



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

SEPTEMBER, 2024

BULLETIN
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Dear Reader,

With gratitude, I welcome and present to you the September 2024 edition of our bulletin chronicling the appreciable progress made by the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) in the months of August and September 2024.

In the words of Myles Munroe, "the greatest enemy of progress is your last success; you could become so proud of or happy with what you've accomplished that you stop moving ahead to what you can still achieve." Accordingly, by maintaining a relentless drive and unwavering commitment to excellence, CIPESS JOSTUM through her human capacity building strides is continuously unlocking the potentials of individuals and organizations to enable them to navigate the complexities of today's fast-paced world.

Despite the commendable milestones attained by CIPESS JOSTUM, the Center is still adhesively glued to the forefront of driving positive change through its commitment to enhancing human capacity, professionalization and research in the crucial areas of procurement, environmental and social standards (PES).

Currently, CIPESS JOSTUM has made it possible for a wide spectrum of people to advance their knowledge and abilities by offering short courses online. This has led to the graduation of over 3000 online short course participants in the areas of PES. within this period. This, no doubt has advanced participants' professional growth and as well opened doors to new career opportunities. This is in addition to advancing moral principles and industry best practices in trainees' local communities and workplaces.

It is worthy to note that, routine checks by sponsors of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project are pivotal to making sure that criteria are satisfied to the highest standards. CIPESS JOSTUM within this period underwent a 4th round verification exercise which was conducted by an Independent Third-Party Verification Agency of the World Bank. This high-level inspection is crucial to gauging compliance and advancing new strategies that will be inimical to derailment.

The 4th cycle engagement meeting of stakeholders of the project which was powered by CIPESS

JOSTUM within the period under review was yet another significant move towards strengthening and sustaining the Center's partnership with her stakeholders. The engagement provided an opportunity to communicate, share viewpoints, and cooperate towards the accomplishment of common goals in a bid to reposition the Center on the part of glory.

Hard work, they say is its own reward and does not go unnoticed. It is well known that the remarkable achievements recorded at CIPESS JOSTUM from inception to date were a corollary of the painstaking effort of a dedicated and committed team. The recognition bestowed upon the CIPESS JOSTUM management team by the 9th Governing Council of JOSTUM was a reward for their exemplary commitment and leadership. Special thanks to the team's creative leadership, which has been crucial in the process; making CIPESS JOSTUM a respectable Center of Excellence that is genuinely changing the lives of many people.

Let me state in confidence that, CIPESS JOSTUM'S all-encompassing strategy for building human potential in the fields of Procurement, environmental and social standards is indeed sculpting a future where people are empowered, institutions are held responsible, and communities thrive. As we celebrate CIPESS JOSTUM's moments of progress, let us always recognise the positive knock-on effect of its footprints which continues to inspire and enhance the lives of countless individuals worldwide.



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





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Dr. C.O. ECHE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIPESS

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4TH ROUND VERIFICATION EXERCISE: JOSTUM VICE CHANCELLOR LAUDS CIPESS IMPACT

The Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo has expressed satisfaction on the positive impact exerted on the University community by the Center for Innovation in procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) through its customized training programmes.



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo, World Bank Independent Verification Team and CIPESS JOSTUM Management Team During a Courtesy Visit on the Vice Chancellor in his Office

Engr Professor Isaac Itodo made the commendation on 7th August, 2024 when the 3rd Party Independent Verification team sent by the World Bank for the 4th round verification exercise at CIPESS paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

Professor Itodo reiterated his rating of the project as the flagship programme of the university and acknowledged the hard work and resilience of the CIPESS team under the leadership of the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu. The Vice stated that CIPESS was not the first World Bank project to be instituted in university but would be remembered for its overwhelming impact in reaching out and shaping people's lives within its host community and beyond. The University boss disclosed that as part of a plan to sustain the project, CIPESS has mutated to an Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS) following University Council's approval to that effect.

The don thanked the Independent

Verification Agents from the Binomial Optimus Limited for the great work and expressed confidence that, the CIPESS team was fully prepared to retain their position atop when the results of the verification exercise will be out.

Reacting, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu attributed the Center's successes to the great measure of freedom the Vice Chancellor of the University accorded to the Center in its operations. The Center Leader disclosed that, CIPESS was ranked top in the last verification exercise making it the third consecutive the Center would top the chart. She expressed optimism that, the team had prepared adequately for the 4th round exercise having learnt salient lessons from the previous outings.



