



CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (CIPESS)

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



Excellence & Professionalism

**Vol. 2, NUMBER 2
MARCH, 2024**

BULLETIN

The importance of investments in human capital can not be overemphasized. Therefore, the Federal Government of Nigeria deserves praise for initiating the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project which focuses on sustainable human capacity development and aims to facilitate positive change and unrestricted growth of individuals across different sectors of society.

Under this project, the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) is playing a crucial role in fostering sustainable human capacity development in North Central Nigeria and beyond by providing people with the necessary skills, information, and opportunities. This has been accomplished by granting individuals access to training programs, opportunities for professional growth, guidance from mentors, and educational resources. The objective of this project is to cultivate a workforce that possesses both expertise and adaptability to effectively navigate the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving society.

Yet, with immense delight and enthusiasm, I hereby present to you the March 2024 edition of our story record. This report elucidates the significant events and achievements that occurred at the Center during the opening quarter of 2024. The notable characteristics of this version do not contradict our unmatched investigation of the realm of long-lasting development of human potential. The objective of this project is to enhance proficiency, responsibility, openness, and other associated characteristics in the public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy and beyond.

This edition is a full package of high-profile events undertaken by CIPESS FUAM from January to March 2024 in fulfilment of her mission which is to produce a critical mass of highly skilled and fit-for-purpose professionals in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

Training individuals in leadership positions is crucial for the success and growth of any organization because effective leadership training not only enhances the skills and competencies of leaders but also contributes to building a strong and resilient workforce. Through capacity building, leaders of organizations can create a culture of excellence, empower their teams, and achieve their goals with confidence and impact. Consequently, the Center Management organized a three-day Executive Education Workshop for Vice Chancellors and Procurement Officers in all Nigerian Universities in the North Central geopolitical zone. The purpose of this workshop was to enhance the capacity of these individuals, recognizing that investing in their development could greatly influence their performance as well as the overall performance of their institutions especially in procurement-related domains, which have a substantial impact on both enterprises and society. Relatedly, this edition prominently features an article on the Human Resource Management training offered to the staff members of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi.

Accreditation which is a crucial factor in validating the quality and credibility of educational institutions and programmes is a hallmark of excellence and quality education. By enrolling in an accredited University or programme, one can be confident that their choice of institution and/or programme meets all the established quality standards, offers a top-notch academic curriculum, promotes a student-centered learning environment, and ensures continuous improvement with the best educational practices. Progressively, it is heartwarming to learn that CIPESS FUAM in the period under review, having met the standards set by the National Universities Commission (NUC) underwent an accreditation exercise in her three core areas. As explicitly captured in this document, CIPESS FUAM has been commissioned to run programmes ranging from Bachelor of Science degree, Postgraduate Diploma and Master's degree programs in Procurement Management, Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Social Development.

One of the most notable aspects of the March bulletin is the announcement that CIPESS FUAM Master's degree students would be participating in internship programs – a novelty in the Nigerian tertiary education terrain. When it comes to connecting classroom learning with real-world job experience, internship programs are second to none. Practical experience, skill development, career exploration, and professional network building are all perks that students can reap from this program. Organizations and educational institutions can help students towards wholesome growth, increased marketability to potential employers, and lay the groundwork for a competent and skilled workforce by funding internships. The rest of the narrative will become clear as you continue reading.

To guarantee efficient functioning and overall achievement, it is vital to provide comprehensive training to key personnel regarding organisation's protocols. The reason for this is that important individuals, including managers, employees, and stakeholders, can more effectively organize their actions and make choices that align with the organization's goals and strategies, while also promoting enhanced teamwork, communication, and collaboration. Moreover, it enables individuals to make decisions based on accurate facts, efficiently handle problems, and adapt to changes in the work environment. The Information Disclosure Retreat (IDR) organized by CIPESS FUAM Management was attended by the Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments of JOSTUM as detailed in this article. The objective of the retreat was to ensure that these officers comprehend the operational procedures of the Center

According to Barack Obama, *"If you are walking down the right path and you are willing to keep walking, eventually, you will make progress."* CIPESS FUAM has not relented in its exploits in sustainable human capacity development by again training and graduating not less than 245 short course participants in Jos, Plateau State in one fell swoop, within the period under review.

Grab the details of our unprecedented milestones and many other fascinating articles well captured in text and pictures for your information and reading pleasure.

Ultimately, we hope that this bulletin serves as a platform for knowledge, information, inspiration, and collaboration. Together, let us embrace the spirit of lifelong learning, inclusivity, and innovation as we work towards building a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Please, accept the assurances of the warm regards of the magnificent
CIPESS FUAM SPESSE
Project team.



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, FICCON, FCSN
Center Leader & Director, Center for
Innovation in Procurement Environmental
and Social Standards (CIPESS)

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, CIPESS



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, CIPESS

Table of Contents

Headline	Page
*From the Center Leader and Director's Desk	2
*Management Team	3
*CIPESS Hosts Vice Chancellors and Procurement Officers to an Executive Workshop	4
*NUC Accredits Three Departments at CIPESS JOSTUM	5
*CIPESS Trains JOSTUM Staff on Human Resource Management	6
*Own CIPESS to Uplift JOSTUM: Center Leader Charges Deans and Directors	7
*Our Story in Pictures	8-14
*CIPESS Graduates 245 Participants in Jos	15
*Take the Chance and be Part of the Change Movement	16
*CIPESS Sensitizes JOSTUM Heads of Departments on Center Operations	17
*CIPESS Commissions Masters Students for Internship Training	18
*CIPESS: Where We Are	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



CIPESS HOSTS VICE CHANCELLORS AND PROCUREMENT OFFICERS TO AN EXECUTIVE TRAINING

In a progressive move to build sustainable human capacity for those in leadership positions, the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) on Tuesday, 20th February 2024 organized an Executive Education Workshop for Vice Chancellors and Directors of Procurement of Universities in North Central Nigeria. The workshop held the conference hall of the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities Abuja.



