



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

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BULLETIN

Welcome to this special bulletin edition where every page is a journey into our extraordinary world of human capacity development which is anchored by the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project. This edition is a package of stories, images, and experiences carefully written to update, inspire, and spark your curiosity to keeping abreast with programmes and progress of the project. In this vibrant issue, we invite you to explore captivating stories that will enlighten and delight your senses.

Human capacity building which forms the bedrock for the establishment of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) at the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) – formerly Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi (FUAM) is critical for the development of any country. Consequently, CIPESS is consistently tripling her number of trainees in accordance with its 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 for sustainable development. The successful training and awarding of short course (Track A) certificates to 140 participants both in Lafia and Keffi are cases in point highlighted in this document.

CIPESS was established to champion the cause of building human capacity for Nigeria's North Central geopolitical zone and of course, the rest of the world. Interestingly, another captivating event as chronicled by our October edition was the rounding up of the Training of Trainers' exercise in the remaining two North Central States, Kogi and Kwara. This has set the stage for the commencement of short courses in the Center's three thematic areas of procurement, environmental and social standards.

According to Margaret Thatcher “I do not know anyone who has got to the top without hard work. That is the recipe. It will not always get you to the top but should get you pretty near”. The Center's hard work and resilience has been rewarding as CIPESS was pronounced the best performing SPESSE Center of Excellence for the second time in a row. You are just a few flips to the detail of this.

A picture, they say, speaks a thousand words. Therefore, I invite you to “Our Story in Pictures” section where we pictorially navigate and transport you to enchanting and thrilling destinations of our escapades across North Central Nigeria.

As you read, the matriculation of CIPESS postgraduate students, training of staff preparatory to the commencement of online training and industrial visits to private and public sectors by CIPESS Advanced Certificate Course participants are the other major articles explicitly captured for your informative and reading pleasure.

As you turn the pages of this edition, we hope you'll be captivated by the stories, inspired by the visuals, and engaged in the conversations that await you.

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I.N. Itodo, kindly accept the assurances of my best regards,



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, FICCON, FCSN
Center Leader & Director, Center for
Innovation in Procurement Environmental
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The Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), on Monday 16th October, 2023 commenced training of a fresh set of participants for the Advanced Certificate Courses (Track B) in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards at Staff Development Center Makurdi.



Speaking on the theme “This is CIPESS” during an orientation event which preceded the training, the Deputy Center Leader, Environmental standards, Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato who reminisced the journey of the Center from inception to date explained that Nigeria is currently faced with negative social challenges such as extreme poverty, high child/maternal mortality, high and rising unemployment crises (tribal, political, religious etc), Internally displaced persons, increased crime

rate, gender based violence, marginalization hence the need to train individuals in the field of Social Standards who will hone the right skills to help curb the aforementioned social challenges. He further stated that the recent global emphasis on rational use of natural resources has raised the need for increased environmental education and capacity building. Also speaking on the topic “Advanced Certificates Courses: Requirements and Trainee Obligations” the Monitoring and evaluation officer, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh, represented by Mr. Daniel Laka emphasized that all trainees must strive to achieve 100% attendance, complete student evaluation forms and other necessary requirements to be eligible for the award of certificates.



He further enjoined participants to uphold inclusion, equality, diversity, and mutual respect in order to gain maximally.



CIPESS TRACK B PARTICIPANTS TOUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS.

As a prerequisite for awarding Advanced Certificates to trainees of the Advanced Certificate Courses (Track B) in the areas of procurement, Environmental and Social Standards, trainees of Track B, Cohort 2 in Makurdi began industrial visits to selected public and private establishments on Monday 30th October, 2023 to gain practical knowledge of the lessons learned during their training.

The management of the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) led participants of the various standards to selected establishments such as Dangote Cement, Gboko, Benue State Water Board, Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), and Acqua Trust Limited in accordance with their areas of expertise.



