



COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS
(REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA)

...SETTING COMPUTING STANDARDS

**REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR/SECRETARY TO
COUNCIL AT THE 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING OF COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS
(REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA)
HELD ON FRIDAY 8TH OF JUNE, 2012 AT
NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA**

OUTLINE

- Registration, Regulation & Control
- Education & Manpower Development
- Finance & Administration
- Public Relations & Corporate Affairs
- Research & Development
- Investigation & Disciplinary issues

Committees of Council:

- Registration, Regulation and Control Committee
- Education and Manpower Development Committee
- Finance and Administration Committee
- Public Relations and Corporate Affairs Committee
- Research, Innovation and Development Committee
- CPN Investigating Panel
- CPN Disciplinary Committee

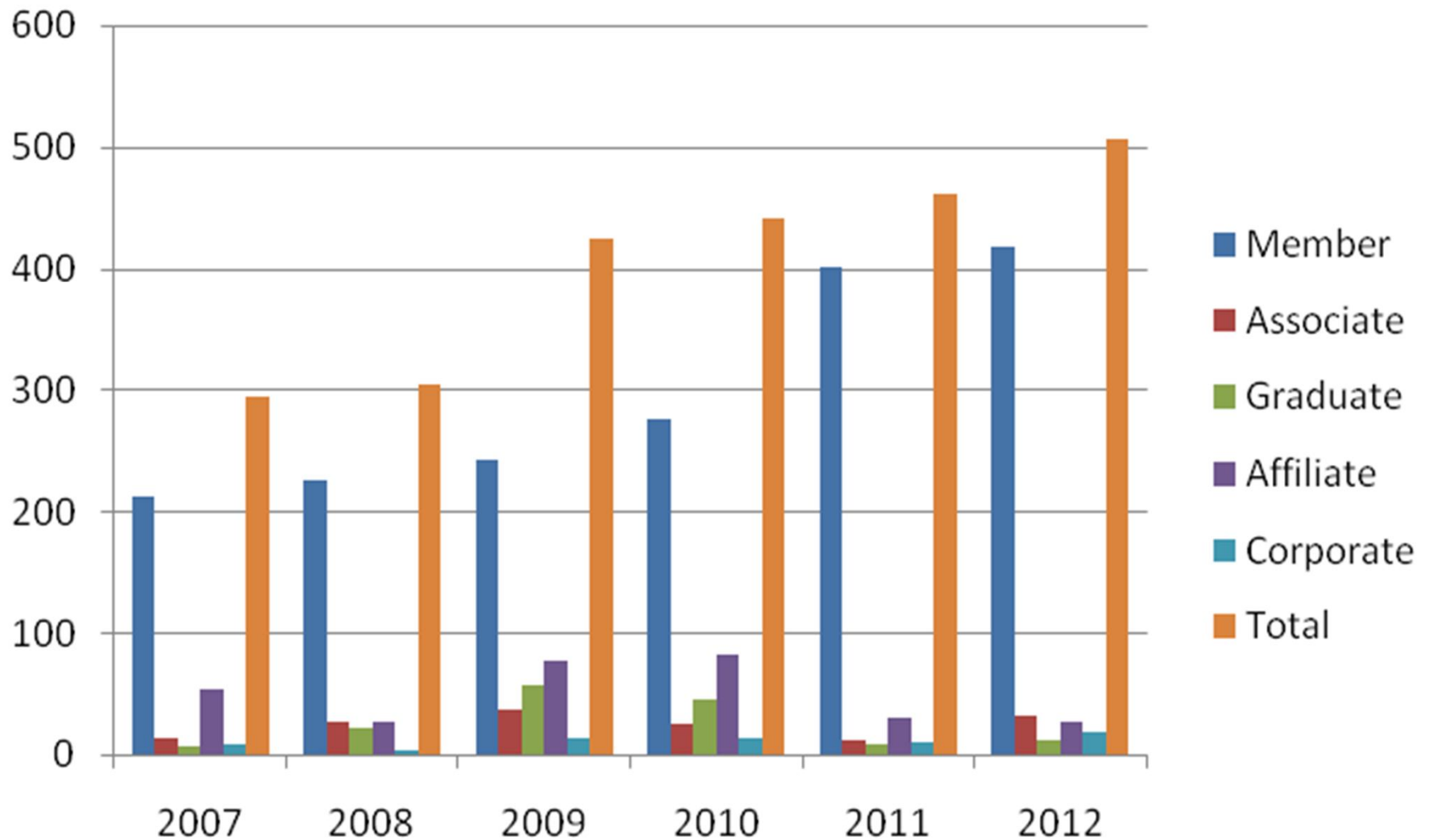
REGISTRATION, REGULATION AND CONTROL

Membership Growth

The membership moved from 3, 759 to 4,265, which is about 13.5% increment.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Member	212	225	243	276	401	418
Associate	13	26	36	25	12	31
Graduate	7	22	56	45	8	12
Affiliate	53	27	77	82	30	26
Corporate	9	4	13	13	10	19
Total	294	304	425	441	461	506

Between 1999-2006, when the figures stood at 1, 834, membership growth has been more than doubled to 4, 265 between 2007 and 2012



The Control and Supervisory Regulation

The Control and Supervisory Regulations which was approved by Council and the General Assembly at the 2011 IT Assembly of the profession has been:

- a. Gazetted in the Federal republic of Nigeria Official Gazette in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 sub-section (1) of the CPN Act.
- b. The gazetted version of the Council's Control and Supervisory Regulations has been placed on Council's website for members of the profession.
- c. It now has the force of law and can be enforced anywhere in the country.

The Investigating Panel

The Investigating Panel was recently constituted by Council had its inaugural meeting on 17th April 2012.

The Panel is empowered by Section 14 sub-section (2) of CPN Act to conduct preliminary investigation into complaints about professional misconduct and unprofessional conducts by IT Professionals.

The Panel's main function is to conduct investigation into complaints to determine whether it should be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary actions or not.

The Panel has started its work and this information has been placed on Council's website to inform members of the profession of the Panel's activities and encourage them to forward their complaints to the Secretariat as this would help Council to sanitize the profession and maintain high professional standard in the IT industry at all times.

The Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee was constituted by Council in accordance with Section 12 Sub-section (1) of the CPN Act to consider and determine complaints or any case referred to it by the Investigating Panel, of members of the profession, involved in unethical and unprofessional practices.

The CPN Act, particularly in Schedule two to the Act, makes it compulsory that a Legal Assessor must sit with the Disciplinary Committee whenever the Committee is considering cases referred to it. By the provisions of this Act, it is the Attorney-General of the Federation that must appoint a Legal Assessor for the Committee. We are presently working with the Council's Legal Adviser, Messrs Layi Babatunde & Co to ensure that the Attorney-General appoints the Legal Assessor on time to enable the Committee sit on matters that the Investigating Panel has already referred to it for deliberation.

Scale of Professional Charges

I am happy to inform you that the Scale of Professional Charges and CPN Control and Supervisory Regulations have been gazetted. Thereafter, copies of the documents have been sent to Ministries, Agencies and Organizations. The e-copies of the documents have also been made available on the CPN website.

Compliance and Enforcement

The Compliance team has been set up by the Secretariat to enforce the provisions of the Regulations on erring IT practitioners.

EDUCATION AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

Review of CPN Syllabus

The review of CPN syllabus is ongoing and appreciable progress has been made in this regard.

Information Technology Education Curricula Review Exercise

The review of Information Technology education curricula for all levels being done in collaboration with the **National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)** and **Federal Ministry of Education** is in progress. Series of meetings and workshops have been held. The draft copy of the reviewed standards will come out anytime from now. In addition, eminent Computer Science scholars and industry practitioners have been drafted to put finishing touches to the remaining aspects of the assignment.

Computer Professional Examination (CPE)

The Secretariat is currently busy preparing for the September 2012 diet of the CPE. The April diet ran through Monday, 30th April to Wednesday, 2nd May, 2012. The examination held in Lagos, Abuja, Joss, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Gombe, Yola and Offa. One hundred and sixty candidates wrote the April 2012 diet.

Ensuring Quality Control & Standards through Accreditation

Since Year 2000, CPN had visited several Universities, Polytechnics and private computer training institutions to accredit their Computer Science and related programmes. Our visits have brought about tremendous improvements in the quality of computer science programmes offered by the institutions visited.