The Center Leader and Director Professor Lami A. Nnamonu, in a welcome address expressed delight and commended participants for availing themselves for the workshop despite their busy schedules. She emphasized the role of best procurement practices within the University system stating that a clear understanding and application of procurement best practices would go a long way in addressing incidences of corruption within Nigerian Universities. She called on the participants to make the most out of the workshop for the benefit of their institutions.

Dr. Joshua Atah in his goodwill message apologetically confessed to have underrated JOSTUM during the bidding phase of the project but expressed satisfaction on the feats recorded by the Center within the short period of project commencement. Dr. Attah said, "Every time I get invited to CIPESS FUAM events I always leave with this impression that sometimes you should not be in a hurry to write people off but again we thank you for not just living up to expectation but also even living beyond expectation." The SPESSE National Project Coordinator called on the Vice Chancellors and Procurement officers to cherish every moment of the workshop for future benefits. "I urge all the Vice-Chancellors that are here today to take a look at what is going on here and see if you can key into it-who knows if there is another round of this programme or a similar programme, you may be in a better position to bid for it" He stated.

Relatedly, Prof. Yakubu A. Ochefu, Secretary-General Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities and Director- General of the Bureau of Public

Procurement, represented by the Director, regulation and database, Bureau of Public procurement, Aliyu Aliyu in separate remarks congratulated the Center Leader and Director and the entire management team for organizing the workshop and urged them to make such workshops constant. Prof. Yakubu noted that, "Procurement issues are very nutty issues. Given the type of background Vice-Chancellors come from these are not things that are in their everyday repertoire as they are rising through their academic career and when they come to the level of leadership and are confronted with nitty gritty of procurement, it is important that we ground some of their understanding of it." He added that the procurement workshop will no doubt have a positive impact on the Vice chancellors of Nigerian Universities. Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor Joseph Saruwan Tarka University Makurdi, Engr. Prof. Isaac N. Itodo expressed gratitude to the Center Leader and her team for their dedication and for making the University proud. He further urged participants to ensure the stepping down of the knowledge acquired in their respective Universities. "This workshop will fill the knowledge gap in the procurement process and will help VCs and Procurement Officers to firmly take control of the procurement processes and avoid criminal default that will invoke the wrath of anti-corruption agencies." He further stated.

The Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards Prof. Simon Kpelai during the closing phase of the workshop expressed gratitude to the Center Leader for availing such an avenue for learning and improving industry best practices. He commended the Vice-Chancellors and Procurement Officers for their endurance, consistency and sacrifice to be part of the workshop. He encouraged them to apply the knowledge gained so as to impact their respective institutions positively.



The three-day workshop featured presentation of lectures from procurement mavens, interactive sessions, soapbox sessions as well as the drafting of a communique proposing areas that can be improved upon in the 2007 Procurement Act.



NUC ACCREDITS THREE DEPARTMENTS AT CIPESS JOSTUM

An accreditation team of the National Universities Commission (NUC) has given a nod to three departments namely; Procurement Management, Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Social Development at the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tark University,



Makurdi (JOSTUM) to run Bachelor of Science degree, Postgraduate Diploma and Master of Science degree Programmes in the fields of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

The NUC team which subdivided into three groups for the three core areas of the center gave the approval on 15th March 2024 while presenting the exit report of a two-day accreditation exercise performed at the center.

Debriefing the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Prof. Isaac N. Itodo who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Prof. Comfort D. Tuleun, the sub team leaders, Professor, Biola Philip, Professor Mathew O. Wegwu, and Professor Ezekiel G. Best representing departments of Procurement Management, Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Social Development respectively in their individual reports expressed satisfaction on the elaborate curriculum, the quality of staff and the state of the art facilities provided at the

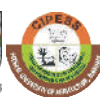
center to enhance seamless delivery of the courses. Commenting on sustainability plan, Prof. Biola Philip who urged the management of the Center to keep the tempo also encouraged University management to recruit and build staff capacity, expand the facility, ensure programme accessibility by the physically challenged as well as improve in critical areas where necessary for the success of the programme.



Reacting the Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Prof. Comfort D. Tuleun at separate intervals expressed profound gratitude to the groups for the job well done and stated that the team observations and recommendations will be considered for the purpose of improvement.



The Vice Chancellor added that the University was honoured and proud to have undergone accreditation exercise in the three trending fields. She further pledged the University management's commitment to support and sustain the World Bank supported Sustainable, Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project to derive maximum benefits that lay in wait.



CIPESS TRAINS JOSTUM STAFF ON HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) in its human capacity drive on recently organized a 2-day workshop on Human Resource Management for Principal Officers and Committee of Deans and Directors of the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM).



Delivering the welcome address at the 2day workshop which held from 8th -9thFebruary, 2024 at the College of Forestry and Fisheries Auditorium, the Center Leader and Director, Professor, L. A. Nnamonu commended participants for attending the workshop and stated that, efficient human resource management was key in the survival of organisations as it maximizes employees productivity and effectiveness. Professor Nnamonu called on participants to prioritize the capacity building workshop to acquire and apply the skills for the attainment of greater heights.



The vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka university Makurdi, Professor I.N. Itodo who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Prof. Mrs C.D. Tuleun in an opening remark lauded CIPESS Management for the initiative and stated that, the workshop which aimed at exposing participants to new trends in managing human resources was strategic and timely. Professor Tuleun added that, a well-equipped workforce was essential in the University's quest to be on a competitive global stage. the Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration further urged participants to pay key attention to presentations at the workshop to maximally benefit from the exercise.