CIPESS Track B Participants taking a Tour at Dangote Cement Plc. During Industrial Visit to the Plant

Speaking in separate statements during the tour to Dangote Cement, Gboko, Environmental Standards Class representatives Mr Edmond Kanshio and his assistant, Mrs Ogwu Ijeoma Elizabeth, said the experience was interesting and rewarding since they had a realistic view of what they learned during the course. The Environmental Standards members, who vowed to use the knowledge gathered wisely, praised the World Bank for the initiative and CIPESS for smoothly carrying out the project. Mr Kanshio also urged the World Bank to continue funding the scheme for the benefit of future generations.

Akaangee Terfa, a Social Standards Class delegate, stated, "The industrial visit was educative and eye opening." It provided me with insight into the activities of the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), as well as the community linkages and human empowerment initiative (CLHEI). These two entities (one government and one non-governmental) are collaborating to alleviate the suffering of the people, particularly Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and vulnerable groups." The Social Standards class representative also praised CIPESS and the World Bank for the life-changing opportunity to educate and prepare people in government and non-governmental organisations to secure the future. He also encouraged the World Bank not to withdraw its assistance for the scheme to prosper.

In addition, Samchoso Ojonugwa Ameh, a Procurement Standards class spokesperson, remarked that the industrial visit was both impactful and educational. "We were able to see in practical the procurement activities & methods adopted by the procuring entity (PE) in comparison with global best practices".



CIPESS Management and Track B Participants During Industrial Visit to Dangote Cement, Gboko

Moreso, the Procurement Standard Rep, expressed gratitude to CIPESS and the World Bank for the opportunity to learn about global procurement best practises. He once again urged CIPESS and the World Bank to extend the project cycle so that more individuals might benefit.

As part of an effort to develop sustainable human capacity in the fields of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards, the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS) of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) began Training of Trainers (TOT) exercises in Minna and Ilorin on October 16, 2023 in preparation for the full launch of short and advanced certificate courses in the states.



DCL SS, Prof. A.A. Naswem(r) and Trainees During Training of Trainers Workshop in Minna

The programme, which was slated to take place on October 16 to 18, 2023, was designed

to provide trainers with the information, abilities, and attitude essential to perform optimally while facilitating courses at the Centre. As a centre of excellence positioned to build sustainable human capacity in the areas of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards in the six North Central states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, the Centre has established and operated study centres in Makurdi, Lafia, plateau, and Abuja, graduating and awarding certificates to a significant number of students in its core areas of focus.

The Center's decision to launch Short Courses Training in Kogi, Kwara, and Niger was made to ensure that the project's impact is seen across all states in the country's North Central region, which is the catchment area for the CIPESS Project.

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



DVC Admin. and APC,PS Prof. C.D. Tuleun ® Presenting Certificate of short Course Completion to a Graduand during the Event



Short Course Graduands Seated at the graduation Ceremony in Keffi, Nasarawa State



DCL SS, Prof. A.A. Naswem ® Presenting Track B. Certificate to a Graduand during CIPESS Valedictory Event in Makurdi



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh Delivering a Lecture During Short Course Graduation Ceremony in Keffi



DCL PS, Prof. S.T. Kpelai ® Presenting Track B. Certificate to a Graduand during CIPESS Valedictory Event in Makurdi



CIPESS Project Management Officer, Prof. E. J. Ekefan (F) Presenting a Signed Copy of MoU to the Vice Chancellor FUTMinna, Prof. Adamu Faruk Kuta



CIPESS Management and Track B Participants During Industrial Visit to Dangote Cement, Gboko

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Center Leader and Director Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (5th left), CIPESS Management & Heads of JOSTUM Project Affected Departments at Information Disclosure Event, 20/09/2023.



