

REPORT

OF THE

2008 MAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

THEME: PREPARING BUSINESSES IN NIGERIA FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

TUESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, MAN HOUSE  
77, OBAFEMI AWOLowo WAY  
IKEJA - LAGOS.

ORGANISED BY: MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA  
AND  
ROSEBANK CONSULTING

## **PREAMBLE:**

The one day seminar with a theme: Preparing Businesses in Nigeria for Environmental Challenges and Opportunities attracted over 150 participants from the manufacturing sector, private sector organisations, public utility corporations, environmental regulatory agencies at the Federal and Lagos State levels, the academia, non governmental organisations and international development agencies.

Dangote Group of Companies was the seminar lead sponsor while MTN, Coca Cola, Agip Nigeria and Nigeria Bottling Company Plc were co-sponsors.

## **1.0 COMMENCEMENT:**

1.1 The Seminar commenced at exactly 10.00 a.m. with Mr. Rasheed Adegbenro, Assistant Director, Corporate Affairs of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) moderating.

1.2 He welcomed Speakers and Participants to the maiden edition of the Environmental Seminar and stated that the event was intended to become an annual event for MAN & Rosebank Consulting. He thereafter introduced the Special Guest – Hon. Commissioner for the Environment in Lagos State – Dr. Muiz Banire and other invited Speakers at the event.

## **2.0 WELCOME ADDRESS- OUR AGENDA ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN NIGERIA**

2.1 The Welcome Address was given by Mr. Jide Mike, Director General of MAN who represented Alhaji Bashir Borodo (President of MAN). Mr. Mike explained that Alhaji Borodo had been delayed in Kano and was expected to join the proceedings but he had sent his goodwill and sincere apologies.

2.2 Mr. Jide Mike read the President's address which highlighted major environmental issues and the threats/challenges posed to the environment. He went on to identify the peculiar problems of the nation, mentioning the rising incidents of flooding in the coastal areas, desertification in the North and soil erosion in South East Nigeria.

2.3 He observed that Federal & State Governments could not fold their hands and advocated the development of programmes and policies targeted at promoting green energy while mitigating the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> emission. MAN also called for zero duty and fiscal concessions on the importation of solar panels to promote the use of alternative green energy resources.

2.4 He stated that MAN would also work with Environmental Regulators to

achieve both the Nation's Vision 2020 and President Yar Adua's 7-point Agenda.

2.5 He mentioned that various Training Programmes on relevant aspects of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development would be organised by MAN in collaboration with Rosebank Consulting from the first quarter of 2009.

2.6 Finally, he thanked the Sponsors of the programme for their support.

2.7 On arrival at the event, the President of MAN, Alhaji Borodo apologized and welcomed Participants to the Seminar. He noted that his speech had been read by the Director General but went on to give a few remarks.

2.8 Alhaji Borodo observed that awareness was very important. He saluted the courage of the Lagos State Government for being a pacesetter in this regard.

He also warned that the day was fast approaching, when Nigerian citizens would stop manufacturers from producing if environmental best practices were not adhered to. He added that with growing awareness, the people would revolt against the degradation of their immediate environment.

2.9 He also spoke on the vulnerability of Northern Nigeria to desert encroachment and advocated tree planting should be adopted to stem the tide.

### **3.0 OPENING REMARKS – THE ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (UNIDO) IN PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

3.1 The UNIDO Representative in Nigeria, Mr. Masayoshi Matsushita was unavoidably absent. He was represented by Mr. Adegboyega Ajani, Programme Officer at UNIDO office, Abuja.

3.2 Mr. Ajani in his opening remarks explained the importance of environmental management within the context of export trade promotion by local manufacturers. He noted that while locally manufactured products may be able to satisfy quality requirements, they may be rejected in international trade for non compliance with global environmental best practices including the use of child labour.

3.3 Mr. Ajani placed particular emphasis on waste minimization and pollution control by companies, stating that they could afford to operate their businesses in the usual way but should rather concentrate efforts on the disposal of waste in an environmentally sound manner in order to achieve cleaner production.

3.4 He said that UNIDO always promoted a triple bottom line approach i.e. Corporate Social Responsibility, Financial Profitability and Environmental

Sustainability and advised manufacturers not to focus on profit but ask the following questions:

How green is the product?

How do we increase our Corporate Social Responsibility?

3.5 He thanked MAN and Rosebank Consulting for organizing such an important seminar, promising that UNIDO would be an active partner of this initiative.

#### **4.0 KEYNOTE ADDRESS – LINKING THE LAGOS MEGA CITY VISION TO A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK**

4.1 The Hon. Commissioner for the Environment in Lagos State – Dr. Muiz Banire gave an insightful address on contemporary environmental challenges facing Lagos State and the government’s dynamic approach in tackling them.