Commenting at the end of the workshop, Professor Simon Irtwange, Professor Geoffrey Nyior and Professor M.I. Adah while commending CIPESS management for the initiative emphasized a positive and result driven attitude to work by employees, saying, challenges threatening maximum results could be surmounted. Professor Nyior who noted the need to clearly spell out staff duties for effective execution added that to achieve commiserate results, there was a need to make employees feel a sense of belonging by properly managing the human resources available. Professor Adah on his part further called on staff of the University to own it and take responsibility for the general good of all.



The high point of the occasion was the issuing of certificates of participation to participant comprising Principal Officers, Deans and Director which were draw from various colleges and directorates of the University.



PAGE 7

During her presentation on “Optimizing CIPESS E-Resources for Institutional Advancement,” the Center Librarian Mrs Esther W. Oyeniyi urged the Deans and Directors to make effective use of electronic resources made available by the Center and emphasized on its cruciality for the success and growth of the institution. “It is important we utilize the electronic resources to improve learning experience. This will ultimately lead to increased productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and give JOSTUM a global visibility.” She said.



Speaking on the theme “The CIPESS Journey So Far: International and Local Collaborators” the Academic Programme Coordinator, Environmental Standards, Prof. E.J. Ekefan highlighted the achievements of the Center and reflected on the objectives of the Center's collaborations stating that the collaborations were aimed at liaising with both public and private sectors so as to meet the Project Development Objectives. “CIPESS has developed a partnership model for effective collaborations and



Remarking, The Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Professor Isaac Itodo, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Professor F. A. Ayatse applauded the Center Leader and Director and the entire management team for doing a great job in promoting the image and reputation of the University. He said, the current achievements in CIPESS reflected the hard work and dedication of the team and urged the Deans and Directors to consistently cooperate with the management of the Center in a bid to achieve set targets. “We need to respect the position of CIPESS even when we get back home, we need to understand what they are doing so that we do not interfere with what the Center Leader and team are doing.” The Vice Chancellor said.

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



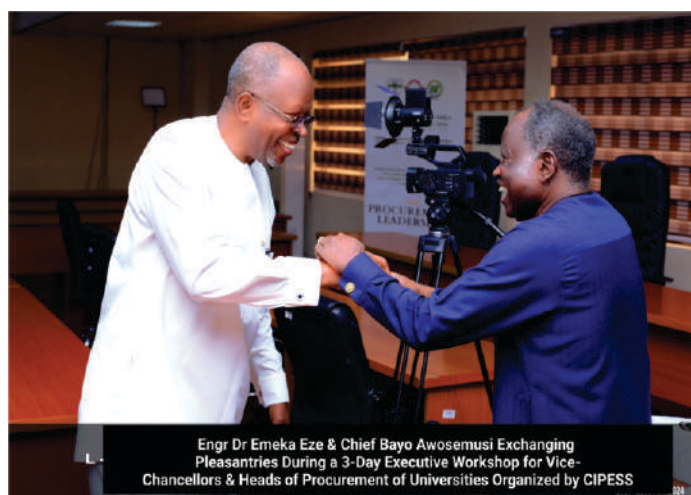
Vice Chancellor, University of Jos, Prof Tanko Ishaya Signing Attendance Register During a 3-Day Executive Workshop Organized By CIPESS for Vice Chancellors and Heads of Procurement of Universities as CIPESS Deputy Director, Dr Christopher Eche Looks on



World Bank Lead Procurement Specialist, Chief Bayo Awosemusi (Rtd) Facilitating During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice Chancellors & Heads of Procurement of Universities.



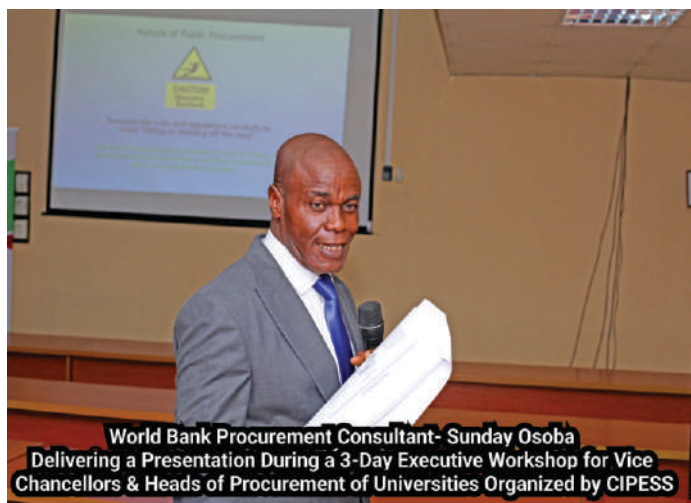
Deputy Center-Procurement Standards, Prof. S. T. Kpelai Delivering an Address During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice Chancellors & Heads of Procurement of Universities



Engr Dr Emeka Eze & Chief Bayo Awosemusi Exchanging Pleasantries During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice-Chancellors & Heads of Procurement of Universities Organized by CIPESS



JUSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo Delivering an Address During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice Chancellors & Heads of Procurement of Universities Organized by CIPESS



World Bank Procurement Consultant- Sunday Osoba Delivering a Presentation During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice Chancellors & Heads of Procurement of Universities Organized by CIPESS