Vice Prof. Adamu Faruk Kuta (R) Signing MoU Between FUTMinna and JOSTUM at the Senate Chamber in FUTMinna



A Section of Track B. Participants taking Proficiency test for the Award of Advanced Certificates



CIPESS Management and Graduands During Short Course Graduation Ceremony in Keffi, Nasarawa State



CIPESS Graduand Delivering a Valedictory speech during Track B Graduation Event in Makurdi



Center Leader and Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (3rd left), Academic Liaison Officer, Dr J.I. Ona (4th left) With NESREA Staff in Lokoja, Kogi State



A Cross Section of Participants During Track B Orientation Ceremony in Makurdi



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Deputy State Training Coordinator, Prof. E.S. Salau (L) Presenting Certificate to a Short Course Graduand in Lafia, Nasarawa State



Short Course Participants Receiving Lectures at Lafia Center



CIPESS Management Team & Graduands during Track B Graduation Event in Makurdi



A Section of Participants during Training of Trainers Workshop held at CIPESS, JOSTUM



M&EO, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh making a presentation during Training of Trainers Workshop, in Makurdi



Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo Addressing Matriculants During the 2021/2022 & 2022/2023 Combined Matriculation Ceremony

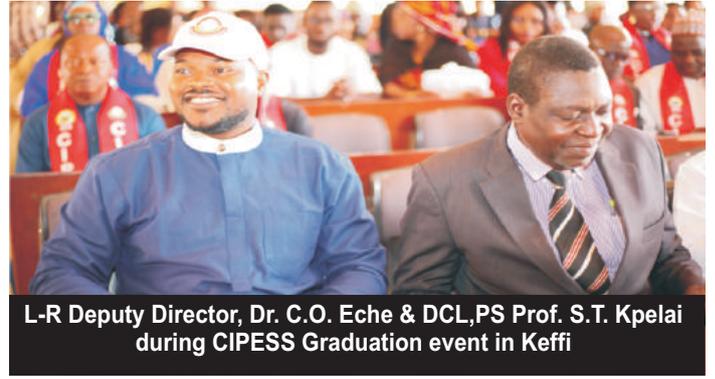


A section of CIPESS Post Graduate Students during 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Combined Matriculation Ceremony

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato, Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards, Delivering a Lecture During Track B Orientation ceremony in Makurdi



L-R Deputy Director, Dr. C.O. Eche & DCL, PS Prof. S.T. Kpelai during CIPESS Graduation event in Keffi



DCL, PS, Prof. S.T. Kpelai (r) Presenting Certificate of Participation to a Graduant at Keffi Graduation Ceremony



Center Leader & Director, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu delivering a Lecture during Training of Trainers Workshop at CIPESS, JOSTUM



L-R; Dr. C.O. Eche, Prof. Christine Ofulue, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu, and Prof. E.J. Ekefan



DCL SS, Prof. A.A. Naswem(r) and Trainees During Training of Trainers Workshop in Minna



A Participant making a remark during Training of Trainers Workshop held at CIPESS, JOSTUM

BE GOOD AMBASSADORS OF CIPESS: CENTER LEADER URGES LAFIA GRADUANDS

Center Leader and Director, Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM), Professor L. A. Nnamonu, has charged short course graduands to be good advocates of the Centre through the knowledge they have received.



Deputy State Training Coordinator, Prof. E.S. Salau (L) Presenting Certificate to a Short Course Graduand in Lafia, Nasarawa State

The Centre Leader, who was represented by the Project Management Officer, CIPESS, Professor E.J. Ekefan made this call on Friday, August 4, 2023, in Lafia, Nasarawa State, while delivering the good will message at the Valedictory Ceremony of Cohorts 2&3 Procurement Standards and Cohorts 2 Environmental and Social Standards respectively.