This is in accordance with Schedule 1, section 4(2) sub-section 7 (1) of the Act that established CPN which states that "... in order to carry out its responsibility under the Act, the Council shall accordingly set up standards expected of the Computer Training Institutions in the country and enforce the attainment of those standards, Council will from time to time conduct accreditation visits to these institutions". . . .

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Towards this end, the CPN accreditation teams visited the **University of Lagos, Lagos State University** and **Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife**. The Computer Science programmes of the aforementioned schools were thoroughly examined and the reports of the visits submitted to the Council for deliberations. Also, we are about to start work on the review of the accreditation manuals in order to make them reflect the current reality in the profession. Our collaboration with the **National Board for Technical Education** on accreditation of Polytechnics is still ongoing.

Collation of Data of Students Undergoing Computer Science and related Courses in Tertiary Institutions

Council is presently working on the collation of data of students studying Computer Science and related courses in tertiary education institutions in the country. This is in line with Section 19, sub-section 2 of the CPN Act which makes it mandatory for all institutions training in Computer Science and related courses to furnish the names of students undergoing the training to the Council. . . .

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The aim of this exercise is to create a comprehensive databank for all students of Computer Science in tertiary education institutions, so as to mentor, monitor, nurture and assist them in the realization of their potentials in Information Technology so that they can compete favorably with their counterparts in other parts of the world. Apart from the fact that the exercise will enable us to know the number of students that are going through training in Computer Science in our institutions, the data will assist in planning and research and help to create an interface between our youths in Nigeria and their counterparts from other parts of the world. We are presently receiving co-operation and assistance from tertiary education institutions on the project.

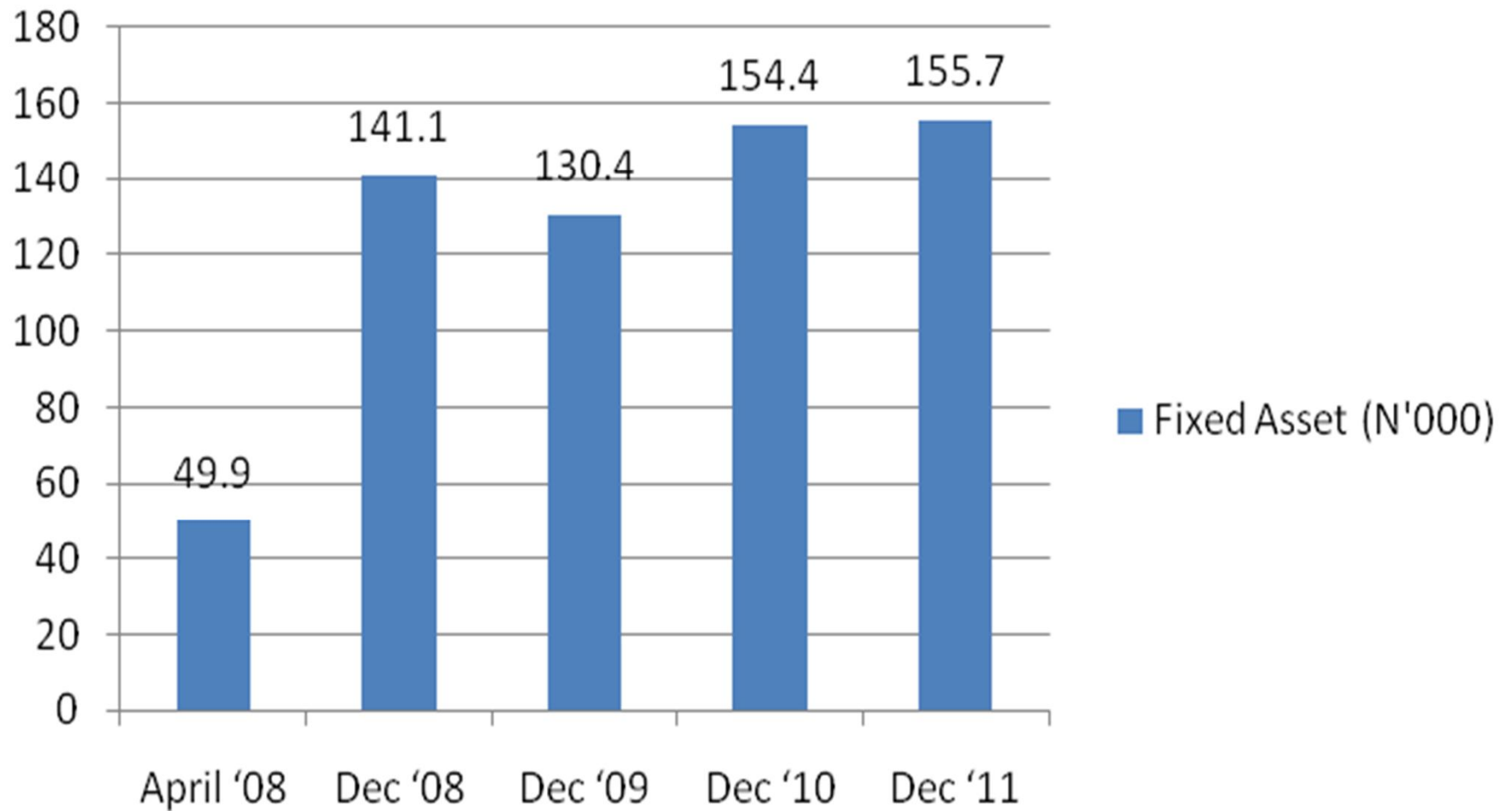
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Financial Summary (April 2008-December 2011)

