo has lauded the achievements and progress made by the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards in the

execution of the World Bank Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

The Vice Chancellor gave the commendation on 29th July 2025, during the day one of the three-day SPESSE- FUAM Mid-term Project Review Summit which held at the Postgraduate Hall of the College of Agricultural Economics and Extension, JOSTUM.

Professor Itodo asserted that IPSS FUAM has put the University in the academic space of the world, and this has earned IPSS FUAM the status of the flagship programme of the University. the Vice Chancellor on the other hand stated that, JOSTUM deserves all the praises owing to the quality leaders exported from the Institution. The University Don mentioned the Vice Chancellor, Federal University, Wukari, Professor Jude Rabo; the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr Prof. Joseph T. Utsev, the current Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Prof. Nentawe Goshwe, and a host of others who have had a stint at JOSTUM and are currently serving the nation efficiently in their respective duties. He added that, the JOSTUM ENACTUS team and the sports Department are the other thriving groups that are making the university proud in their respective outings.

The Vice Chancellor while urging staff and students to be proud of the University further enjoined participants at the retreat to be actively involved in discussions, assuring that, the summit promised to be purposeful and meaningful.

The Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu in a welcome address stated that, the SPESSE-FUAM Mid-term Project Review Summit was aimed at assessing progress, challenges and identifying areas of improvement for the achievement of greater feats. The Center Director, represented by the Deputy Center Leader of Environmental Standards, Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato asserted that, though the project was flying high, there were attendant concerns that needed to be addressed to keep the project cruising. The Center Leader while urging the persons to be honest and fair in their presentations also called on the participants to participate actively to achieve the objective of the mid-term review summit.

Speaking on the topic, "Midway to Impact: Navigating Challenges and Seizing Opportunities for SPESSE Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs)," the Monitoring

and Evaluation Officer, Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh reeled out the achievements of the Institute and expressed satisfaction on the commitment of staff which has kept the project afloat. Prof. Shomkegh stated that the success recorded in marketing SPESSE Tracks has increased demand for the courses and the full commencement of SPESSE certification programs in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards will deepen the demand for training. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer emphasized that managing IPSS internal controls, and stress will promote acceptability of our internal processes and compliance with project protocols and forestall breakdown of project officers and project activities respectively. He called on the management of the Institute to develop a comprehensive year-round work plan to respond to demand for SPESSE courses/programs. Prof. Shomkegh added that, promoting periodic medical check-ups for all project officers and work-life balance in execution of project activities were critical towards actualizing set targets.

Delivering on the Achievements, challenges and key lessons, the Deputy Center Leaders (DCLs) of Procurement Standards, Prof Simon Kpelai, Environmental Standards, Prof Rufus Sha'Ato and Social standards, Prof. Adolphus Naswem in separate submissions expressed satisfaction on the level of progress made by the Institute from inception to date. The DCLs however lamented late submission of course materials by facilitators, sudden withdrawal of facilitators due to other engagements facilitator apathy due to perceived low remuneration, and a host of others to the critical challenges the Institute is grappling with. Prof. Sha'Ato stated that, getting facilitators to catch the IPSS fire and commitment as well as involving key players at the preliminary stages of planning will go a long way in minimizing some of the challenges faced by the Institute.

The Project Management Officer, Dr John I. Ona while delivering a presentation on the theme "Bridging Strategy and Implementation: What is Working and What is Not," asserted that programs at the Institute are being delivered and planned and participation levels are strong across Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards. He added that coordination between standards teams and State Training Coordinators is yielding massive result. Dr Ona however decried Project Officers' delay in sending training invites, shortage of facilitators outside Makurdi, low quality of online material and other few challenges to have constituted a clog in the wheels of the Institute. The Project Manager called on team members to develop quality management plan, adopt a team charter to align on values, and hold regular team meetings to track progress and flag risks early for the good of all.

On his part the Deputy Director, Dr Christopher Eche appreciated all project officers and the State training Coordinators for their uncommon commitment that has yielded positive results. The Deputy Director enjoined team members to imbibe the project mind set ideology and be resilient, saying, all hands must be on deck to addressing the critical challenges bedevilling the Institute.