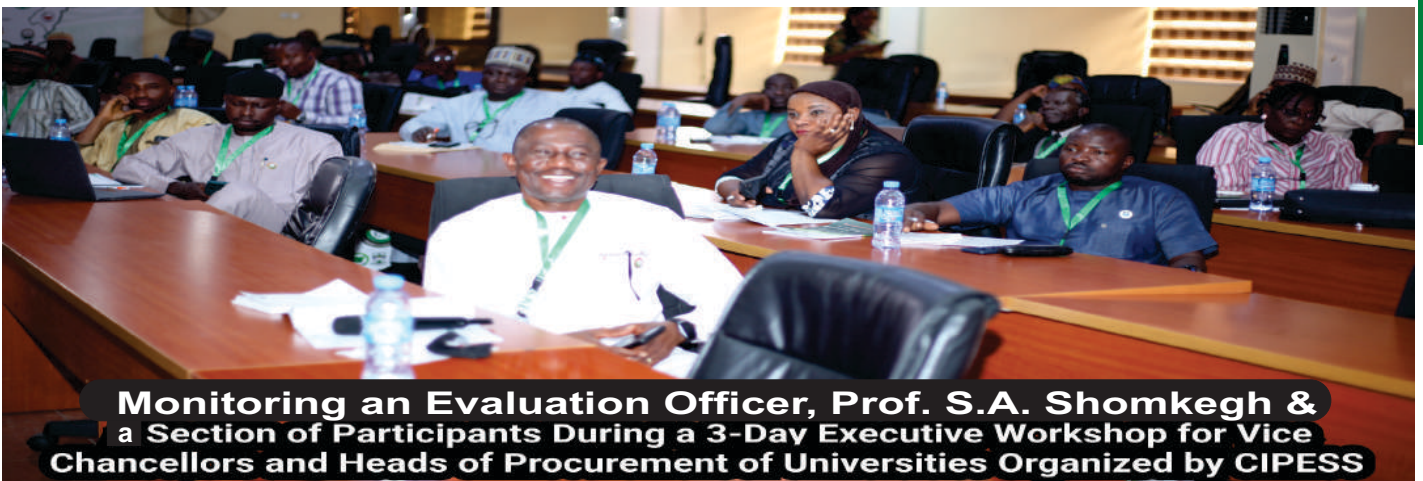
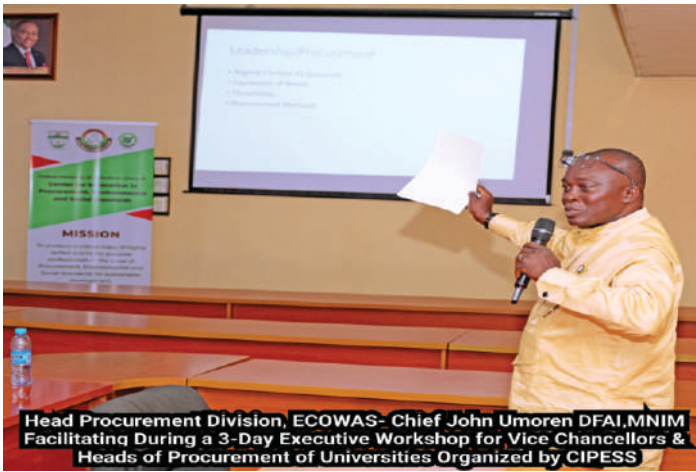


Premiere DG- Bureau of Public Procurement, Engr Dr Emeka M. Eze FNSE, OFR Facilitating During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice Chancellors & Heads of Procurement of Universities Organized by CIPESS



Center Leader and Director, Prof. L'A. Nnamonu Making a Presentation During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice Chancellors and Heads of Procurement of Universities Organized by CIPESS

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Center Leader and Director, SPESSE Coordinator, Facilitators, Moderators & Some Participants During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice-Chancellors & Heads of Procurement of Universities Organized by CIPESS



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itod (middle) Center Leader & Director Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (3rd right) and other Members of CIPESS Management During a 3-Day Executive Workshop for Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Procurement of Universities Organized by CIPESS



Center Leader & Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (5th) right and Retreatants During a Retreat Organized by CIPESS for Deans and Directors of JOSTUM



Center Leader & Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (left) and DVC Academic, JOSTUM, Prof. F.A. Ayatse Exchanging Pleasantries During a Retreat for Deans and Directors of JOSTUM Organized by CIPESS



Director Academic Planning, Engr Prof. S.T. Irtwange Making a Remark During an Information Disclosure Retreat Organized by CIPESS for Deans and Directors of JOSTUM

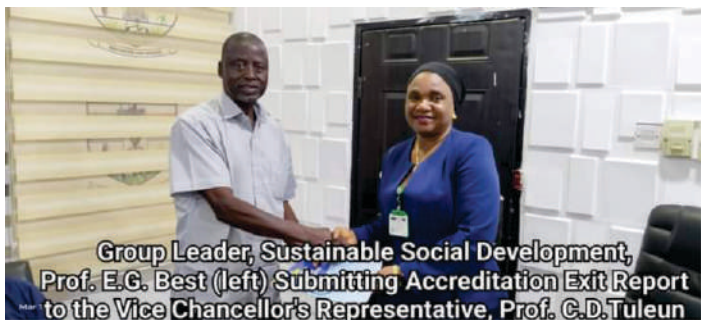


Deputy Director, Dr Christopher Eche (left) in a Warm Handshake with the Administrative Team Leader Dr Felix Igbahenah During a Retreat Organized by CIPESS for Deans and Directors of JOSTUM



CIPESS Management, JOSTUM Principal Officers and Deans and Directors During a Retreat Organized by CIPESS for Deans and Directors of JOSTUM