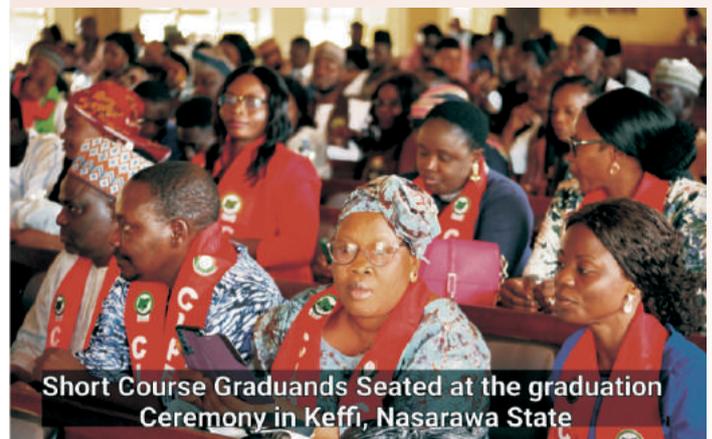
Prof. E.J. Ekefan who rated the graduands for being special enjoined them to endeavour to apply the knowledge gained where necessary in an attempt to correct ill practices that have been inimical to the growth and development of the society.

On his part, the Deputy State Coordinator CIPESS, Nasarawa State, Prof. Emmanuel S. Salau applauded the Management of CIPESS for their determination and commitment towards the programme and for also making

NSUK the first institution to be granted "semi-autonomy" to run the project in the country.

Dr. Macsamuel Ugbaa, Assistant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, urged attendees during a presentation on the theme "Drivers of Change" to remember to put the values that they learned throughout the training into practice. He asserted that a positive change is possible through men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and posterity.

In separate speeches, the Class Governors, Umbugadu G. Blessing Usiagwu E. Okechukwu, and Ibrahim A. Osweiyo of Procurement Standards 2, Environmental Standards and Social Standards 2 respectively praised CIPESS for a near-perfect execution of the project, as well as the Federal Government for initiating the project for the benefit of the masses.



Short Course Graduands Seated at the graduation Ceremony in Keffi, Nasarawa State

They showed confidence in their ability to have a beneficial impact on society as agents of change.

The event culminated in the awarding of certificates to a total of 140 short course graduands.



The Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS) of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) on Friday, August 4, 2023, graduated and awarded certificates to a total of 140 short course participants at its Keffi study centre, Nasarawa State.

perseverance, tenacity, and sacrifices for the programme's success. The Centre Leader, who also praised the facilitators for their arduous efforts, urged the graduands to be proud and to use what they have learned to help make society a better place.

In separate remarks, Class Governors of cohorts 2 (Keffi) Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards, Ekom Lydia, Muhammed Ibrahim, and Isaac Anjo respectively expressed profound gratitude to the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank for initiating the project, and also praised CIPESS management for packaging and delivering the courses excellently. Muhammed Ibrahim, for one, acknowledged that taking part in the short course programme was an enriching and transformational experience. He also advised his fellow participants to carry forward the knowledge and memories obtained from the training, stating that by working together, they can make a great effect in their different fields and contribute to the building of a better Nigeria.

Earlier in a goodwill address, the Deputy Center

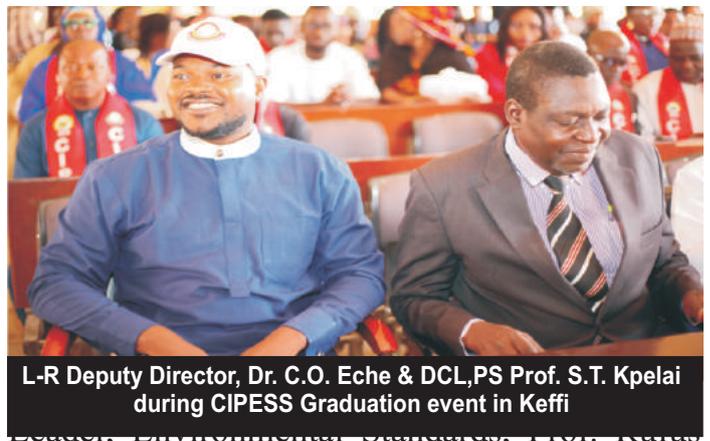


The graduation event held at the Institute of Strategic and Development Communication Nasarawa State University, Keffi, during which participants of Cohorts 2, Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards, and Procurement Standards Cohort 3 got certificates of participation.