Every 5th of June is commemorated as World Environment Day in a bid to raise global awareness about environmental issues and inspire action to protect the planet's natural resources and ecosystems.



Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) Joseph Sarwua Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) in collaboration with the Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), Benue State Chapter on June 5 joined the rest of the world to celebrate the 2025 World Environment Day with the theme “Ending Plastic Solution.”

Delivering a lecture on the theme of the day; “Ending Plastic Pollution,” Professor Simon Shomkegh of the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry, JOSTUM, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, IPESS JOSTUM stated that Plastic pollution has become a catastrophic crisis, choking our oceans, harming marine life, and contaminating the food chain. Professor Shomkegh classified plastics pollution into Macroplastics, and Nanoplastics to comprise large plastic items (greater than 5 mm), Small particles (less than 5 mm) and tiny particles (less than 1 mm) respectively.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer maintained that plastic pollution negatively impacts the environment, humans and the economy and sued for collective actions from individuals, organisations, communities, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions and the government towards addressing the menace. According to him, minimizing reliance on single-use plastics by choosing reusable alternatives, embracing products designed for multiple uses to cut down on waste, and supporting local recycling efforts by sorting plastics at home, separating items like pet bottles and packaging for collection by waste pickers or recycling hubs were proven strategies to end plastic pollution.

IPESS JOSTUM's Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards, Professor Rufus Sha-Ato, in a goodwill message commended the Nigerian

Environmental Society, Benue State Chapter and IPESS JOSTUM for joining the international community to celebrate the 2025 World Environment Day. Professor Sha-Ato stated that, it is challenging to get rid of materials that have become very useful to the society but are now seeing to constitute a huge problem to humans, environment and the ecosystem. He added that curtailing plastic pollution is a shared responsibility and called on NES to approach the Benue State Government to revive the solid waste management plan the was previously initiated in the state as a step towards addressing plastic pollution.

Earlier in welcome address, the State Chairman, Nigerian Environmental Society, Dr Timothy Ishi appreciated IPESS JOSTUM for partnering the Nigerian Environmental Society, Benue State and other sister agencies in the fight against plastic pollution. The NES State Chairman stated that, the pervasive presence of plastic in our ecosystems affects not only our environment but our health, economy and well being. Dr Timothy while reiterating the Society's commitment to advocate and implement practical solutions for environmental sustainability maintained that, the challenge ahead requires more hands, voices and collective action. “As we live here today, let us not forget that every action – small or large counts towards shaping a healthier community. Together, we can build a future where nature flourishes, communities thrive, and generations to come inherit a safe and healthier world. Dr Timothy said.



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer -Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh (3rd left)
Receives an Award at the Grand Finale of the 2025 World Environment Day in Makurdi

The high point of the occasion was the presentation of awards to the Center Leader and Director, IPESS JOSTUM, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu and other deserving individuals and organisations championing the fight for the preservation of the environment.



SUSTAINABLE HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: IPESS JOSTUM BEAMS LIGHT ON FMWA.

On Friday 11th July 2025 in the Conference Hall of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Abuja, no fewer than 138 staff of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) received certificates of participation following a week long short course training organized by the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) for the staff of the Ministry.

The Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu congratulated the trainees on the incredible journey and stated that, their dedication to becoming certified social practitioners was not just about passing an examination but about solidifying their commitment to a profession that is fundamentally about empathy, advocacy, and positive change.

The Center Leader who was represented by the Deputy Center Leader of Social Standards, Professor Adolohus A. Naswem noted that the trainees have vital roles to play in shaping a more equitable and supportive society for all - using the knowledge and strategies they have gained as powerful tools.

"Remember, the true measure of our success isn't just in the certificates we earn, but in the tangible impact we have on our communities." She stated.

Professor Nnamonu further urged the graduands to carry the passion and dedication of the noble profession, bearing in mind that they are not just social practitioners, but also agents of hope, champions of justice, and architects of a brighter future.