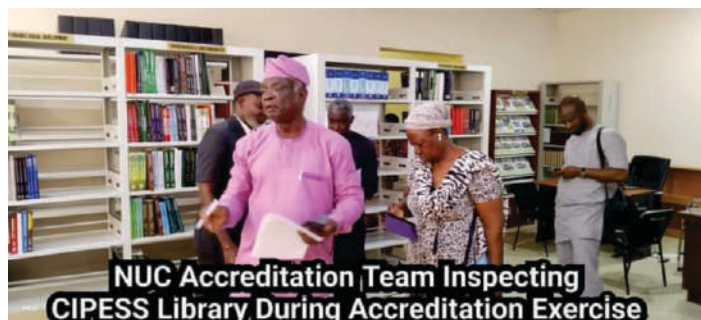
OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Group Leader, Sustainable Social Development, Prof. E.G. Best (left) Submitting Accreditation Exit Report to the Vice Chancellor's Representative, Prof. C.D. Tuleun



Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Prof. C.D. Tuleun (right) Signing Accreditation Exit Report as the Director, Academic Planning Prof. Simon Irtwange (left) Looks on



NUC Accreditation Team Inspecting CIPESS Library During Accreditation Exercise



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr. Prof. I.N. Itodo, Principal Officers, CIPESS Management Team and NUC Accreditation Team During a Courtesy Call on the Vice Chancellor



DVC Admin. Prof. C.D. Tuleun (middle), NUC Procurement Management Team and CIPESS Team During the Presentation of Accreditation Exit Report



Group Leader, Environmental Sustainability, Prof. M.O. Weagwu (left) Presenting Accreditation Exit Report to Prof. C.D. Tuleun (VC.Rep.)



CAEPRD Director, University of Jos, Prof. Abraham Goni Dogo (right) Presenting Certificate to a Participant During CIPESS Track A Valedictory Event in Jos, Plateau state



DCL-ES, Prof. Rufus Sha-Ato (Right) Presenting Certificate of Participation to a Graduated During CIPESS Track A Graduation Event in Jos, Plateau state

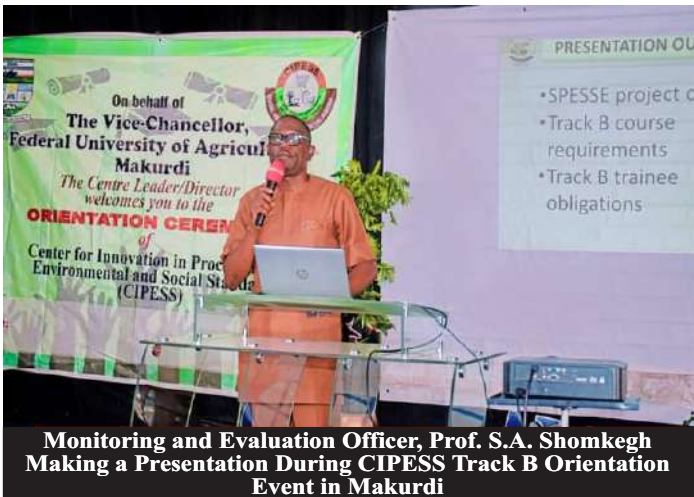


A Participant, Jumai Danuk Delivering Valedictory Speech During CIPESS Track A Graduation Event in Jos, Plateau state



Representative of the Vice Chancellor, University of Jos, Prof. A. G. Dogo Delivering Goodwill Message During CIPESS Track A Graduation Event in Jos, Plateau state

OUR STORY IN PICTURES





CIPESS Management Team, Facilitators and Data Officers During CIPESS Track A Graduation Event in Jos, Plateau state



CIPESS Manage Staff With Graduands During CIPESS Track A Valedictory Event in Jos, Plateau state



A section of Valedictorians During CIPESS Track A Graduation Event in Jos, Plateau State



A Section of Participants During Human Resource Management Workshop Organized for Principal Officers, Deans & Directors of JOSTUM

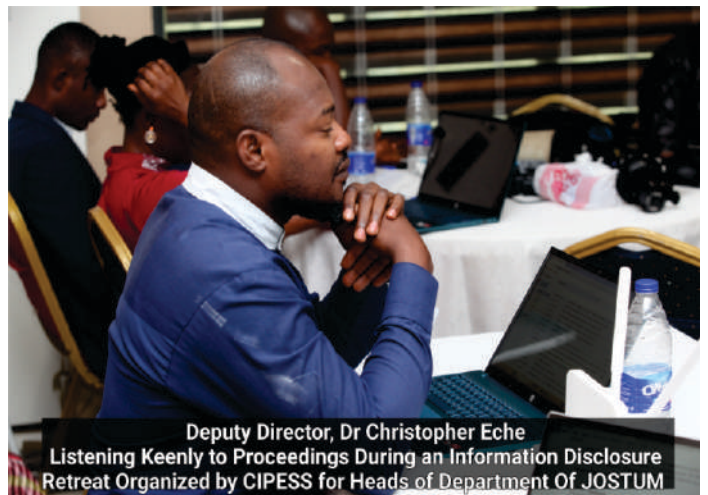


JOSTUM SIWES Coordinator, CIPESS Staff and Interns During CIPESS PG Students Internship Orientation Event



A Section of Interns During CIPESS PG Students Internship Orientation Event

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



CIPESS GRADUATES 245 PARTICIPANTS IN JOS

No fewer than 245 short course participants from seven cohorts received certificates at the Center for Innovation, Environmental and Social standards (CIPESS) at its study center in Jos, Plateau State having successfully completed three weeks of intensive training in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.



DCL-ES, Prof. Rufus Sha-Ato Delivering a Goodwill Message During CIPESS Track A Valedictory Event in Jos, Plateau State.