4.2 Reeling out facts and figures, Dr. Banire enlightened participants on the magnitude of the environmental challenges in the State saying that the Government was projecting that there would be 40 million people living in Lagos by 2015 far ahead of United Nations projection of 25Million.

4.3 He noted that while the land mass of the State was over 365,000 hectares, out of which 75,000 of this area was wetland. The State had recorded a population of over 17 million in the Lagos State government’s census, and was the third largest mega-city in the world coming after Tokyo and Mumbai.

4.4 Dr. Banire spoke on indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the roads, in drains and water bodies and also observed that one of the challenges in this area had been the sustainable transportation of the waste across the nooks and crannies of the city. He identified waste management as an area where Private Sector Participation was being encouraged by Lagos State Government.

He disclosed that while Government subsidized waste collection in some densely populated low-income areas, operators in low-density areas of Ikoyi, Victoria and Lekki collect refuse charges from residents. According to Dr. Banire, operators had been encouraged to purchase compactors for refuse collection with the government taking the lead with the purchase of 150 trucks out targeted 600.

4.5 Secondly, he mentioned the issue of waste recycling noting that approximately 70% of all waste generated in other parts of the world are recycled. He invited the organised private sector to join hands with the government in establishing waste recycling plants.

He said that the government had an operational compost plant at Odogiyian, Ikorodu and was embarking on a waste buy-back programme in conjunction with “pure water” producers by investing in the purchase of an equipment to recycle

plastic sachets.

4.6 Dr. Banire said that the state government was struggling with the disposal of medical waste while electronic waste posed a great challenge.

4.7 On the issue of global warming, Dr. Banire stated that this is a reality that the state government would not deny. He added that the state was not a major contributor to global warming but was at the peak of vulnerability. He said that the government was confronting the Herculean task of minimizing effects of global warming by trying to reduce emission and increasing clean air through the Tree Planting Campaign which would now be an annual event.

Dr Banire listed some benefits of the tree planting exercise to include: aesthetic value, empowerment/employment, security and revenue.

He stated that the Lagos State Government plans to plant one million trees in the next four years and had set up a Parks and Gardens Agency to sustain the tempo. The indiscriminate felling of trees had also been criminalized and a Bill would soon be passed into law that would require 30% of the buildable area in any development to be reserved for landscaping.

4.8 The Environment Commissioner lamented that emissions from power generating sets was still a sore point in the campaign for clean air but enforcement was minimal because of the unreliability of public power supply. He noted that emissions from vehicles was reducing as newer cars were replacing the old ones while roadworthiness test could not be enforced due to the negative impact the exercise will have on private lives and business activities. Dr. Banire encouraged people to walk and avoid driving cars to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4.9 Flooding was another major problem identified by the Environment Commissioner of Lagos State. He admitted that the issue was self-inflicted in most cases as canals and waterways had been sand filled or blocked with refuse.

According to him, Lagosians had been warned on the need to clear the drains and canals ahead of the rainy season in order to avoid flooding of their homes and properties. Presently, the government was reversing the wetlands to their former status and mapping out the draining channels oftentimes guarding canals with chain link fences, while some houses have been demolished after dialogue amongst affected communities.

4.10 Finally, Dr Banire disclosed that erosion was being tackled by the beautification exercise in the State while stringent measures had been set out to guide land reclamation.

## **6.0 1<sup>ST</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

6.1 The first Plenary session was chaired by Mrs. Ijeoma Abazie of MTN Communications, a leading GSM mobile telecommunications provider in the country.

6.1.1 As an introduction, Mrs. Abazie identified some environmental challenges presently facing her organisation, stating that most of the challenges were attributable to the disruptive activities of third party persons which MTN is striving to mitigate. Examples given by Mrs. Abazie in this regard were the vandalism of generating sets powering their numerous base stations leading to diesel spills.

She disclosed that some of their installations are now protected by electric barb wire fences, while MTN is trying to reduce both the noise and smoke emission levels of the generators.

6.1.2 Mrs Abazie informed participants that MTN had a full-fledged HSE Department charged with the duty of formulating and implementing environmental policies including the handling of waste materials. To this end, the company has introduced products such as the virtual top-up for mobile phone recharge and bio-degradable recharge cards which was first deployed in 2004.

## **6.2 DR ADEBISI ADESINA – GENERAL MANAGER OF LAGOS STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (LASEPA)**

6.2.1 Dr. Adesina explained to participants the role of LASEPA as a regulatory agency. He said that LASEPA only implements existing environmental laws and ensure compliance by private and public sector organisations which he stressed was now important as environmental challenges are at the forefront of global concerns. According to the LASEPA chief, the agency also serves in an advisory capacity by assisting industries to operate in a sustainable manner.