Speaking on the theme "Drivers of Change," the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. S. A. Shomkegh, expressed gratitude for the participants' commitment, which contributed to the training's success. According to Professor Shomkegh, as change agents, trainees were expected to set a good example by advocating best practices that will help reduce instances of corruption and mismanagement in both the private and public sectors. According to him, the nation's growth would be achievable only when individuals commit themselves to the proper cause, stating that positive change is attainable via courageous men and women who believe in human dignity and posterity.

Prof. Shomkegh also urged attendees not to underestimate the significance of their certificates, which have the power to change their lives.

In his remarks, Dr. C.O. Eche, Acting Centre and Director of CIPESS, praised participants for their



Leader, Environmental Standards, Prof. Kpelai Sha'Ato who was represented by the Deputy Center Leader in charge of Procurement Standards, Prof. S.T. Kpelai called on graduands to sustain the spirit of the change mantra by believing and practicing what they have learned for nation building. Prof. Kpelai commended the facilitators for their untiring effort and Nasarawa State University Keffi for providing an enabling environment which enabled the success of the programme. He prayed God to guide and sustain the spirit of commitment in all to enable the project succeed.



CIPESS POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS TAKE MATRICULATION OATH

The atmosphere was electrifying at the James Ayatse Hall, South Core of the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) as 193



repositioning the university for national and global competitiveness, the VC declared "the pursuit of academic excellence focusing on quality teaching, research, extension services, infrastructure, Staff and Student welfare were prioritised with the aim of maximising the use of ultra-modern techniques in teaching and research, agricultural production, and approaches to solving the problems of farmers in the society."

On ways to make this quest achievable, the VC revealed that the blueprint also seeks to establish linkages and partnerships with relevant communities to enhance capacity in all spheres of human endeavour for improved service delivery, accelerated and industrial production, and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

Prof. Itodo emphasised his commitment to students' welfare by stating that the



hostel accommodations until all students are housed on campus. He noted that this was possible with private sector participation under the Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) system.

The 193 CIPESS Postgraduate students included 167 Master's degree students and 67 Postgraduate Diploma students enrolled for the Center's 2022/2023 academic session.

postgraduate students of the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) on August 2, 2023, took their matriculation oath.

CIPESS Postgraduate students were among the 5,357 students enrolled in various programmes at Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Academic Sessions.

In his keynote presentation at the combined matriculation ceremony, the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I. N. Itodo urged students to establish their priorities correctly as they launched on their academic path.

The Vice Chancellor stated that the students were expected to be dedicated, determined, and disciplined while also making their parents, guardians, and the institution proud. Prof. Itodo guaranteed that the University will provide an enabling environment for students to demonstrate their skills while also instilling intellectual, moral, and spiritual qualities in them.

Reiterating his vision and mission of



CIPESS JOSTUM EMERGES THE BEST PERFORMING CENTER FOR A SECOND TIME

Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) has emerged the best performing Center of the World Bank Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project for a second time in a row.



NUC Team, JOSTUM VC & CIPESS Management Team in Vc's Office During a Courtesy Visit

The National Universities Commission (NUC) shared the news with the Center on the 8th October, 2023 having assessed the result of the second phase of the 3rd Party Independent Verification

CIPESS TRAINS FACILITATORS ON ONLINE COURSE DELIVERY

As part of its efforts to begin online training for interested participants in the fields of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards, the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS) organised a three-day hands-on workshop on the theme "Implementing Blended and Online



Center Leader & Director, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu delivering a Lecture during Workshop on Online Course Delivery held at CIPESS, JOSTUM

guide facilitators through the deployment of Learning Management System (LMS) for online course delivery.