Delivering a goodwill message at the graduation event which held at the Aliyu Akwe Doma Hall, University of Jos, the Center Leader and Director, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu expressed profound gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, University of Jos, Prof. Ishaya Tanko for providing the platform for the programme to run and the indefatigable CIPESS team for working tirelessly for the success of the programme. The Center Leader who was represented by the deputy center Leader, Environmental Standards, Prof. Rufus Sha-Ato stated that, by the virtue of the training, participants were converted into a veritable vanguard to change the society, noting that, it will only take a small group of committed people to effect a positive change the society is yearning for. The representative of the Center Leader urged graduands not to trivialize the certificates and knowledge gained and hold their heads high for the new feat they attained. Professor Sha-Ato further encouraged graduands to explore and enroll for the various course options at the center including, Bachelor of Science degree, Master of Science degree as well as Doctor of Philosophy in the three main fields at the center.

In his presentation on the theme "Drivers of Change", the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Simon Shomkegh stated that, the Project Development Objective was to build sustainable human capacity in managing Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards in public and private sectors in a bid to curb corruption and make the society better.

Professor Shomkegh enjoined the graduands to uphold integrity wherever they are placed, stating that, as change agents, graduands were expected to commit to promoting best practices that will contribute to reducing incidences of corruption and mismanagement in public and private sectors. He asserted that the growth of the nation will happen only when people commit themselves; saying a positive change is possible through men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and posterity.

He urged valedictorians not to undermine the certificates issued to them as they were worthy of changing their lives.

In his goodwill message, the Vice Chancellor, University of Jos prof. Ishaya Tanko, represented by the Director, African Center of Excellence in Phytomedicine, Research and Development (ACEPRD), University of Jos, Prof. Abraham Goni Dogo commended the dedication, commitment, and hard work of the participants throughout the intensive training period. The representative of the Vice Chancellor said, "You have invested your time and effort aimed to enhancing your knowledge and skills in crucial areas that are vital not only for your professional growth but also for the betterment of our society and the environment. We are proud of you for the passion and enthusiasm you have demonstrated in learning about Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

Professor Dogo expressed confidence that, the knowledge and insight gained from this training programme by participants will undoubtedly empower them to make meaningful contributions in their respectful fields and communities.

The ACEPRD Director who urged participants to stay curious, open minded and proactive in seeking opportunities for further growth and development also charged them use their newfound expertise to champion cause for positive change. "As you embark on the next face of your professional journey, I encourage you to continue to uphold the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and professionalism. Use your newfound expertise to champion positive change and to advance and advocate for practices that prioritize the well being of people and the planet". He said.

Delivering valedictory speeches, the course representatives, Iannah Richard, Mangut Yohana and Jumai Henrieta Danuk of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards respectively in separate addresses commended CIPESS for providing the platform and the facilitators for the practical and professional delivery of the courses, saying, they were going back better than they came in. The representatives admitted



A section of Valedictorians During CIPESS Track A Graduation Event in Jos, Plateau State

that they were equipped with the social skills, knowledge, and values necessary to bring a positive in the society and called on their fellow participants to live up to the task.

According to Jumai Danuk of Social Standards, "As we step into the society, let us reflect on the weeks and days of hard work, dedication and growth that brought us to this point. As we move, let us be champions of sustainability in our different spheres of endeavour, let us be advocates of social responsibility, promoting diversity and inclusion and challenging injustice wherever it exists". "We must continue to push boundaries and seek out innovative solutions that benefit not only our organizations but the entire world." she added.

Continued on page 16

Fresh trainees of the Advanced Certificate (Track B) course at the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) have been called to commit themselves towards acquiring necessary skills to be part of the positive change movement.

Center and Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu made the call on 25th March, 2024 at the Institute of Strategic Development and Communication, Nasarawa State University, Keffi during CIPESS Advanced Certificate course orientation event for a new set of participants in the areas of procurement, Environmental and social standards.



Deputy Center Leader Procurement Standards, Prof. S.T. Kpelai
Delivering a Presentation During CIPESS Track B Orientation Event in Keffi

The Center Leader who was represented by the Deputy Center Leader of Procurement Standards, Prof. S.T. Kpelai while presenting on the theme “This is CIPESS” stated that, the Sustainable, Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project was instituted to bridge the skill gap in Procurement, environmental and social standards through human capacity building for the purpose of mitigating corruption and other environmental and societal concerns in public and private sectors. Prof. Kpelai called on trainees to explore the other course options offered at the as well as to strive be certified in their chosen fields, adding that, the programme has the potential of changing their lives.



CIPESS Advance Certificate Course Participants
During Orientation Event in Keffi

In his presentation titled “Advanced Certificate

Course: Trainees Requirements and Obligations,” Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh who was represented by the Undergraduate Examination Officer for Social Standards, Dr Victor Otene emphasized the need for 100% attendance, punctual and regular participation as well as non-signing of attendance register by proxy as these would lead to non-issuance of course completion certificate. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer also charged trainees to uphold respect for one another by ensuring inclusion, equality and diversity of fellow trainees in order to make the environment conducive for all. He further encouraged participants to report any case of Gender Based Violence or sexual harassment to appropriate channels for proper handling.

Academic Programme Coordinator of Environmental Standards, Prof. E.J. Ekefan in a vote of thanks appreciated the Nasarawa state team for properly coordinating the programme and congratulated participants for electing to be part of the training. Prof. Ekefan also enjoined participants to remain dedicated and committed to benefit maximally from the programme.

It is worthy to note that in the quest to ensure massive human capacity building in the three core areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards, CIPESS at the same time commenced advanced Certificate course training in Makurdi and Lafia to run concurrently with the Keffi study center.