6.2.2 Dr. Adesina said that the situation led to the convening of several conferences by the United Nations including the Stockholm Convention (1972), United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro (1992), and the South Africa Earth Summit Johannesburg (2002).

The outcome of these conferences resulted in an International document for all signatory nations suggesting ways of ensuring that all developmental projects were sustainable, otherwise referred to as Agenda 21. Each nation was expected to develop its local Agenda 21 to address peculiar environmental challenges. in line with the slogan - "Think globally, Act Locally".

6.2.3 He mentioned the Lagos State ongoing initiative of Waste to Wealth Program and Horticulture/Tree Planting Exercise as part of a larger

environmental sustainability agenda and was also considering new programmes such as carbon emissions trading, electronic waste management (E-waste), and alternative gases for CFCs e.g. sawdust-briquette.

6.2.4 Dr Adesina disclosed that the state government was considering the production of methane gas from landfill sites in view of the fact that over 10,000 tonnes of refuse is generated daily in Lagos State generates with about 6000-7000 tonnes ending up in the landfill sites. He said that this enormous waste when undergoing natural biodegradation generates a lot of natural gas called methane which can be bottled and used domestically as an alternate source of energy.

6.2.5 On the issue of compliance and enforcement mechanisms, Dr. Adesina said that LASEPA can only appeal to business organisations as it is not their desire to close down erring companies which is only used as a last resort.

### **6.3 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

6.3.1 Mr. Akhamihe (ONL Engergy) asked whether LASEPA had considered partnering with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) on using certificates similar to those issued under an ISO certification process to measure how companies were managing their environment performance. He suggested that LASEPA officials could only visit companies after the expiration of a 1 year validity period of a certificate issued in the circumstance..

6.3.2 Dr. Adesina in his response stated that LASEPA had previously been in discussions with SON on the issue but he was planning reopen talks with them.

6.3.3 Mr. Nduka (M&B PLC) complained about 2 letters sent to his company alerting them of the impending visit of the General Manager of LASEPA to the company but which failed materialize after arrangement they are made preparations to receive him.

6.3.4 Responding, Dr. Adesina stated that he visited the company as arranged but asked to speak with a senior management official who could take decisions as it would be fruitless to discuss the reasons for their visitation with a junior official. He however added that LASEPA official can pay unscheduled inspection visits to companies

6.3.5 Mr. S.A. Kyari (Finuma Aviation) asked if LASEPA had any equipment or device to measure CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels.

6.3.6 Dr. Adesina said that LASEPA had the equipment and also affiliated to consultants who have the equipment. He informed participants that since last year, LASEPA was ready to commence the enforcement of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but had to back down as it was not politically expedient to do so at the time.

6.3.7 Mrs. Ngozi Osuji of Jagal Pharmaceuticals wanted to know if LASEPA's visits could be limited to once or twice a year. She suggested that the agency should make its standards public as this would assist with in-house environmental performance. Mrs Osuji advised that such a document would make senior management of companies understand the functions of LASEPA better.

6.3.8 Dr. Adesina said that visits to organisations should usually not be frequent, stating that the agency had copies of its effluent limitation standards which he could make available.

6.3.9 Mr. Peter Inisi (Micro-Ed) inquired about the effect of the installation of telecoms masts in residential areas on the health and safety of people living around the area.

6.3.10 Dr. Adesina replied that the Lagos State Government could not directly oversee the matter due to legal issues but he believed that the problem would be addressed over time by the current administration of Governor Babatunde Fashola.

Mrs. Abazie however added that MTN was constantly reviewing the results of studies aimed at finding any negative consequence of the installation of masts and so far, no study had linked these masts to any kind of negativity. She said that the global umbrella body of GSM operators was also been involved in the scientific studies and research which in some cases were conducted in conjunction with World Health Organisation(WHO). She allayed the fear of Mr. Inisi and added that Nigerian Communications Commission regulations does now allow the installation of masts over 25M in residential areas.

#### **6.4 DR. AUSTIN UGANWA REPRESENTING HON. DURO FASEYI CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**

6.4.1 Dr. Uganwa delivered a paper entitled "**Protecting our Environment and the Ecosystem through an Enduring and Comprehensive Legislative Reform Agenda**". He argued that while most business concerns depended largely on environmental resources for survival, the manner of running such business entities had a corresponding effect on the Environment.

Dr Uganwa expressed the view that it had become imperative for a business to be structured in a manner that was capable of stimulating environmental sustainability. He said that the increasing rate at which businesses of varying dimensions were sprouting up in Nigeria on a daily basis made it imperative to develop new technologies capable of ensuring environmental conservation and protection in order to win the battle against environmental degradation.