Center Leader and Director, World Bank Independent Verification Team and CIPESS JOSTUM Data Officer During 4th Round Verification Exercise in CIPESS

Earlier, the leader of the World Bank Independent Verification Agency (IVA), Chinatu Onwuegbuchi stated that the team from the Binomial Optimus Limited was at the Center to simply verify claims made by CIPESS in line with the project's objective. The team leader while commending the Vice Chancellor and the Center Management team for their warm hospitality also acknowledged the infrastructural transformation both at the Center and around the Vice Chancellor's office stating that, the CIPESS team glaringly exhibited prospects of surpassing their previous record.



JOSTUM GOVERNING COUNCIL HONOURS CIPESS MANAGEMENT

The recently inaugurated Governing Council of the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) has awarded merit certificates to the management team of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) in recognition of their successful implementation of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standard Enhancement (SPESSE) project as well as their meritorious services to the University.



Chairman JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (left) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award to the Deputy Director CIPESS, Dr Christopher Eche

CIPESS JOSTUM management team received the award on 16th September 2024 during a special reception organized by the JOSTUM Administration, led by Vice Chancellor, Engr Professor I.N. Itodo, in honour of the 9th Governing Council of the University. The event held at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the 9th Governing Council of JOSTUM, Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso, in his address, overwhelmingly extended profound gratitude to the management team of the Center for their immense contributions to the development of the University, and the Entrepreneurial Action for University Students (ENACTUS) team for making the University proud by winning the national award to represent Nigeria at the Global

ENACTUS World Cup, scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan from 1st to 4th, October 2024. He also commended the faculty advisors of ENACTUS, JOSTUM including Professors, L.A. Nnamonu, S.I. Irtwange and G.A. Abu for the great job of coordinating the University ENACTUS team to win laurels for the University.

The Centre Leader and Director of CIPESS, JOSTUM Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, on behalf of the Center Management expressed gratitude to the Governing Council and University Management for the award which according to her would spur the team to achieve even greater results. Prof. Nnamonu further acknowledged the efforts of the immediate past Vice Chancellor, Prof. Anande Richard Kimbir, for his assistance during the proposal phase of the project, and the current Vice Chancellor, Prof. N. I. Itodo, for his continued support which has facilitated the attainment of greater milestones at the Center.



JOSTUM 9th Governing Council, University Management Team and CIPESS Team During the Award Ceremony

Earlier, the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo, while presenting the Management team of CIPESS JOSTUM to the 9th Governing Council praised the efforts of the Center at keying into the innovative thrust of his administration by implementing first and second-degree programmes in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.



YOU ARE THE BRIDGE ON THE SPESSE PROJECT: CENTER TELLS STAKEHOLDERS

The Center Leader and Director of the world Bank supported Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) Professor Lami A. Nnamonu has reiterated the critical role of stakeholders in the sustainability of the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social



Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu Addressing Participants During CIPESS JOSTUM Stakeholders Engagement Meeting in Makurdi

Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

Speaking during the 4th Cycle of Stakeholders Engagement Meeting held on 13th August, 2024 at Precious Event Center, Makurdi, the Center Director stated that the stakeholders were the bridge between the project and industries, hence, the need to regularly

update them on the progress and successes recorded at the Center was paramount. Professor Nnamonu who scored the Center high in the area of stakeholders' engagement activities asserted that the 4th cycle of the stakeholders engagement meeting was aimed at providing a clear insight to the core objective of the SPESSE project. She encouraged participants to be open minded in discussions that will mutually benefit both the Center and its stakeholders.

Monitoring and evaluation Officer, Professor Shomkegh while delivering a lecture on the capacity building strides of the Center in North Central Nigeria asserted that, the Center through its human capacity building agenda has immensely impacted and transformed lives with the North Central region. The Monitoring and evaluation Officer noted the incessant calls by constituted bodies to train their staff, secondment and appointment of CIPESS trainees into key offices in government and sister agencies to be some of the positive impacts made by the Center in the region. Professor Shomkegh stated that stakeholders had the responsibilities of supporting CIPESS JOSTUM Curriculum Review and delivery, visibility of SPESSE programmes delivered, and sponsoring of students' research targeted at solving industry problems. Others included hosting of SPESSE students on internship as well as supporting sustainability of the SPESSE programmes.