The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Woman Affairs, Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim, represented by the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project Coordinator, Social Standard Node, Mr Benjamin Okwesa, expressed satisfaction on the dedication and commitment of the participants and admonished them to sustain the level of seriousness in their quest to becoming certified professionals.

According to the Honourable Minister, the social sector has not achieved a high level of popularity and one of the aims for the introduction of the SPESSE project is to address the issues around the social development sector of the economy. The Minister while emphasizing the need to start practicalizing the social profession further implored the graduands to be committed to becoming certified professionals in the area.

Delivering a lecture on the theme: " Drivers of Change," Okoh Adikwu of the Monitoring and Evaluation unit of

IPESS JOSTUM charged the graduands to be the change they seek by upholding the principles of honesty, professionalism, and patriotism in a bid to reduce the incidences of corruption and poor use of public funds. Mr Okoh stated that though it is challenging for a positive change to thrive in an unfriendly setting, it takes brave men and women who really believe in human dignity and prosperity to make a mark. He encouraged them to explore more educational possibilities at the Institute to advance their carriers.

A trainee, Mrs Udeme N. Abia, an Assistant Chief Community Development Officer, Gender Affairs

Department FMWA, Abuja stated that, the workshop was more than just a series of lectures and presentations but also a crucible of knowledge, a melting pot of ideas, and a vibrant forum for collaboration. Mrs Udeme noted that, the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework is not merely a set of guidelines - it is a critical compass that guides towards a future where



**IPESS JOSTUM Short Course Participants
During a Class Session in Abuja**

development is not only economically viable but also environmentally sound and socially inclusive. She expressed gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim-fsi, Social Standards Node SPESSE Coordinator, Mr. Benjamin Okwesa and the entire staff of the SPESSE project

for providing support which culminated in the success of the workshop.

The valedictorian further charged fellow participants to translate theory into practice, challenges into opportunities, and aspirations into tangible results."As we return to our respective duties, let us carry forward the knowledge and insights gained from this workshop. Let us be the torchbearers of the Environmental and Social Framework principles, integrating them seamlessly into every stage of our project cycles. Let us champion sustainable procurement practices, ensuring that every decision we make contributes to a more resilient, equitable, and environmentally conscious future." She stated.

On his part, the IPESS JOSTUM's Standard quality Officer, Social Standards, Professor S. A. Ejembi appreciated the Honorable Minister, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Management teams of IPESS JOSTUM and National Open University of Nigeria as well as other collaborating ministries for the camaraderie that culminated in the success of the training. He charged the graduands not to file their certificates and also ensured that the system benefits from the knowledge they've acquired.



Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato, Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards Receives an Award on behalf of the Center Leader and Director at the Grand Finale of the 2025 World Environment Day in Makurdi



IPESS JOSTUM Team, Nigerian Environmental Society, Benue State Chapter and Well-wishers Marching to Commemorate the 2025 World Environment Day in Makurdi



Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Delivers Award to an Awardee at the Grand Finale of the 2025 World Environment Day in Makurdi



Members of IPESS JOSTUM Team, Nigerian Environmental Society, Benue State Chapter and Well-wishers at the Grand Finale of the 2025 World Environment Day in Makurdi



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Prof. Simon T. Kpelai, Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards (left) Delivering Certificate of Participation to a Graduand During Short Course Graduation Event in Lafia



Patricia K. Tabe Delivering a Lecture During Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



A section of IPESS JOSTUM Monitoring and Evaluation Team During the SPESSE 6th Round Independent Third-Party Verification Exercise



IPESS JOSTUM Management Team, Facilitators and Graduands During short Course Graduation Event in Lafia



JOSTUM VC, Engr. Prof. Isaac N. Itodo, Principal Officers, IPESS Management Team and Independent Third Party Verification Agents During a Courtesy Call on the Vice Chancellor





Prof. Adolphus A. Naswem, Deputy Center, Social Standards,
Delivering Presentation During IPESS JOSTUM 2025
Mid-Term Project Review Submit



Dr Christopher O. Eche, Deputy Director and Dr John I. Ona,
Project Management Officer Seated During IPESS JOSTUM 2025
Mid-Term Project Review Submit