6.4.2 He disclosed that since the inception of the present House Of Representatives, 3 environmental related Bills had been proposed for passage into law. According to him, these are Bills seeking the establishment of Climate Change Commission; Desertification and Drought Control Commission and the establishment of an Ecological Agency.

While the Climate Change and Desertification Control Bills had reached second reading and public hearing had been planned as a prelude to passing them into law, the Ecological Agency Bill would soon be listed for second reading.

The fourth Bill - Erosion and Floods Control Bill is currently being reviewed at the Senate where it originated and would soon be forwarded to the House of Representatives for consideration after its passage by the Senate

The interesting thing about these Bills is that they are all Private Member Bills which underscore the Legislators commitment to effective Environmental Management, Dr. Uganwa concluded.

#### **6.5 DR. OLUWOLE AMEYAN, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, ABUJA**

6.5.1 Dr. Ameyan in his paper entitled “**Environmental Impact Assessment : Insight into the Environmental Impact Regulatory Process and Implementation for Qualifying Projects**” stated that the Federal Government of Nigeria enacted the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act No. 86 of 1992 as a demonstration of her commitment to the Rio Declaration.

Prior to the enactment of the EIA Act in Nigeria, project appraisals were limited predominantly to feasibility studies and economic-cost-benefit analysis. Most of these appraisals he said, did not take environmental costs, public opinion, and social and environmental impacts of development projects into consideration.

6.5.2 Dr. Ameyan was of the opinion that if EIA Studies had been instituted in the country earlier, the Niger-Delta problems would not have occurred. He added that while EIA was mandatory for some projects (category I), it may or not be necessary for others categorized either as category II or III projects depending on their location and size.

6.5.3 Dr Ameyan gave the EIA procedure in Nigeria as follows:

- i. The submission of project proposal to the Federal Ministry of Environment for screening to determine the need or otherwise for

- EIA.
- ii. The vetting of Terms of Reference (TOR) for the EIA studies to ensure that only significant issues (impacts) are studied in the EIA. A Site Verification exercise may be required to aid this process.
  - iii. Submission of draft EIA report for review.
  - iv. Review of draft EIA report
  - v. Submission of final EIA report, which addresses all the issues raised during the review exercise

6.5.4 He said that the procedure varied slightly from one sector to the other adding that there were sectoral guidelines for each specific sector. Finally, Dr Ameyan stated that EIA reports upon submission to the Federal Ministry of Environment is reviewed in-house and later subjected to a public review process for comments and observations before final approval is given by the ministry.

## **6.6 MRS. RONKE SOYOMBO, DIRECTOR - NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NESREA)**

6.6.1 Mrs. Soyombo presented a paper on behalf of Dr. (Mrs.) Ngeri Benebo, Director General of NESREA.

She gave a background to the establishment of NESREA, stating that the Federal Ministry of Environment without an enabling statutory backing on enforcement created a considerable vacuum in the enforcement of laws, regulations and standards that were enacted by the defunct Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA).

Recognizing this problem, the Federal Government established the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) as a parastatal as a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development, charged with the responsibility of enforcing all environmental laws, guidelines, policies, standards and regulations in Nigeria.

6.6.2 She said that NESREA was also charged with enforcing compliance with regulations on the importation, exportation, production, distribution, storage, sale, use, handling and disposal of waste; as well as enforcing compliance with the provisions of international agreements, protocols, conventions and treaties on the Environment including those on chemicals and hazardous wastes.

6.6.3 She informed participants that NESREA was in dialogue with several socio-economic sectors of society admitting that the process though slow, was yielding positive results. Mrs. Soyombo said that the emphasis was now on public education and compliance since force alone could not solve the problem.

## **6.7 DR. BAMIDELE AJAKAIYE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CHIEF EXECUTIVE NATIONAL OIL SPILL DETECTION RESPONSE AGENCY (NOSDRA)**

6.7.1 The DG, NOSDRA in a paper entitled “**The Role of NOSDRA in Environmental Management, Protection and Enforcement in the Oil and Gas Industry**” said that the major issue in the Niger Delta was that of oil spill and NOSDRA was set up about two years ago to address this issue.

6.7.2 Dr. Ajakaiye said that NOSDRA was the “policeman of the environment in the Oil and Gas Sector”. He noted that polluters should also be responsible for cleaning up the Environment, paying compensation and restoring the environment to its natural state. NOSDRA Offices were in Surulere, Port Harcourt and Abuja. The Agency was planning to establish a command and control centre while a state-of-the-art laboratory in Port-Harcourt would be completed soon.

