



2016 ANNUAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS' ASSEMBLY OF COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS (REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA) WHICH HELD IN KADUNA, KADUNA STATE FROM WEDNESDAY 8TH – THURSDAY 9TH JUNE, 2016

COMMUNIQUE

INTRODUCTION

The annual CPN Information Technology Professionals' Assembly is a conference of Information Technology practitioners, decision makers and IT stakeholders in Nigeria. The paramount aim of the Assembly is for key players in the industry to dynamically discuss and strategize on evolving and challenging issues in Information Technology in order to come up with recommendations and decisions that will impart positively on the industry and the nation.

This year's Assembly with the theme **“Towards a Dependable and Sustainable National IT Infrastructure”** featured a lot of seasoned speakers in the Information Technology profession both from Nigeria and the diaspora.

THE PROGRAMME

Day 1: Wednesday, 8th June, 2016

The programme commenced with the induction of new members into the profession which took place on **Wednesday, June 8, 2016**. The newly-admitted members of the profession were comprehensively oriented on their duties and obligations to society and the profession. Various speakers made presentations to the new inductees on the ethics of the profession, and thoroughly schooled them on the significance of professionalism. Guidelines for running a successful Information Technology organization as well as other issues that are germane to their professional growth were discussed.

The IT Assembly started after the induction ceremony. Seasoned speakers presented papers in the following order:

PRESENT AND FUTURE IT TECHNOLOGY AND THEIR USEFULNESS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - DR. BENSON Y BAH:

Development is essential for the sustenance and growth of any nation. The presence of IT removed some hindrances to national development such as poverty, unemployment and so on. He opined that the problem of development in Nigeria does not resume from lack of competent personnel or absence of adequate financial resources, rather it is more associated with dishonesty and the quest for personal gain on the part of the policy makers and the implementers.

Challenges.

- Poor policies and insufficient investments in the IT sector
- Governments are to provide strategic policy framework for the acquisition and use of IT for social and economic growth.
- Most developing countries have ineffective IT policies and this has created problems in the growth and application of IT.
- Nigeria must invest in IT infrastructures, which requires regular, consistent and predictable source of funding – not just a one-time infusion of budget to lay-cables.

IT DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA LEARNING FROM THE PAST EXPERIENCE – Mr. John Obaro

For the first time in the history of Nigeria, IT has become a national discussion; the impact of IT Development in Nigeria can be noticed in Agriculture, Governance, IT industry, E- Commerce, Communication and so on. The TSA has provided timely information on Government cash resources and improved operational control on execution of budget.

The global innovation in information technology can also be seen in social network, mobile computers, cloud computing, E-payment and others.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of Infrastructure
- Lack of Adequate Research/Education
- Inadequate Budgetary Provision
- Government Policies⁶
- Bureaucratic Control
- Lack of Skilled Manpower

- Importation and Transfer of Skill vs Growth of Local Technology
- Misappropriation of Funds
- Insecurity

WAY FORWARD

- Encouragement of local entrepreneurs to thrive, by creating a business-friendly environment and matching words with policies, incentives and actions.
- Entrenchment of a system of training that constantly equips the workforce and assists them to upgrade their knowledge.

Questions and Comments were entertained after the presentations, after which lunch break was observed. The programme progressed to the interactive sessions:

SECURING NATIONAL IT INFRASTRUCTURE – Prof. Tanko Ishaya

IT infrastructure refers to the composite hardware, software, network resources and services required for the existence, operation and management of an enterprise IT environment. IT infrastructures are critical to fulfill our national goals and aspirations

MAIN CHALLENGES INCLUDE:

- Increasing threat posed by terrorism, insurgency and instability
- The impact of technology, including cyber threats and wider technological developments
- The erosion of the rules-based international order, making it harder to build consensus and tackle global threats

RECOMMENDATION

Securing the nations IT infrastructure is an extremely difficult strategic challenge that requires a coordinated and focused effort

from our entire society—the federal government, state and local governments, the private sector, and the Nigerian people.

IT Infrastructure can be protected by continuously assessing the threats and vulnerability.

MEETING WITH DIRECTORS OF ICT

The President, Dr. Vincent Asor and some elders of the profession met with Directors of ICT (DICTs) in both Federal and State Ministries to discuss the advancement of CPN visibility. In his opening remark The President recalled that it is the duty of Council to determine the standard of skills to be attained by all IT practitioners in the Country. Therefore the Council has ensured that CPN members had gone through rigorous examination and extensive training before gaining admission into the profession. He asserted that it is now the collective responsibility of both the DICT and the Council to promote the recognition of the CPN certificate.

He further enjoined the DICTs on the need to ensure that all IT practitioners and lectures in their various institutions and establishments are registered with CPN and that holders of CPN certificates in the Civil Service are placed accordingly.

He used the opportunity to inform the meeting that a CPN tamper-proof certificate would be issued to members and old ones would be withdrawn.

He then, welcomed suggestions and comments from the meeting.

SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- The Council should intensify effort in bringing the DICT together as the number of people present is very low to the total number of DICT
- CPN to intensify effort on making the individual seal available for members

- Circular from the Head of Service, on the inclusion of CPN certificate in the scheme of service, should be made available to all MDAs
- DICT to promote the IT department in their various organization and to work on increasing their own value as an individual such that they will be a major player in decision making of the organization
- CPN certificate should be able to sell itself in terms of content and delivery. The CPN staff that talks to prospective candidates and members should be seasoned and well trained such that they can defend the certificate anywhere.
- CPN should copy the DICT on all correspondences to the institution.
- CPN should improve on internal record keeping.
- CPN should meet with the committee of Vice Chancellors to discuss the issues of Head of ICT department being a graduate of other courses other than IT , which has been a major challenge to the advancement of the profession.

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded that the DICTs would be actively involved in the creation of awareness for CPN. The DICTs will organized forum among themselves and invite CPN, which will be coordinated by a Director. To this end, it was decided that a platform would be created online, on WhatsApp and other possible means to ensure that the Directors keep in touch to work on the promotion of the CPN certificate. A staff of CPN will serve as the Secretary of the group

MEETING WITH HODs/PROFs AND CEOs of ICT

The meeting with HODs/PROF and the meeting with CEOs chaired by the Vice president, Dr. A. S. Sodiya.

ISSUES RAISED

- **CPN Accreditation of Universities** -The unwillingness of NUC to partner with CPN in the accreditation of Computer Science department of tertiary institution was discussed. The meeting agreed that the CPN accreditation of Computer Science Department is more detailed and necessary has the Council has the mandate to determine the level of Computing skills to be attained by students of Computer Science and IT-related courses. The Vice-president informed the meeting that the Council will soon published a list of recognized Computer Science Department in Nigeria. The meeting also resolved that the Council should meet with the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education to get the necessary backing for the accreditation of Universities
- **Graduate Induction** - The HoDs were enjoined to ensure that Computer Science graduates were inducted by CPN to enable the Council catch them young and stir them to the right direction.
- **Skill Base of CPE Graduates** – The CEOs affirmed that they are more concern about the skill-base of an employee, than the certificates garnered, and so may not employ an applicant with CPE certificate over another candidate that can deliver on the job, but is not a CPN member. The Vice president assured the meeting that the CPE syllabus has been reviewed to equip CPE candidates with the necessary skills, so that they are industry-ready upon graduation. He also added that the syllabus review is a continuous exercise considering the dynamic nature of the profession.
- **Project Defense** – CPE study centres expressed displeasure over the project defense being usually held in Lagos. Candidates, who have passed CPE three in Kaduna and other states far from Lagos, could get inducted because they were unwilling to go for their project defense in Lagos. The Vice president assured the meeting that the project defense exercise will henceforth be decentralized

- **Recognition of CPN Certificate** - Some members expressed concern over the use of CPN certificate for upward movement in their various organizations. The meeting agreed that the Council should promote awareness the Head of institutions about the inclusion of the CPN certificate in the scheme of service. The Council will also follow up on the signing of the CPN certificate gazette which has been approved.
- **Non- Registration with CPN – CEOs** were enjoined to ensure that their IT staff are registered with CPN
- **Individual Zeal** – Members can write to request for individual Seal at a fee of 10,000 (Ten Thousand Naira)

CONCLUSION

The former Provost of College of Fellows, Dr. Abimbola Salako enjoined members to take a lot of responsibility as IT professionals and to uphold their integrity. The meeting was however assured that within the next one year, a lot of positive changes would be made. And the Council will take into consideration all the suggestions and opinions that were earlier made.

Day 2: Thursday, 9th June, 2016

FORENSICS, COMPUTIG & PREDICTIVE FRAUD MANAGEMENT

Fraud is a consistent fact of business life that affects all sizes of organizations globally. There is no full proof method to prevent fraud; however systematic approach can be used in minimizing the risk.

In order to accomplish analysis of large amount of financial information when dealing with fraud and money laundering, it is important to include Data Mining and Digital Forensic in the strategies of the financial institution.

FRAUD INVESTIGATION CHALLENGES.

- Banks' role in facilitation of the activity
- Acceptance of flight capital by western countries
- Laws and limitations of other countries

- Jurisdictional conflicts and lack of international coordination
- Bank Secrecy
- Volume and complexity of international transfers of funds.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FUNDAMENTALS: ENHANCING THE IT PROFESSIONAL VIA THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

No field with more claimants to knowledge than project management. Many organizations have 'Project Managers' who have no training or experience, nor are aware of the tools

It is important to realize that software is only a tool, and the data are more valuable than the software. This is another opportunity for Database development and administration.

CHALLENGES

- Municipalities must overcome institutional, technical, and funding challenges before they can successfully implement asset management
- Need for leadership and consistent advocacy (senior level commitment); and
- Organizational issues (conflicting priorities, lack of resources, poor communication between departments, silos of knowledge and responsibilities, lack of training, reliance on other agencies).

TOWARDS A DEPENDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL IT INFRASTRUCTURE

IT infrastructure refers to the composite hardware, software, network resources and services required for the existence, operation and management of an enterprise IT environment

Asset management is a comprehensive business strategy employing **people, information, and technology** to effectively and efficiently allocate available funds amongst valid and competing asset needs.

A business plan should be developed for implementing asset management. It should clearly outline the expected costs and benefits of the implementation. Senior management at the municipality should endorse the business plan

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