L-R; DVC Academic, Prof. Raymond Wuana, DVC Administration, Prof. Elizabeth Kembe and VC JOSTUM, Engr Prof. Isaac N. Itodo
Seated During IPESS JOSTUM 2025 Mid-Term Project Review Submit



VC JOSTUM, Engr Prof. Isaac N. Itodo, Principal Officers, IPESS Management Team and Stake Holders
During IPESS JOSTUM 2025 Mid-Term Project Review Submit

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Prof. Adolphus A. Naswem, Deputy Center, Social Standards, Delivering a Goodwill Message During IPSS JOSTUM Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



A graduand Presenting a Valedictory Speech During IPSS JOSTUM Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



Prof. Ebenezer J. Ekefan Delivering Presentation During IPSS JOSTUM Short Course Orientation Event in Abuja



Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato, Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards Presenting Certificate of Participation to a Graduand During IPSS JOSTUM Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



Graduands Seated During IPSS JOSTUM Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja

IPESS JOSTUM COMMENCES TRAINING OF OVER 280 MDAs STAFF IN MAKURDI AND ABUJA.

More than 280 combined fresh participants selected from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government on Monday 21st July, 2025 resumed classes for short course (Track A) training at the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) holding concurrently in Makurdi and Abuja.

Speaking at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) Abuja, the Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Prof. Isaac N. Itodo congratulated the participants for seeking an opportunity to upscale their knowledge and skills in order to improve their workplaces and the society.

The Center Leader, represented by the project Management Officer, Dr John I. Ona stated that, the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project was designed to build human capacity to address some of the major challenges hindering the growth and development of the society. Prof. Nnamonu noted that, since inception, the Institute has trained over 15,000 participants across its tracks in North Central Nigeria. The Center Director also maintained that, owing to its success rate in the previous years, the SPESSE project has received a nod for an additional four-year extension which will be dedicated to building sustainable human capacity of staff of government agencies in the three thematic areas.

Prof. Nnamonu encouraged the participants to take advantage of the capacity building project

and further thanked the Management of NOUN, IPESS JOSTUM team, and facilitators and other partners for their ingenious contributions to the success of the project.



IPESS JOSTUM Management Team and Prospective Short Course Participants During Orientation Event in Makurdi

Delivering a presentation on the topic, "This is IPESS," the Academic programme Coordinator, Environmental Standards, Prof. Ebenezer J. Ekefan also stated that, the SPESSE project aims to address the dearth of knowledge and skills especially in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards. Prof. Ekefan highlighted the milestones attained by the Institute from inception to date and asserted that, IPESS JOSTUM has left nothing to be desired in the delivery of the project. The Academic Programme Coordinator charged the participants to maximally utilize the opportunity availed to them by IPESS JOSTUM to advance their careers.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. Simon Shomkegh urged the trainees to be dedicated to meeting the requirements for the awards of certificates. Prof. Shomkegh while requesting the participants reply promptly to emails and phone calls from the Institute or Independent Third-Party Verification Agents also encouraged them to uphold inclusion, equality, and diversity of fellow trainees to foster a positive learning environment. He finally enjoined the participants to remain steadfast in their certification journey as it has become a prerequisite for professional practice.



Dr John I. Ona
Project Management Officer



To ensure compliance of stipulated guidelines by Centers of Excellence under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standard Enhancement (SPESSE) project, an Independent Third-Party Verification Agency has visited the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPSS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) for the 6th round verification exercise powered by the World Bank.



Third-Party Verification Agents and Members of IPSS JOSTUM Monitoring and Evaluation Unit Seat in IPSS Boardroom During SPESSE 6th Round Independent Verification Exercise

Speaking on Monday, July 7, 2025, during a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Professor Isaac Nathaniel Itodo, in his office, one of the consultants from the Binomial Optimus Limited Abuja, Mr. Emmanuel Ikenna noted that the Independent Verification Agency was responsible for the evaluation of all the six SPESSE Centers of Excellence in Nigeria. Mr. Emmanuel Ikenna emphasized that the visit was not a witch-hunting exercise, but an evaluation visits to assess the fruitful utilization of the resources allocated to IPSS JOSTUM and her acclaimed milestones. The consultant while pledging the team's commitment to be transparent in the conduct of the exercise for the realization of set

objectives added that, a post exercise report will be sent to the World Bank, National Universities Commissions (NUC) and all Centers of Excellence implementing the SPESSE project.