6.7.3 Dr. Ajakaiye said that NOSDRA implemented Tier 3 response system as well as monitored Tiers 1 and 2, which are oil spill responsibility of individual oil companies and co-operatives (CNA) respectively. The levels of oil spill in the 3-tier response system include:

Tier 1 handles spills less than or equal to 7 tonnes (50bbls), that may occur at or near a company’s own facility

Tier 2 handles spills greater than 7 tonnes, less or equal to 700 tonnes (5000bbls), in the vicinity of a company’s facility where resources from another company or industry are possible. Government Response Agencies in the area can be called in, on a mutual aid basis

Tier 3 handles spills greater than 700 tonnes (5000 bbls), where substantial further resources would be required and support from a national or international cooperative stockpile, such as the Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), may be necessary. Such operation is subject to government control and direction

6.7.4 The companies responsible for spillage were expected to report such within 24 hours otherwise they would be sanctioned. He said that the law allowed for sanctions to be put in place in case of failure to ensure proper clean-up. NOSDRA was aware that some criminal elements had entered into the process and some communities are known to have encouraged oil spills because of compensation.

## **6.8 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

6.8.1 Chief Ugwo Erochukwu of Woollen & Synthetic Textile Ltd complained about the multiplicity of environmental agencies and an obvious overlap of their functions. He gave an example of the State Environmental Protection Agencies

and NESREA. He also wondered whether the State Environmental Agencies should be consulted before the appointment of consultants for EIA.

6.8.2 Dr. Ameyan in his response, categorically stated that the EIA Act 86 of 1992 had not delegated the implementation EIA to any State Government which he stressed was the exclusive responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development.

6.8.3 Dr. Uganwa however opined that since the environmental issues fell under the concurrent legislative list, either the State or Federal Government could make and enforce environmental laws. He said that although a lot of the existing environmental laws were moribund, the House of Representatives will soon work on their amendments.

6.8.4 Engr. Ogunshola of Lagos State Water Corporation in his contributions acknowledged the fact that there were a good number of environmental laws in place, but the major problem was with their co-ordination/implementation and enforcement.

6.8.5 Mr. Omoniyi Isaac of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) expressed the opinion that the Federal Government should cede the EIA of Category II and III projects to the State Governments while the Federal Government can concentrate on Red-flag Category I projects.

This was because there were so many red-flag projects going on simultaneously in several states without being noticed by the Federal Government. Secondly, he felt that EIA costs could be reduced by decentralizing operations from Abuja.

HE recommended Strategic Environmental Assessment by companies and be included internal company environmental policies. Finally, Mr. Omoniyi wanted to know how NOSDRA was coping with oil spills in the Niger Delta with its attendant hostilities.

6.8.6 In response, Dr. Ameyan repeated his earlier statement that the Act which established the EIA had not delegated the power to any State and added that all over the world, the issue of EIA was a central issue adding that so far, most States had been co-operative. However, there were some small Environmental Studies that could be carried out by the States.

## **7.0 2<sup>ND</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

7.1 The session was chaired by Mrs. Irene Ubah – Director Public Affairs & Communication, Coca Cola Nigeria.

7.1.1 Mrs. Ubah in her opening remarks stated that environmental issues should interest every Nigerian since it was now a global issue. She reminded

participants that the 1<sup>st</sup> Session had involved Speakers who were the Regulators but the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session would involve the Operators.

7.1.2 She said that every operator realized that business was dependent on the continued viability of the host community and purchase of its products. Coca Cola Nigeria believed that the future was in providing jobs and producing goods.

7.1.3 Mrs. Ubah emphasized that every company was duty-bound to consider the impact of its business on the environment and host communities. According to her, at Coca Cola, the main resource was water and this had remained a key focus for the company and ensuring that effluent from production prior to discharge to water bodies, are purified to a level where it could support aquatic life. The company was also focusing on sustainable packaging, energy consumption and climate change.

7.1.4 Mrs. Ubah advised companies to set certain in-house environmental standards focusing particularly on the area where they were most vulnerable. Finally, she proffered a three-pronged approach using the example of water resource – Reduce, Recycle and Replenish insisting that water ratios should not be exceeded in any circumstance. Mrs. Ubah informed participants that PET bottles were now being recycled at Coca Cola and HFC-free refrigeration had been introduced by the Company.

## **7.2 ALHAJI SALISU UMAR – CHAIRMAN, TEXTILE WEARING APPAREL CARPET LEATHER/LEATHER FOOTWEAR MAN SECTORAL GROUP**

7.2.1 Alhaji Umar in his paper titled “**Ensuring Enforcement Performance in the Textile, Wearing Apparel, Carpet, Leather Footwear Sectors**” commended the organisers of the seminar for the excellent timing.

He admitted that the Textile and Leather Industries were amongst the worst pollutants of the environment but assured the participants of the sector’s commitment to reduce pollution to the barest minimum.