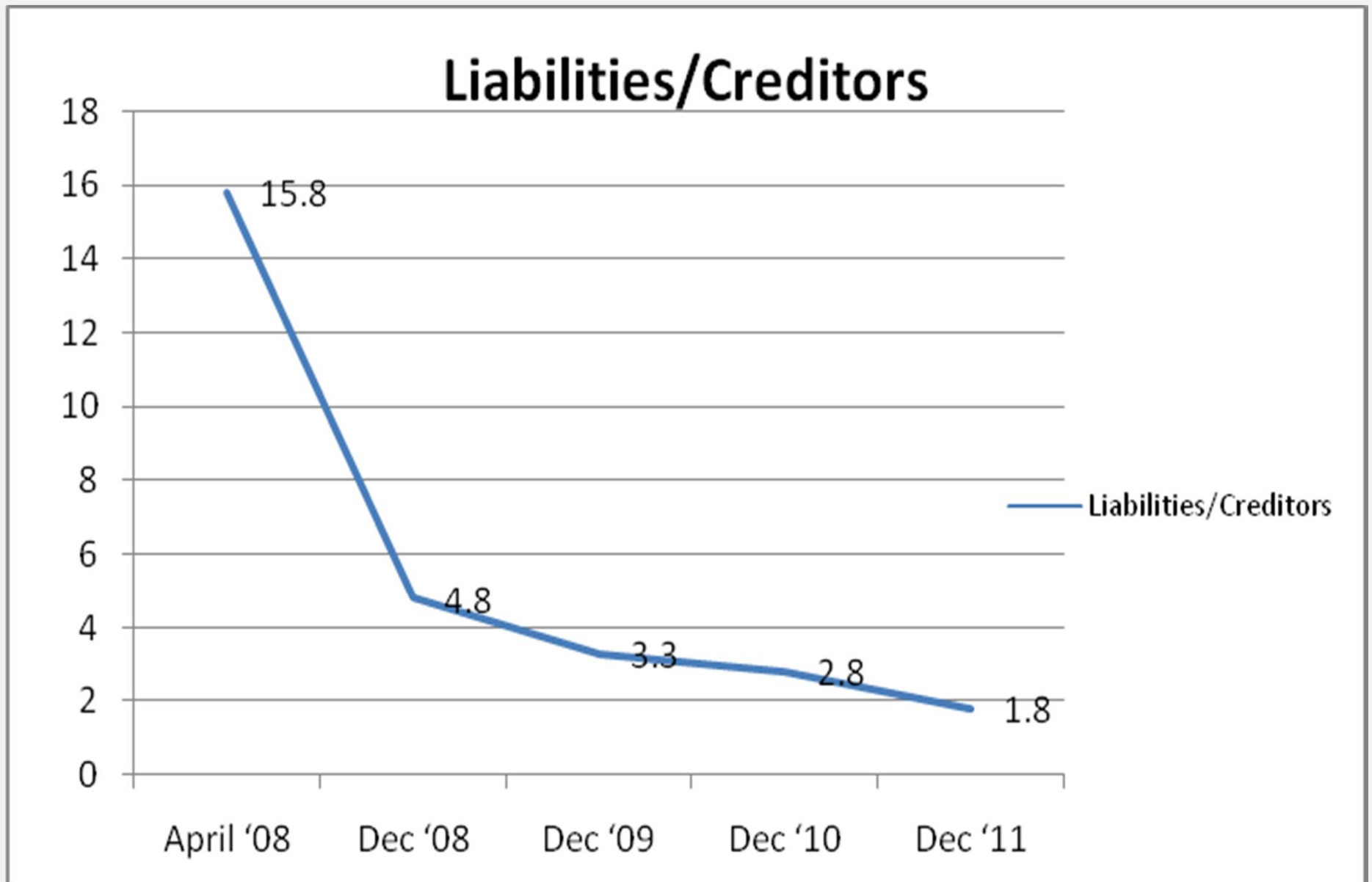
	April '08	Dec '08	Dec '09	Dec '10	Dec '11
	N 'M	N 'M	N 'M	N 'M	N 'M
Fixed Asset	49.9	141.1	130.4	154.4	155.7
Total Income	203.7	145.7	194.5	288.4	344.3
Total Expenditure	185	143.2	222.4	285	339.5
Surplus (Deficit)	18.6	2.5	-27.9	3.4	4.8