Reacting, the Vice-Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. Isaac Nathaniel Itodo hailed the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement Project as one of the finest developments in the University. According to the VC, the impact of the project has positively touched the very fabric of the Institution in all ramifications. This he added is evident in the training and re-training of staff within and outside the country.



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh and Third-Party Independent Verification Agents During SPESSE 6th Round Independent Verification Exercise

Prof. noted that the project has greatly pushed the University forward, as the Institution would not be able to do what it is currently without the SPESSE project. He submitted that as a citadel of learning, the Institution stands as an exporter of leadership as it has over time recorded feats that have set the pace for others to follow. The Vice Chancellor further thanked the team for the visit and stated that, the team was in safe hands as adequate preparation for their visit was put in place.

Eight postgraduate students at the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) have participated and completed a one-month intensive training at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in Accra, Ghana.



**IPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Students in Class at
GIMPA, Accra, Ghana**

The students exchange scheme is an initiative of the World Bank Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

Participants including Raph Aboh, Gbagyo Salome and Wakor Hembadoon of Environmental Sustainability, Procurement Management, and Sustainable Social Development respectively described the programme as both impactful and inspiring which provided them with a well-rounded blend of academic learning and cultural immersion. According to them, the training was indeed a rewarding experience that will leave a lasting mark on their academic and professional journey.

One of the participants; Grateful Oyahre Itodo wrote: “The programme was an enriching opportunity that exposed me to diverse perspectives in governance, policy analysis, and public sector management. I particularly appreciated the engaging lectures on procurement management, social development, and environmental

sustainability, which broadened my understanding of development practices across Africa, especially sustainable practices in Ghana.”

The participants in separate submissions again noted that, visits to various sites including the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency in Tema, Golden Exotics Limited in Asutsuare, the Kwame Nkrumah Museum in Accra and many others provided practical insights into sustainability bridging classroom experience with real world application.

In the words of Raph Aboh, “In addition to the classroom experience, we also embarked on industrial and cultural visits, as well as sightseeing tours, which further enriched our exposure to practical and diverse perspectives. Pledging their commitment to apply the skills and knowledge gained to better the society, the participants further lauded the initiative by the SPESSE project, and commended the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards for its support in making the experience possible.



**IPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Students on a Visitation
Tour During a One Month Students Exchange Programme in Ghana**

The prominent training, which intended to enhance participants' understanding in line with worldwide best practices, held from 16th June to 11th July 2025 and included postgraduate students in Procurement Management, Environmental Sustainability, and Sustainable Social Development with great academic records at the Institute.

The Independent Third-Party Verification Agency (ITPVA), in charge of the 6th round Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project's verification exercise at Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESSE) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) has commended the Institute's commitment and resilience towards the actualisation of project set goal.

The ITPVA team made this known on Friday, July 11, 2025, while debriefing the management of JOSTUM at the completion of the 5-day on-site verification exercise by the Agency.



JOSTUM VC, Engr Prof. Isaac N. Itodo (M) Members of IPESSE JOSTUM Management Team and the ITPVA Team during a Debriefing on the Vice Chancellor.

According to the leader of the group, Mr. Emmanuel Ikenna, the Monitoring and Evaluation team members were very supportive, and all demands contained in the checklist were made available, demonstrating the team's readiness for the exercise.

He commended the management for their relentless support in ensuring that the Institute set a high standard for others to follow, adding that the availability of both human and material resources made the exercise a hitch-free venture.

Mr. Ikenna intimated that though there were a few observations on the national Monitoring and Evaluation portal, suggestions were already made to help IPESSE-JOSTUM effectively improve and utilise its own evaluations. This he added is key to the progress of the entire project.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor JOSTUM, Prof. Isaac N. Itodo appreciated the team for the peer review, noting that such exercises are needed to help put them in check. He commended the leadership of the Institute led by the Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu for coordinating a proficient team of staff who ensured the exercise was seamless.