According to him, the Center in its quest to surpass set targets will continue to aggressively deliver the SPESSE Tracks to public and private sector practitioners, train staff of partner organizations and stakeholders, strengthen partnership with relevant

organizations, and increase visibility of SPESSE project results and outcomes.

Professor S.T. Kpelai, Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards in his presentation on the Sustainability Plan of the center explained that the objective of the project was to promote adequate theoretical and practical skills and close the knowledge gaps in procurement, environmental and social standards as well as equip academics and practitioners for effective teaching, managerial and operational responsibilities. Professor Kpelai said to effectively sustain the project, community, financial, and organizational sustainability strategies were to be implored. He charged the stakeholders to remain committed in contributing their bits to the survival of the project.

Presentations from Dr Simon Tyoakosu, Dr Sylvester Tongu, and Dr Victor Otene on the "Research Thrust" of procurement, environmental and social standards respectively provided clear insights in viable areas of research in the respective fields. The presenters collectively encouraged the stakeholders to objectively identify other human interest areas worthy of research in a bid to proffer solutions to some of the challenges bedeviling the society.



A Section of Participants During CIPESS JOSTUM Stakeholders Engagement Meeting in Makurdi

Earlier, the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo commended the Center Management team led by Professor L.A. Nnamonu for making the University proud through their coordinated efforts in executing the project. The Vice Chancellor was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Professor F.A. Ayatse announced that, as part of the sustainability plans, the Governing Council of the University has approved the conversion of CIPESS to and Institute of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (IPESS). He strongly reaffirmed the University management's commitment of not relinquishing its support to enable the Center to succeed.



JOSTUM DVC Acad. Prof. F.A. Ayatse Delivering a Goodwill Message During CIPESS JOSTUM Stake Holders Engagement Meeting in Makurdi



Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards, Prof. S.T. Kpelai Delivering a Presentation During CIPESS JOSTUM Stake Holders Engagement Meeting in Makurdi



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh Delivering a Presentation During CIPESS JOSTUM Stake Holders Engagement Meeting in Makurdi



CIPESS Legal Officer Barr. Mary Agogo Amara (left) and Project Management Officer Dr J.I. Ona (right) During CIPESS JOSTUM Stake Holders Engagement Meeting in Makurdi



Participants Seated During CIPESS JOSTUM Stake Holders Engagement Meeting in Makurdi



Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (left) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award to the Centre Leader & Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu



JOSTUM VC, Engr Prof. I.N. Itodo (left) Delivering an Address During the Special Reception Organized in Honour of the 9th Governing Council



Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (left) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award the Academic Programme Coordinator, Environmental Standards, Prof. E.J. Ekefan



Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (left) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award the Deputy Center Leader, Social Standards, Prof. A. A. Naswem



JOSTUM 9th Governing Council, University Management Team and CIPESS Team Holding Merit Award Certificates



Project Accountant Mrs Margret Gwebe Holding Certificate of Merit Award



Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (left) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award to the HOD, Sustainable Social Development, Dr Peter Tsue



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Prof S. A. Shomkegh Holding Certificate of Merit Award



Deputy Director CIPESS, Dr Christopher Eche with Certificate of Merit Award



Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (left) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award to the DVC Admin. and Academic Programme Coordinator, Procurement Standards, Prof. C.D. Tuleun



JOSTUM Vice Chancellor and CIPESS Management Team



Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (left) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award to Admin. Team Leader, Dr Felix Igbahehah



Chairman, JOSTUM Governing Council Sen. Dr Lanre Tejuoso (middle) Presenting Certificate of Merit Award to the Deputy Centre Leader, Environmental Standards, Prof Rufus Sha-Ato





Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (middle) Interfacing with 3rd Party Independent verification Team Prior to the 4th Round Verification Exercise in Her Office.



Independent 3rd Party Verification Agents and Data Officers during the 4th Round Verification Exercise in CIPESS Boardroom.



Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, Heads of Monitoring and evaluation Unit (far left) and the 3rd Party Independent Verification Agents Prior to the 4th Round Verification Exercise in Her Office.



Center Leader and Director Professor Lami A. Nnamonu (left) welcoming the Team Leader Independent 3rd Party Verification Agency, Chinatu Onwuuegbuchi to her Office.