Table 2: Financial Summary (2008 – 2011)

Fixed Asset N'000

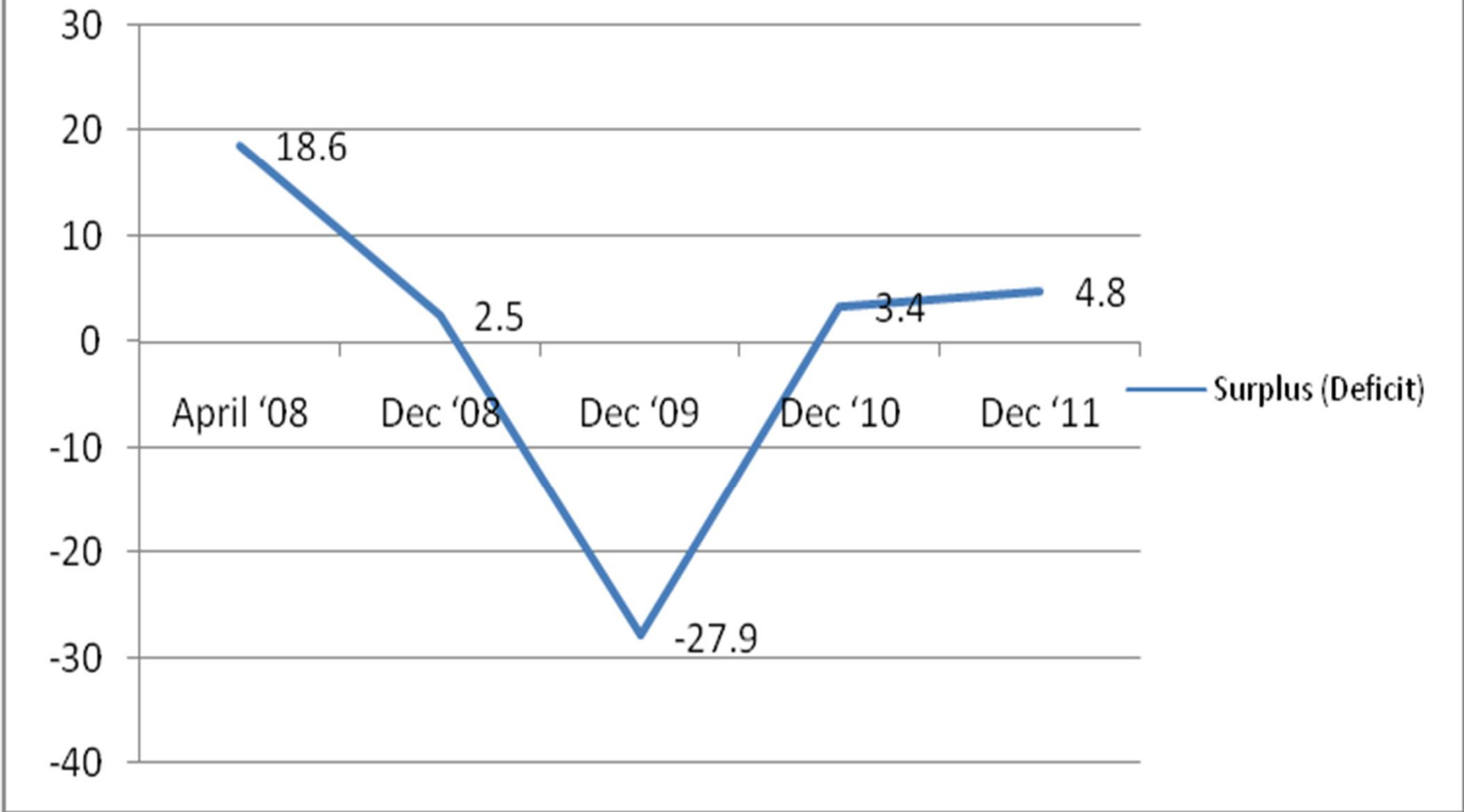


Graph 2: Fixed Assets (2008-2011)



Graph 2: Liabilities/Creditors (2008 – 2011)

Surplus (Deficit)



Graph 3: Surplus/Deficit (2008 – 2011)

Staff Training

The Council is making efforts at improving the ability of its staff to deliver by constantly training them. Training and re-training of staff are being carried out. In-house training of staff is also being embarked on to sharpen their skills especially in the area of Information Technology. Also, attendance of relevant training programmes were stepped up during the period under review.

CPN Centre of Excellence

Progress report on the Centre of Excellence was adequately covered in the Chairman of Council's address.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Issuance of Identity Cards to Registered Members of the Profession

As part of our enforcement strategies, Council is presently working on the issuance of identity cards to registered members of the profession. The photo identity cards would have a mobile application such that an SMS text could be sent to a short code to make enquiries on the validity or otherwise of a person's claim to CPN membership.

Capacity Building For Information Technology Journalists

It has been observed that Information Technology, one of the most dynamic professions in the world is not being given the attention it deserves in the print and electronic media, in terms of reporting and highlighting of the giant strides in the profession. Thus, in order to improve on the publicity and attention being given to Information Technology issues and events, necessary machinery is being put in place for a one day training/workshop for accredited Information Technology journalists in the print and electronic media.

Partnership with Electronic Media Organisations

We are presently working in partnership with the **Nigeria Television Authority** on the promotion of professionalism and good practices in the Information Technology profession. The arrangement will also enable us to promote and publicize the **Computer Professional Examination (CPE)** as well as one of the media for mentoring and harvesting the over One Hundred and Fifty Thousand students of Computer Science in different institutions of higher learning in the country.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R & D)

It is a well-known fact that **Research and Development** is the bedrock of development in every profession. Therefore, series of research proposals were brought forward by the committee on Research and Development. Out of all the proposals forwarded to Council, Council approved the commencement of research on the challenges of Software development in Nigeria and the use of Information Technology in Intelligence Gathering and National Security. The committee will commence intensive work in the aforementioned areas soon. The name of the Committee responsible for R & D had also been changed to Research, Innovation & Development.

CPN INVESTIGATING & DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

Due to the plethora of complaints received by the Secretariat, Council, at its 61st Council meeting, approved the constitution of both the Investigating Panel and Disciplinary Committees to look into the complaints; this action of Council was backed up by the provisions of sections 14 and 15 of the CPN Act.

The Investigating Panel, hit the ground running, as it had its first meeting immediately after its inauguration which took place on 17th April, 2012 at the Secretariat. . . .