CIPESS GRADUATES 245 PARTICIPANTS IN JOS *Continued from page 15*

Collaborating, Iannah Richard of Procurement Standards said, “As we prepare to embark on our professional journeys, I am reminded of a quote by Nelson Mandela who famously said Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to change the world. Through our dedication to lifelong learning and continuous improvement, we have equipped ourselves with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to effect positive change in our organizations, communities and beyond. Let us embrace this responsibility with humility, courage and a steadfast determination to a difference”. Iannah said.

The participants further disclosed that they were keen in pursuing the advanced levels of the courses to up skill for better applications.

Earlier in a welcome address, the State Training Coordinator, Engr Dr Emmanuel Kamptu while congratulating the graduands' uncommon commitment which culminated to their successfully completion of the courses also commended CIPESS Management for flawlessly executing the training in the State. Engr Dr Kamptu called for the delivery of Advanced Certificate Course (Track B) in Plateau State adding that, the State was looking forward to having graduates, including master's degrees and Doctor of Philosophy in the center's core fields in the nearest future.



CIPESS SENSITIZES JOSTUM HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS ON CENTER OPERATIONS

The Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (JOSTUM) on February 19, 2024, held an Information Disclosure Retreat for the University's Heads of Departments at Candel lux Imperial Hotel and Suites, Abuja to sensitize them on the operations of the Center and their anticipated support for the Center to thrive.

Professor Lami A. Nnamonu, Center Leader and Director of CIPESS, welcomed the University's Heads of Departments to the Information Disclosure Retreat and expressed happiness over participants' resolve to be part of the retreat. The Center Leader explained that each retreat session was designed to encourage intellectual exploration and engagement with new ideas and to foster a culture of creativity and problem-solving within the university. Professor Nnamonu urged the heads of the various departments to seize the opportunities offered by the Center to contribute to the upliftment and advancement of JOSTUM.



Center Leader and Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu Delivering a Presentation During Information Disclosure Retreat Organized by CIPESS for JOSTUM Heads of Departments

Discussing "The SPESSE Project: The Role of Implementing Universities," the Academic Programme Coordinator, Environmental Standards, Professor Ebenezer J. Ekefan, stated that, the crucial responsibilities of implementing Universities was to establish and maintain high-quality educational programmes that would meet international standards and prepare graduates for success in the global market. He added that implementing Universities were to integrate relevant digital tools and resources into the learning process to benefit students, practitioners, and employers alike.

Professor Ekefan further stressed that adherence to project time lines was crucial for achieving the desired outcomes within the set time frame. Also, Universities must deliver on the established goals and objectives of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project. According to him, continuous evaluation and adaptation were essential for ensuring the long-term success and effectiveness of the project. He noted that by fulfilling these crucial responsibilities, implementing Universities would play a

critical role in achieving the goals of the SPESSE Project and contributing to a more skilled, productive, and sustainable Nigerian workforce.

Addressing the theme "CIPESS Journey So Far: Trainings and SPESSE-supported Programmes," the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Simon A. Shomkegh, recounted the Center's story from inception to the present, highlighting its successes. He expressed the Center's anticipation of fostering additional partnerships with foreign Universities and emphasized the shift towards a blended approach - combining face-to-face and online delivery of SPESSEPES Tracks to meet the evolving demands in these fields.

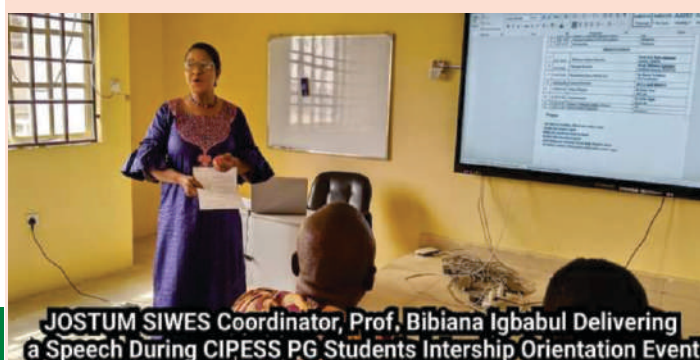
CIPESS Industrial Liaison Officer, Dr. Macsamuel Ugbaa while speaking on the theme "The CIPESS Journey So Far: International and Local Collaborators," maintained that the collaborations were aimed at engaging with both public and private sector organizations to fulfil the Project Development Objectives of the Center. Dr. Macsamuel added that CIPESS had established an effective partnership model and currently has over 18 foreign faculty on board, spanning across Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards.

The Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards, Professor Simon T. Kpelai while presenting on the topic "What's Next After the SPESSE Project: Our Sustainability Plan" asserted that, as part of the sustainability strategy, arrangements were at an advanced level for the establishment of a dedicated Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards institute in JOSTUM. According to him, the institute will house dedicated academic departments for each of the three fields (procurement, environment, and social standards) by the conclusion of the SPESSE project cycle.

Presenting on "Optimizing CIPESS E-Resources for Institutional Advancement," the Center Librarian, Mrs. Esther W. Oyeniyi, encouraged the Heads of Departments to utilize the electronic resources provided by the Center. She underscored its significance for the institution's success, emphasizing that, leveraging these resources would enhance the learning experience and lead to heightened productivity, efficiency, competitiveness, and global visibility of JOSTUM.

The Administrative Team Leader Dr. Felix Igbahenna in his concluding remarks applauded the CIPESS team lead by the Center Leader and Director Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu for the wonderful work which has enhanced the achievement of greater results at the Center. He also appreciated the Heads of Departments for accepting to attend and fully participating in the Information Disclosure Retreat stating that, their contributions will be instrumental in ensuring long-term success and sustainability of the Center.