Aug 7, 2024, 09:28

Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu (4th left) Independent 3rd Party Verification Agents and Members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit during the 4th Round Verification Exercise in CIPESS Boardroom.



In its quest to ensure progressive delivery of short courses, the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) recently graduated and issued certificates to over 1800 online short course participants at two separate cohorts in the areas of Procurement Management, Environmental Sustainability, and Sustainable Social Development.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer during a presentation on the theme “Drivers of Change” asserted that, the graduands must be committed to providing mentorship to young professionals, believe in equality, diversity and inclusion of human beings, and most importantly contribute to reducing incidences of corruption and mismanagement of public resources. Professor Shomkegh further charged the participants to committed to promoting best practices in solving problems in their chosen fields, improving the quality of life of citizens as well as promote integrity, patriotism and professionalism. He urged the participants to Keep the Center informed of their career progression as a result of the application of the skills acquired at the Center

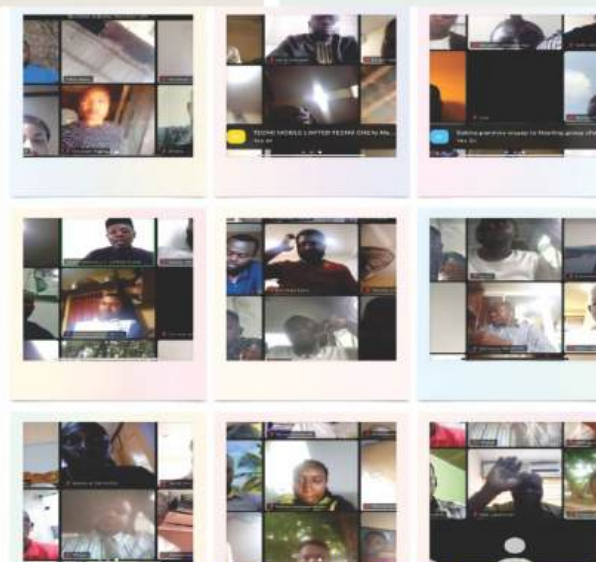
Contributing, the Deputy Center Leader

of Social Standards, Professor Angol A. Naswem stated that, the courses were designed to equip participants with the insights and skills that were necessary to enable them to contribute to making the society prosperous and inclusive thereby paving a way for the principles of social justice and fairness to thrive.

Earlier in a goodwill message, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu congratulated the participants for scaling through the training and expressed believe that the course will

provide them with the necessary skills and courage to contribute meaningfully at their places of work and the society in general. The Center Leader who was represented by the Deputy Director of the Center, Dr

Christopher Eche commended the CIPESS JOSTUM team for successfully executing the online short course programmes as well as the participants for their commitment, stating that, the programme had attracted people not just within Nigeria but across the world. He called on participants to team up together and build a community that will uphold the best practices the society is yearning for so that humanity will benefit from it.



A Snapshot of Online Short Course Participants During Short Course Valedictory Event Via Zoom.

In an increasingly digital world, cybersecurity has become more than a technical issue. It is a vital component of safeguarding personal and professional identities, intellectual property, and national security.

The importance of cybersecurity in the digital age

Cybersecurity refers to the practice of protecting systems, networks, and programs from digital attacks. Cyberattacks often aim to access, change, or destroy sensitive information, extort money from users, or disrupt normal business processes. Ensuring data security is crucial in a world where people conspicuously store personal data, from financial records to security numbers, online. As our reliance on technology grows, so does the need to protect sensitive information we generate. Cybersecurity is no longer solely the responsibility of information technology (IT) professionals; it is a shared concern that impacts individuals, corporations, and governments. Importantly, social standards, expectations, and ethical considerations shape the conversation around

2. **Economic Implications:** Businesses are at constant risk of cyberattacks that can lead to financial losses. A report in 2021 by Accenture estimates that the average cost of a cyberattack is around \$13 million. By prioritizing cybersecurity, organizations can safeguard their operations and finances.
3. **Trust in Technology:** For individuals to embrace digital technologies, they must trust that their data will be secure. Effective cybersecurity measures help build this trust, encouraging innovation and digital transformation across sectors. Users are more likely to engage with digital platforms and services when they perceive their privacy and data protection as respected.