The three-day hands-on workshop, conducted by the Regional Training in Distance and Open Learning (RETRIDOL) of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), proceeded the courtesy visit to RETRIDOL Director, Prof. Christine Ofulue, on August 30, 2023.



A Section of Facilitators during Workshop on Online Course Delivery held at CIPESS, JOSTUM

Director by Centre Management, led by the Centre Leader and Director CIPESS, Professor L. A. Nnamonu, aimed to advance ways towards technical support for capacity building on the operationalization of the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) Learning Management System (LMS).



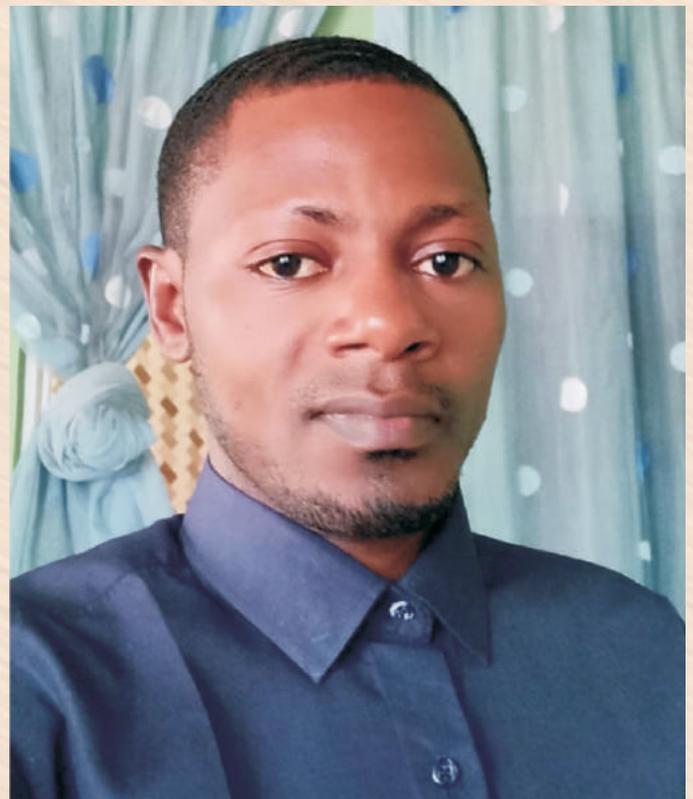
According to Barrack Obama, a former President of the United State of America, “If you are walking down the right path and you are willing to keep walking, eventually you will make progress.” The exciting journey of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) in the past three months could be likened to the above assertion as the Center has not relinquished its quest to break new grounds and surpass set targets.

In accordance with the Center's 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 for sustainable development, CIPESS as a training and research Center has within the period under review trained and issued certificates to over 280 short course participants in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards at its Lafia and Keffi Study Centers between September to October. Also worthy of note was the launching of yet another face-to-face Advanced Certificate Course (Track B) training in Makurdi where the project is domiciled. Participants of this batch will, at any moment receive certificates of completion as they have made appreciable progress towards completing the course. Progressively, the center also conducted Training of trainers' exercises and carried out facility assessment in Niger and Kwara State and has signed a memorandum of understanding with Salem University in Kogi State as preliminary activities for the commencement of training in the affected states.

To ensure flexibility and reduce logistics cost of the programme, CIPESS has facilitated the training of facilitators on online course delivery to guide them through the deployment of Learning Management System (LMS) for effective online teaching and learning. This is with the view to commence online classes for interested participants. Adequate arrangements for commencement of online teaching and learning have been made as applicants have received invitations to participate. Currently, CIPESS is receiving and processing admissions for candidates into Bachelor of Science degrees (Track E) programme in its core areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

From the foregoing, the center has been moving from strength to strength and the results achieved so far are testaments to the Center's unquenching taste to surpass its benchmark.

Work is still in progress.



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.

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