7.2.2 Alhaji Umar observed that previous tanning process involved the use of inorganic substances such as sodium sulphide, hydrated lime, caustic soda, acids, chromium sulphate and dyestuffs. He said that traditional tanning methods had always resulted into high levels of pollutants being released into the water but recently, researchers found that simply reversing the order of the tanning and the post-tanning steps could drastically improve the process.

7.2.3 Alhaji Umar gave a brief history of the textile and leather Industry in Nigeria saying that the nation had the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest animal population in Africa and consequently, had a very high production of hides. In fact, leather had been the highest non-oil export in the nation. He also talked about cotton cultivation in Northern Nigeria causing adverse environmental impacts.

According to Alhaji Umar, Nigeria has 30 mechanized tanneries and over 100 traditional tanners in Northern Nigeria with processing capacity of over 310,000 bovine hides and 26.5million sheep and goat skins per annum.

7.2.4 Alhaji Umar concluded that while the Textile and Clothing Sector was a vibrant one, the Operators, Regulators and relevant Stakeholders would need to come together under Public Private Partnerships to ensure a clean environment.

### **7.3 MR. GEORGE LOURANDOS, MANGAING DIRECTOR – LAFARGE CEMENT WAPCO NIGERIA PLC**

7.3.1 In his paper entitled “**Balancing Business Growth with Sustainable Environment Performance: Best Practice and Performance- The LAFARGE WAPCO Experience**”, Mr. George Lourandos said that Industrialization was a good thing since it promoted national economic growth and observed that the disposal of industrial waste was an entirely different issue.

He added that industrial waste threatened the environment saying it was an important consideration in view of the Nigeria’s aspiration to be one of the most industrialized by 2020.

7.3.2 Mr. Lourandos defined sustainable development as “...the development that meets the need of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.”

He called on the Government to discourage unsustainable patterns of production stating that a major environmental challenge would be the monitoring of small businesses which had evolved as a result of the poverty level in the society.

7.3.3 He told participants that Lafarge Cement considered Health, Safety and the Environment more important than money stating that the Company was constantly striving to maintain high housekeeping standards in environmental performance. An example was the company’s ultra modern new factory at Ewekoro in Ogun State where internal standards were even higher than those prescribed by Government.

Company employees are constantly trained and he advised companies to evolve a process of minimizing the impact of their operations on the environment insisting that there should be a minimum acceptable standard in place.

7.3.4 Mr. Lourandos said that the company knew from onset that it could not survive without investing back into its host communities and had embarked on practical social responsibility projects to meet the needs of the people such as scholarship grants to youth, provision of potable water, electricity supply, roads, developing small businesses and sponsoring of sporting activities particularly football.

## **7.4 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

7.4.1 Dr. (Mrs.) Olayinka (UNILAG) stated that the chromium sulphate being used in the tanning process was carcinogenic and could not be removed by primary treatment. She wondered whether it was now being replaced by enzymes in Nigeria and if so, how these enzymes were being used.

7.4.2 Alhaji Umar in his response said that white leather was now popular and tanneries were coming up with vegetable tanning material. He was hopeful that in 5 years, the use of chromium sulphate would have been eliminated and tanneries will be reasonably free effluent.

7.4.3 Mrs. Soyombo of NESREA also commented on the tanning process saying that communities were being affected adversely by the production of leather products. She said that NESREA was working with the sector but the operators were not moving at Government's pace adding that NESREA was interested in dialogue and not in the closure of tanneries while discussions were ongoing on the matter.

7.4.4 Alhaji Umar replied that at least 70% of the tanneries in Kano had set up primary treatment plants but the operators had no clear cut idea of government's standards on the sector. He assured participants that the processes were already being modified.

7.4.5 Mr. Olanrewaju of Tripple Gee said that the companies were trying their best but the government was not providing the enabling environment for environmental efficiency. He said that the lack of electricity for instance meant that companies were spending as much as 30% of their profit on generating sets to power their operations. He also wondered why there were a myriad of government agencies whose overlapping functions were not being efficiently coordinated and harmonized. Finally, he commended Lafarge Cement for doing a wonderful job which observed and now confirmed by the Managing Director.

7.4.6 Mrs. Soyombo of NESREA also commended Lafarge Cement for excellent Community Relations and testified that the company was doing very well stating that areas excavated by the company were usually restored. She however raised the issue of dust which she wanted the company to reduce.

Mrs Soyombo advised companies to change their orientation towards government and rather assist government to perform its duties.

7.4.7 Mr. Lourandos in his response stated that there were two types of dust. He said that the high dust was always within industry standards but opined that the low dust could be affected by the rainy season.

He also addressed the issue of alternative energy saying the ideas were mostly medium - long term and rather than tyre burning, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could be

reduced by using environment friendly alternative fuels such as natural gas.