The threat landscape: current cybersecurity challenges

As technology evolves, so too do the methods used by cybercriminals. Today's cybersecurity threats are more complex and sophisticated than ever. Some of the major challenges include:

1. **Phishing and Social Engineering:** Phishing attacks use deceptive tactics to trick individuals into sharing personal information, such as login credentials or financial information. These attacks often come in the form of fraudulent emails or messages that appear to be from legitimate sources. Social engineering, which exploits human psychology, is one of the most dangerous aspects of phishing because it bypasses traditional technical defences.
2. **Ransomware:** Ransomware is a type of malware that encrypts a victim's data, demanding a ransom in exchange for the encryption key. The growing frequency of ransomware attacks has caused significant financial harm to both individuals and organizations. In 2020, a report by Cybersecurity Ventures predicted that ransomware would cost



cybersecurity beyond the technicalities of data safeguarding, ensuring privacy protection and fostering

trust in the digital ecosystem.

Some of the importance of cybersecurity include.

1. **Protection of Personal Data:** In the digital age, personal data is one of the most valuable assets. Social media platforms, e-commerce sites, and even healthcare providers store vast amounts of personal data. Cybersecurity protects this information from unauthorized access, thereby lowering the risk of identity theft, financial fraud, and other malicious activities.

businesses over \$20 billion globally by 2021.

3. **The Internet of Things (IoT) Vulnerabilities:** The risk of cyberattacks increases as more devices connect to the internet. IoT devices, such as smart home systems or connected medical devices, are often vulnerable to attacks due to inadequate security measures. Protecting these devices is a major challenge for cybersecurity experts.

Aligning Cybersecurity with Social Standards

We must balance the technical aspects of cybersecurity with broader social considerations. People in today's world are increasingly aware of the use, sharing, and protection of their data. Social norms around privacy, transparency, and trust are becoming integral to cybersecurity policies and practices. For cybersecurity to be effective, it must align with the social expectations of individuals and communities. Here are some key ways to align cybersecurity with social standards:

1. Many national and international legal frameworks enshrine privacy as a fundamental human right. Organizations expect people to treat privacy as a non-negotiable aspect of their operations as they become more aware of their digital rights. This involves implementing security measures that not only protect data but also respect individuals' rights to control their personal information. Companies that align their cybersecurity practices with these privacy expectations gain the trust of their customers and users.
2. **Transparency and ethical data use:** Transparency in cybersecurity practices is essential to fostering trust. People and customers seek information about the collection, storage, and protection of their data. They expect organizations to be upfront about data breaches and the steps they are taking to resolve them.

Transparency and ethical data use are interdependent. Organizations must ensure that they are not using personal data in ways that individuals have not consented to or that could harm them.

3. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Cybersecurity measures must be accessible to all, regardless of an individual's technical proficiency. The digital divide, which affects those without access to the internet or digital literacy, poses a challenge to inclusive cybersecurity. To align with social standards, organizations and governments must ensure that all individuals, including those from marginalized communities, have access to cybersecurity resources and education.

A Balanced Approach to Cybersecurity

As the digital landscape evolves, so too must our approach to cybersecurity. By aligning cybersecurity practices with social standards, respecting privacy, fostering transparency, ensuring inclusivity, and promoting ethical responsibility, society can create a safer, more secure digital environment. The conversation surrounding cybersecurity must continue to evolve as social norms change. Today, people view privacy and data protection not just as technical challenges, but also as ethical and social issues that necessitate a comprehensive approach. Organizations, governments, and individuals must work together to ensure that cybersecurity is both effective and in line with the values of the society it serves. In an era where data is a currency, safeguarding it is crucial for maintaining trust, security, and social cohesion in the digital age.



Tingir Terngu James
(R.Engr. MNIEEE)
ICTO, CIPSS JOSTUM





Alfred Tersoo Buter

"I recently participated in the 2024 Short Course on Procurement Standards at the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Federal University of

Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM), Abuja Track A.

This comprehensive training significantly enhanced my knowledge of internationally accepted best practices in procurement as a contractor. I gained invaluable insights into the imperative need for governments and private organizations to adopt these standards, ensuring sustainability, fairness, and economic growth.

As the Managing Director/CEO of Telland Nigeria Limited, Abuja, I am committed to applying these learnings to drive excellence in our procurement processes and contribute to the nation's economic development. I recommend this training to professionals seeking to elevate their procurement expertise and organizations striving for improved efficiency and transparency."