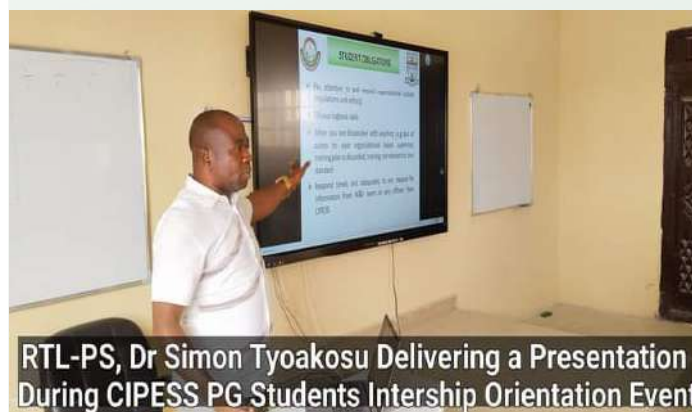
The Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM), has commissioned students of its Masters degree programmes in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards to participate in an eight-week industrial training as part of a deliberate policy to expose students to practical knowledge of their respective fields of study.



JOSTUM SIWES Coordinator, Prof. Bibiana Igbabul Delivering a Speech During CIPESS PG Students Internship Orientation Event

Prof. Bibiana Igbabul, Director, Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi, delivered the opening remarks at the orientation event on February 19, 2024, in the Environmental Standards' hall. She commended the Centre for the initiative and stated that the Center's Masters students were the pioneers of the scheme, so the need to be committed to the assignment was paramount. According to Prof. Igbabul, the activity will allow the interns to meet and collaborate with key stakeholders from other organisations. The SIWES Director also urged the interns to be devoted to their assignments by following the norms and regulations of host organisations, as this would ensure a seamless transition for future interns.

Speaking on the topic "Expectations and Obligations for Successful Internship," CIPESS Industrial Liaison Officer (ILO) Dr Macsamuel Ugbaa, represented by the Research team Lead, Dr Simon Tyoakosu, charged the interns with being good ambassadors of the Centre by paying attention, respecting organisational rules and ethics, and responding timely and adequately to any request for information from the Monitoring and Evaluation team or any CIPESS officer. He also exhorted them to be prompt and avoid any actions that might impede them from realizing their full potential.



RTL-PS, Dr Simon Tyoakosu Delivering a Presentation During CIPESS PG Students Internship Orientation Event

Professor S.A. Shomkegh, represented by Mr. Igbadoo Collins, stated that adequate supervision will be provided to ensure that the internship programme meets target goals, and he urged students to remain



JOSTUM SIWES Coordinator, CIPESS Staff and Interns During CIPESS PG Students Internship Orientation Event

committed to adhering to requirements and obligations for the internship programme's success.

Over the last two months, the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS) has been a hive of activity, marking numerous milestones and achievements that have cemented its reputation as a training hub in the fields of procurement, environmental, and social standards. With a dedicated team of academics and staff, CIPESS FUAM has successfully navigated different initiatives and events that have had a long-term influence on its stakeholders.

CIPESS FUAM proudly trained at least 245 Advanced Certificate Course (Track B) participants in Jos, Plateau State; the rigorous programme aimed to improve skills and knowledge in the three thematic areas of procurement, environmental, and social standards. The graduation ceremony was a delightful occasion, filled with happiness and fulfillment as the graduates marched across the stage to receive their well-deserved certificates. The atmosphere was infused with excitement and expectation as the graduands prepared to embark on the next chapter of their professional careers, armed with the tools and knowledge they gained at CIPESS FUAM.

CIPESS FUAM progressively organized an Executive Education Workshop for Vice Chancellors and Heads of Procurement from several universities in Nigeria. The session provided an opportunity for the executives to engage in meaningful discussions, share best practices, and explore innovative ideas to improve the quality of education and procurement practices at their respective institutions. The session was a huge success, encouraging collaboration and networking opportunities between Vice Chancellors and Procurement Officers, setting the path for future partnerships and initiatives to achieve good change in the procurement landscape.

In the midst of these activities, CIPESS FUAM organized a human resource training for staff at Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM), as well as an information disclosure retreat for the University's Deans and Directors, providing them with a much-needed information and the opportunity to recharge, reflect, and strategize for the future. The retreat was a transformative event, providing participants with full insight into the operations and developmental strides at the Center. Through insightful discussions, the Deans and Directors returned from the retreat with renewed energy and clarity about the Center's operations, ready to face and contribute meaningfully to the Center's success.

As a prerequisite for academic programmes, CIPESS

FUAM underwent an accreditation exercise, which involved evaluating its programmes, facilities, and overall educational quality. The accreditation process was an important event for CIPESS FUAM, showcasing its dedication to excellence and continual improvement. With meticulous preparation and unwavering dedication, CIPESS FUAM successfully navigated the accreditation process, earning high praise from the accrediting body for its academic standards, student support services, and commitment to student success.

In addition to these accomplishments, CIPESS FUAM commissioned its Master's degree students for an internship programme, which provided them with vital hands-on experience in real-world settings. The pioneering internship programme was a win-win situation, allowing students to use their knowledge and skills in real-world settings while simultaneously providing firms with new perspectives and unique ideas. The students excelled at their internships, earning accolades for their expertise, devotion, and adaptability, cementing CIPESS FUAM's position as a hub for human capacity building and professional growth.

Ultimately, with a solid foundation built on collaboration, empowerment, and continuous development, CIPESS FUAM looks towards the future with optimism and commitment, ready to make an even greater impact in the fields of procurement, environmental, and social standards.



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

09073888770 info@cipessfuam.edu.ng

www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