## **8.0 3<sup>RD</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

8.1 The third Plenary Session was chaired by Dr. (Mrs) Kehinde Olayinka Associate Professor of Analytical & Environmental Chemistry, University of Lagos.

8.1.2 Dr. Olayinka welcomed participants to the third plenary session, saying that the key issue was that of awareness and education.

## **8.2 PROFESSOR OLUSEGUN EKUNDAYO, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, University of Ibadan**

8.2.1 Prof. Ekundayo presented a paper entitled “**Overview of Key Environmental Management Tools: Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit Processes**”

8.2.2 He told participants that from the perspective of a consultant, there were two closely related environmental tools which were used to assess key environmental issues in a project namely:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – pre project/predictive process, and

Environmental Audit (EA) – post project.

8.2.3 He defined Environmental Impact Assessment as the process of identifying and evaluating the consequences of human actions on the environment and when appropriate, mitigating these consequences.

8.2.4 Due to its inter-disciplinary nature, a minimum of a 10-man team would be needed with various specializations to conduct a successful EIA.

Their various inputs are subsequently collated by a Lead Consultant who then prepares a final EIA Report. Prof. Ekundayo later presented a diagram of the EIA process in Nigeria.

8.2.5 Prof. Ekundayo stated that even government needed to conduct an EIA for its projects. The EIA could also be divided into 3 categories as per necessity:

- Category I - Mandatory
- Category II - Not mandatory (Screening would determine the necessity)
- Category III - Not required.

8.2.6 If an EIA was necessary, the draft report had to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment.

8.2.7 Prof. Ekundayo also gave the definition of Environmental Audit as defined by the Nigerian Federal Environmental Regulatory Agency – Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Planning as “a management tool comprising of systematic, documented, periodic and objective evaluation of how well organizations, management and equipment are performing with the aim of helping to safeguard the environmental practices and assessing compliance with company policies which include meeting regulatory requirements”.

8.2.8 Finally he said that all these controls were meant to help manage the environment properly, reduce waste and improve efficiency.

### **8.3 MR. KEHINDE JOHNSON, MANAGING PARTNER, ROSEBANK CONSULTING)**

8.3.1 Mr. Johnson gave a presentation entitled “**Capacity Building & Training for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development**”.

8.3.2 He briefed participant on the MAN Green courses training programme scheduled for the first quarter of 2009 under a collaborative arrangement between the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria and Rosebank Consulting.

8.3.3 He said that the collaboration between Manufacturers Association of Nigeria and Rosebank Consulting was to promote training of private and public sector managers in the areas of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development. Mr. Johnson said that the key objective of the Training Programme was to educate Managers build capacity to identify and implement Environmental Management Tools and Implementation of Cost Saving Environmental Measures.

8.3.6 He informed participants of the ease which had been introduced to the registration process. Participants would be able to register on-line by logging on to the web site [www. Man-greencourses.com](http://www.Man-greencourses.com) to select the desired course of their choice and submitting same on-line.

The online registration he added, was more environmentally friendly as it would save on time, paper and energy..

8.3.7 He added that the Training Programmes would be highly interactive, with the use of Presentations, Case Studies, Audio-Visuals, and Feedback/Follow-up Sessions. He concluded by enumerating the benefits of the website membership log-in access, to include features such environmental chat rooms and blogs, publication of environmental job vacancies, EIA resource materials, upcoming meetings and conferences and E-learning facilities.

Finally, Mr Johnson introduced to participants the professional services offered by Rosebank Consulting which he explained focused on formulation and development of environmental sustainability policies through an integrated process of Training, Strategy/Planning and Post- Implementation Audit

#### **8.4 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

8.4.1 Mr. Oyinlola of Pivot Engineering wanted to know whose responsibility it was to prepare an EIA Report.

8.4.2 Professor Ekundayo stated that the responsibility was that of the client.

8.4.3 Mr. Ogunshola of Lagos State Water Corporation wondered whether the discretion given to the Ministry of Environment to determine the necessity of an EIA in Projects could not be abused. He said that if the criteria/guidelines had been clearly spelt out in the Act then there would be little room for discretion.

8.4.4 Professor Ekundayo responded that in his experience as a Consultant, the Ministry had not been unfair to applicants. He also stated that there was provision in the Law for mediation in which case a neutral party could assess the case.

8.4.5 Mrs. E. Osiname of Lagos State Physical Planning & Development Authority commented on that the issue of physical planning not been taken into cognizance by the seminar organizers She suggested that for future MAN Environmental Management Seminars, Town Planning Officers in the Ministry of Physical Planning & Urban Development should be invited to present papers.