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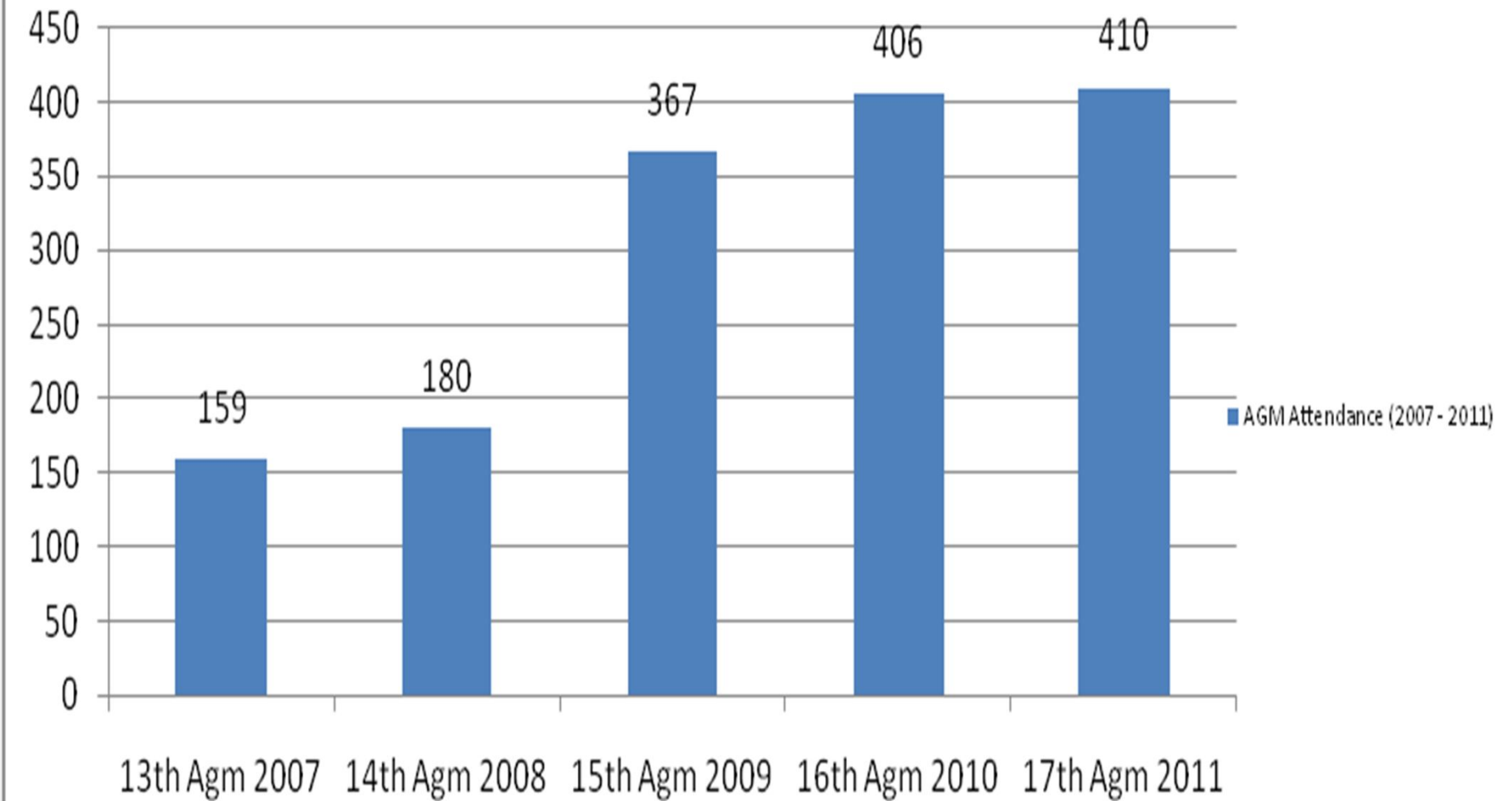
Some of the complaints the Investigating Panel deliberated upon at its first meeting was about the out dated courses offered by NIIT and phased out curriculum used by NIIT in Nigeria to train students in computing, another one was about the complainant's inability to undergo NYSC programme as the Advance Diploma Certificate issued to him by APTECH and the Bachelor of Science degree certificate in Information Technology and Business Information Systems which APTECH aided him to acquire at Middlesex University, an affiliate of APTECH in United Kingdom was not recognized by the Federal Ministry of Education .

At the meeting, the Panel was able to attend to all the complaints referred to it and made some recommendations. The recommendations of the Panel had since been carried out by the Secretariat.

ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is very clear that members of the profession have continued to renew their interest in attendance of the Annual General Meetings. There has been a remarkable increase in members' attendance at the Annual General Meetings between 2007 and 2011 as shown in the graph below: . . .

AGM Attendance (2007 - 2011)



Graph 5: Attendance at AGMs (2007 – 2011)

CONCLUSION

Information Technology has indeed become a way of life. As registered members of the profession, we need to use our various official positions and capacities to promote professionalism and best practices at all times.