The VC promised that the Institution will work on the observations made, assuring that they are not resting on their oars, but pushing until the Institution attains the acceptable standards even though it's still a work in progress.

The Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESSE), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) on Thursday 19th June 2025 held a valedictory event to mark the close of the 6th cycle of the self-paced online short training at the Institute.

Speaking on the topic "Drivers of Change," Dr Donald Dzever encouraged graduands to uphold the principles of honesty, professionalism, and patriotism in their quest to lower the prevalence of corruption and poor use of public funds. Dr Dzever stated it may be difficult to bring about a constructive change in an unfriendly setting, but it requires brave men and women who really believe in human dignity and prosperity to leave their mark. While urging the graduands to be the change they wish to see, further charged them to maintain their current relationship with the Institute and look for more educational possibilities to advance their carriers.

In separate valedictory speeches, Mrs Amuche Amaka Oparaugo, Godswill Akpabio and Maureen Demvihin Igyor of Social, Procurement, and Environmental Standards respectively appreciated the federal Government of Nigeria for the initiative and IPESSE JOSTUM for not falling short of expectations in the delivery of the programmes for the benefit humanity. Godswill Akpabio stated that the programme was both enriching and transformational as the well-structured modules offered practical insights, theoretical foundations, and real-world applications that are crucial for the advancement of any society. The standards' representatives affirmed that, they were equipped with knowledge on the laws, regulations and the benefits of compliance with set standards and called on fellow graduands to implement the knowledge acquired to better their respective organisations and the society.



Snapshot of IPESSE JOSTUM Track B Graduands During Online Valedictory Event

Earlier in a goodwill message, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lamin A. Nnamonu, congratulated the graduands for successful fulfilling basic requirements for the award of certificates. The Center Director who was represented by the Project Management Officer, Dr John Ona stated that the programme was designed to strengthen capacities in the fields of procurement, environmental and social standards to promote transparency, accountability and sustainability in public and private sectors. Dr Ona commended the facilitators, ICT team, Data Officers and the Management team of the Institute for working tirelessly for the success of the online short course training. He expressed optimism that the knowledge and skills acquired by trainees will transcend to systemic and institutional change of their various organizations. The Project Management Officer encouraged the trainees to sustain their relationship with the Institute and leverage the opportunity to seek more career advancement opportunities.

On Thursday, June 5, 2025, no fewer than 140 participants from diverse Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Jos, Plateau State received certificates of completion after completing the Track A Short Course at the Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPSS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM). The rigorous three-week training program sought to improve professional proficiency in procurement methods and social norms.



Prof. Simon T. Kpelai
Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards

At the valedictory occasion, the Centre Leader and Director, Professor L a m i A . N n a m o n u , represented by the Deputy Centre Leader of Procurement Standards, Professor Simon T. Kpelai, conveyed a goodwill message, congratulating the graduands and praising their tenacity. He encouraged them to utilize the acquired expertise to enhance service delivery inside their own organizations. He urged graduands to apply the ideals they had internalized during their training. He further claimed that constructive change is achievable via courageous individuals.

Addressing the subject "Drivers of Change," the monitoring and evaluation officer, Professor Simon A. Shomkegh, represented by Patricia Kuma Tabe, urged the graduates to become problem solvers and the catalysts for the necessary change.

She underscored the significance of a robust dedication to advancing best practices in problem-solving, enhancing citizens' lives, and maintaining integrity, patriotism, and professionalism, as this would mitigate corruption and resource mismanagement, offer mentorship, and cultivate prosperity for all Nigerians.