I participated in the online courses organised by CIPESS. The online courses from CIPESS, particularly on procurement management of works, have been instrumental in shaping my QS career trajectory. I've gained expertise, confidence, and recognition, positioning myself for any future leadership roles. The online format allowed flexibility, thereby accommodating my busy schedule.



QS Hawwa Muhammad Audi,
Fellow, Nigerian Institute
of Quantity Surveyors



Fanyam Barbara Iornem

CIPESS has created a platform where I was opportuned to partake in the online courses (Social Standards and Environmental Sustainability). It was impactful and convenient to learn.

These courses address crucial modern challenges. The Social Standard component develops expertise in supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) by focusing on livelihood restoration and gender-sensitive approaches. This knowledge is valuable for humanitarian workers, policymakers, and development professionals working with displaced communities to ensure equitable and effective assistance programs. This course has particularly changed my perspective on my research thesis.

The Environmental Sustainability segment covers pressing issues like microplastics pollution and e-waste management. Understanding these challenges and their management strategies is essential for environmental professionals, waste management specialists, and policymakers. The knowledge can help organizations and communities develop better waste management systems and pollution control measures.

Combined, these courses provide comprehensive tools for addressing both social and environmental challenges in sustainable development work.



Guti Gwetkop Gutu & Sarah (wife to be)

It all started sometimes last year, May 2023 precisely, when we converged at the University of Jos main Campus, venue of the first Cohort of CIPESS Track A program. I went to the program full of optimism, to build capacity and to obtain a certificate as well, little did I know that God was planning something bigger for me.

While I was a participant in my cohort (Social Standards), Sarah (my soon to be wife) was in another class (Procurement Standard) as a data officer. She often visit our class once in while to see her colleague (data officer for SS), until the day she caught my attention. Her gentility, composure and carriage were my major attractions to her, so I kept wondering in my heart who the lady was.

I then decided to stroll to her class one day to see some of my colleagues from work who were also participating in the cohort, I saw the love they had for her and their kind disposition towards her, which made me fell more in love with her. We exchanged phone numbers and from there communication began and here we are today planning our wedding.

I am glad that I didnot only have the knowledge, Skill and certification. I also got a wife from the World Bank and CIPESS FUAM

What began as a mere hello, has ended up with a marriage engagement between myself a participant of the CIPESS SS Cohort 1J and a data officer. Thanks to the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environment and Social Standards, Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi for the platform.

be improved upon such as the availability of laboratories, one can only thank the management team for her tireless efforts as they are doing a wonderful job. By and large, I feel so fulfilled, so distinguished, so happy that I did not allow this wonderful opportunity to pass me by. I can now confidently contribute towards making the environment more sustainable.

Participating in this programme has profoundly influenced my career my career and professional development particularly in the area of sustainable social development. I now have a better grasp of how social norms support community empowerment and long-term sustainability. Thanks to this programme. It has given me practical tools for evaluating social impact, making sure social norms are followed, and promoting laws that put the welfare of the community first. With the help of these abilities, I've been able to approach my work through a social development lens, which has made it more comprehensive and in line with sustainable development objectives. The programme has also opened up new opportunities for collaboration and leadership in projects that prioritize sustainability, significantly advancing my career in this field.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank for this priceless programme

which promotes a deeper application of procurement Practices, Environmental Sustainability and Social Standard. By establishing this programme, you are enabling professionals to be social responsibility advocates in their domains, and your efforts serve as a foundation for constructing more sustainable and equitable communities. I urge you to carry on with this important work because its not only advances individual career but also promotes systemic change in the direction of a more just and socially conscious society.

Thank you for your commitment to making a positive difference in our environment and society. Your efforts are paving the way for a more sustainable and responsible future.



Jannah Christopher Adams
M.Sc. Sustainable Social Development



Ijir Stephen Tersoo
Class Representative, Environmental Sustainability (Set 2023)

My journey started when my brother and friend, Uche Michael intimated us about CIPESS in our meeting. I seized the opportunity and applied and by the grace of God I am at the

verge of completion as I await my

oral examination. It has been a very interesting experience. Every course has been mind blowing, exposing us to a new and relevant experience necessary to secure our environment for today and tomorrow. The learning environment is exquisite, with State - of - The - Arts facilities. The lecturers are also well vexed in their areas. The master stroke is the duration of the program. Although there are areas that need to

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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