8.4.6 Mr. Eze of ANAMCO also commented on the issue of recycling. He wanted the recycling of metals to be considered.

8.4.7 Mrs. Nike Olokode of Safety Training Ltd wanted to know if the digging of bore-holes in almost every home could have an effect on the Environment.

8.4.8 Professor Ekundayo replied that bore-holes were minor projects and would not affect the environment but a water-works project for instance would require an EIA Study. Mr. Ogunshola (Water Corporation) added that the State Government was aware of the presence of these bore-holes but had not taken action because it was evident that the water supply in the State could not suffice for all Residents. He said that for industrial bore-holes, a geophysical study was required. He intimated participants that a study on the hydrogeology on the State had been commissioned.

8.4.9 Mr. Agbakoba of Zain Nigeria asked how Top Management Staff of companies could be made to buy into this environmental sustainability agenda..

8.4.10 Mr. Johnson responded he also shared this concern but that a technique which always worked was to alert Top Management on the possible implications of non compliance with environmental regulations and the impact it could have on their corporate reputation, business profitability and relationships with stakeholders

8.4.11 Mr. Rasheed Momoh of First Aluminum said that his company had been asked to prepare an Environmental Audit Report for their building which had been constructed in 1960. He said that an EA Report was three times as expensive as an EIA.

8.4.12 Professor Ekundayo in his response observed that the Law had been enacted in 1992, therefore a building constructed in 1960 should be exempt. He however added that the Decree was about 57 pages and very detailed. He advised participants to obtain a copy of the Act saying it was better to know one's rights and be able to quote the Law to support one's position

### **SOME KEY QUESTIONS RAISED BY PARTICIPANTS AND ANSWERS PROVIDED DURING THE SEMINAR**

Some of the key questions asked by the Conference participants from speakers and the corresponding answers PROVIDED.

Q. Is LASEPA considering the need to partner with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) and MAN in carrying out environmental auditing of industrial firms?

A. It was once conceived and started but the arrangement came to an abrupt end. However, efforts will be made to revive it.

Q. What is the environmental standard that LASEPA is using just like NAFDAC that targets quality control?

A. The target is the national effluent limitation standard.

Q. Are there equipment available to regulatory agencies like LASEPA to measure pollution from generating sets within residential areas?

A. There are such equipments owned by the agency's independent consultants but not yet expedient politically to embark on such exercise given the parlous state of public power generation and supply in the country.

Q. Is there any health hazard arising from exposure to communication dish or masts erected in residential areas by telecommunications company.

A. LASEPA has expressed Lagos State Government's concern on the spate of indiscriminate erection of mast in the residential areas and will soon address this issue.

MTN on its part declared that researches carried out indicate no health hazards from emissions.

Q. Why can't we have the activities of environmental regulatory agencies streamlined particularly with their visits to factories?

A. Environmental issues are on the concurrent list in the country's constitution. Each government agency knows its boundary and hence there can be no conflict.

Q. Is there a possibility of ceding Categories 2 and 3 of EIA projects to the State governments for effective time and cost management while the Federal Government should concentrate on Category 1 projects?

A. EIA processes cannot be delegated to the States as they are centrally administered all over the world.

Q. Who is to prepare EIA report between clients and contractors?

A. It is the responsibility of the project owner/initiator to prepare the EIA report.

Q. Why can't there be objective criteria stated in the determination of the qualification of a project for EIA under category 2 with a view to avoiding arbitrary exercise of administrative discretion or biased judgement?

A. EIA officials charged with the responsibility have often been fair in exercising their discretion, and there are provisions for mediation to resolve perceived arbitrary decisions.

Q. Is there any penalty for not obtaining EIA approval before commencement of development projects?

A. It is an offence under the law to commence a project requiring an EIA without obtaining a prior approval.

Q. Why is construction of borehole not attracting the attention of regulators in the area of EIA?

A. Borehole is a minor project that requires no EIA unlike earth dam projects, however, there is Lagos State regulation on the sinking of industrial

boreholes.

Q. Is it necessary to write EIA on projects that preceded the enactment of EIA legislation?

Q. The law has no retroactive effect, hence it is not needed. However, periodic environmental audit must be conducted on such projects..

Q. How do we get top management of companies to buy into environmental initiatives?

A. Top Management of companies must as a matter of necessity buy into the issue of environmental initiatives for the sustainability of their business. Failure to do so may lead to negative reactions from host communities and the media including loss of corporate reputation and potential business opportunities. Environmental managers should let their management know in clear terms the implications of such kind of attitude.

## **9.0 CLOSING & VOTE OF THANKS**

9.1 The seminar was closed at 5.40p.m by Mr. Jide Mike, the Director General of MAN with a vote of thanks. He thanked all participants for their attendance, useful comments and contributions.