Valedictory addresses were delivered by course representatives Helen Eugene Manji of Procurement Standards and Ishaya Yakubu Amah of Social Standards, both expressing gratitude to

the IPSS management team for the opportunity and commending the flawless execution of the course. Mrs. Helen Eugene Manji lauded the institute and Joseph Sarwa Tarka University for the initiative and urged her fellow graduates to persist in their pursuit of knowledge. The class governor stated that, the training has enhanced their comprehension and fostered a heightened sense of responsibility, and they were prepared to guarantee openness, efficiency, sustainability, and value in the institutions they represent. She urged her fellow participants to return to their workplaces not only as holders of a certificate, but as proponents of standardised, ethical, and strategic procurement practices. Ishaya Yakubu Amah of Social Standards also enjoined participants to return to their respective corners of the world with a revitalized sense of purpose and embrace the responsibility of being vanguards and advocates of standard practices.



IPSS JOSTUM Management Team and Graduands
During Short Course Short Course Valedictory Event in Jos

In a vote of thanks, Deputy Centre Leader, Social Standards Professor Angol A. Naswem commended the graduands for their dedication, commitment, and diligence throughout the training, while also praising the State Training Coordinator and the entire University administration for fostering a conducive environment for the program's success. He encouraged them to undertake bold actions inside their own organizations that will reflect the knowledge they have acquired.

The highlight of the occasion was the awarding of certificates to 140 trainees – seventy each in the areas of procurement and social standards.

IPESS JOSTUM CENTER LEADER SUES FOR COMMITMENT TOWARDS CERTIFICATION

The Centre Leader and Director, Institute of Procurement Environmental, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Prof. Lami A Nnamonu has called on short course (Track A) participants at the Institute to hold the training in high esteem and remain steadfast towards becoming certified professional in their chosen fields.

The Center Director, represented by the Deputy Center Leader of Procurement Standards, Prof. Simon T. Kpelai made the call on 14th July 2024



Prof. Simon T. Kpelai
Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards

in Makurdi, Benue State during an opening ceremony for the commencement of Track A training, designed to build capacities of staff of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government in the state.

Prof. Nnamonu in a goodwill message stated that the Institute's relentless quest in human capacity building in a bid to fill the knowledge gap in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards has earned them a position reputation. She commended the participants for choosing to be part of the life changing experience, stating that, the experience will not only present an opportunity for the award of certificates but would also equip them with the necessary skills and tools needed to effect a positive in their workplaces and the society. The center Director further called on the participants to be committed to fulfilling the necessary conditions for the award of certificates.

Speaking on the theme "This is IPESS," the Standard Quality Officer, Environmental Standards Dr Tongu Sylvester stated that the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project aims to address the lack of critical skills in Procurement Standards (PS), Environmental Standards (ES), and Social Standards (SS)

through professionalization, research, and training. Dr Tongu highlighted the Institute's impressive achievements and encouraged the participants to take advantage of the opportunity and persevere in their pursuit of professionalism stating that, promotions to the next level in their careers will henceforth require evidence of professional training in any of procurement, environmental and social standards areas.



A Section of Prospective Participants During IPESS JOSTUM Track A Orientation Event in Makurdi

In his presentation on "IPESS Short Courses: Requirements and Trainee Obligations," Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Prof. Simon Shomkegh urged the trainees to be involved and dedicated to meeting the standards for certificate issuance. He claimed that the program offered a means of obtaining certifications as well as a chance to learn and brush up on information that will help society. Prof. Shomkegh also requested that participants reply as quickly as possible to emails and phone calls from the Institute or Independent Third-Party Verification Agents to confirm their participation in the programmes. He gave them the responsibility of ensuring the inclusion, equality, and diversity of fellow trainees in order to foster a positive learning environment. The Administrative Team Leader Dr Mercy Sewuese Iannah also appreciated the participants for electing to participate in the Institutes programme in order to upgrade their skills for better service delivery. She charged them uphold respect for one another so as to make the training a worthwhile experience



**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.


Interested MDAs are kindly requested to send in nominees to be trained in the above mentioned areas


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**

 www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

 jiona@uam.edu.ng

 +2348036412077

 @IPESS_FUAM

 @IPESSUAM

 @IPESSFUAM

 @IPESS_FUAM

UCHE MICHAEL AONDOHEMBA
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.

FOLLOW US

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

CONTACT US

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

www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

