The last quarter of 2014 witnessed a beehive of conference activities at the World Engineering Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure (WECSI) in Abuja, Nigeria and the joint Society of Women Engineers and International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists Conference (WE14/ICWES16) in Los Angeles, USA. APWEN members were active participants in both conferences by delivering powerful lectures, taking up responsibilities in conference organising committees and functioning as facilitators at the events.

WE14/ICWES16

APWEN had an exceptional outing at the Society for Women Engineers conference - WE14. The conference, with the theme “A Global Exchange for Change,” was held from 23rd to 25th October at the Los Angeles Convention Centre, California, USA. The conference was particularly different as WE14 also hosted the triennial International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists - ICWES16, thus making it one of the biggest and most memorable women engineers’ conferences in history.

Highlights of the outing at WE14/ICWES16 are as follows:

- Several members delivered papers from Lightening Talks to Poster Sessions and, for the first time, APWEN presented a Panel Discussion. The panel discussion titled ‘Surviving Office Politics – a Nigerian Perspective’ featured a 5-person panel ably anchored by The APWEN President, Engr. Nnoli Akpedeye FNSE. Other panelists were Engr. Prof. Gloria Chukwudebe FNSE, Engr. Sanimo Omezi, Engr. Roseline Igah and Ms. Oghenefejiro Dafe-Akpedeye.
- APWEN members provided valuable support at the Invent It. Build It (IIBI) event. IIBI is a SWE program that enables girls (ages 10-12) to participate in hands-on engineering projects with Women Engineers. Members participated as Role Models, and as part of the Assessment Team.
- At the I-Scream Social event costume competition, a 3-person APWEN team won Best Cultural Costume. Members of the team were Engr. Roseline Igah, Engr. Janet Ayoro Ighoteguono and Engr. Tonye Banigo.
On 18 September, activities included industrial visits to International Breweries and PEDI and an exciting tour of Erin Ijesa Waterfall. The innovative, customised APWEN coveralls were launched at International Breweries.

APWEN's Engr. Edith Aja volunteers as Role Model during the Invent It, Build It event.

Engr. Jane Ayoro – One of the APWEN Winners at I-Scream Cultural Competition.

APWEN 'Surviving Office Politics' Panelists:

Joint Society Of Women Engineers And International Network of Women Engineers & Scientists Conference (we14/inwes 2015) Continued
An exciting innovation in Los Angeles was a dinner in honour of APWEN, hosted by Mr. Bayo Jekanyinfa CPA, President and Co-founder of QCOM Solutions Inc., an Enterprise Architecture and Strategy consulting firm based in California, USA. At the event, APWEN was recognised with the Community Ambassador Award.

The dinner also featured a 20-minute talk by Fulbright Fellowship scholar, Ms. Tahsina Simu, Assistant Professor of Finance at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh. Tahsina spoke eloquently on The Socio-Economic Impact of Multinational Corporation Investment Strategy in the Financial Services Sector in Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP) Market in Emerging Economies.

Question & Answer session provided further insights on how women engineers can get more involved to reap the benefits of BoP markets. It was a successful and rewarding event for participants, who received individual certificates of participation.

The President, Engr. Nnoli Akpedeye FNSE, officially announced the appointment of Engr. Funmilola Ojelade, the Immediate Past Chairman of Abuja Chapter, as APWEN Brand Ambassador.

The announcement was made at a Breakfast Meeting hosted by the APWEN President at the LA Convention Centre on Thursday 23rd October 2014.

The Brand Ambassador’s overarching responsibility is to promote APWEN and its programs as a brand.

Engr. Ojelade commenced her assignment brilliantly with the successful organisation of the dinner and award night in Los Angeles.

A number of presentations were made by APWEN members at the WECSI in Abuja, which held between 2nd and 7th November 2014. A major highlight of the conference was the recognition and award of Best Technical Presenter to our own Engr. Prof. Gloria Chukwudebe FNSE, past Chairman of APWEN Owerri Chapter & IEEE Nigeria Chair. Engr. Prof. Chukwudebe’s outstanding accomplishment at WECSI has added another feather to her esteemed cap and is an inspirational feat for APWEN.
As an attestation to the versatility of women engineers, two APWEN Port Harcourt members proved their sporting mettle at the 2014 Nigeria Engineering Games (NEGG) in October. Engr Sira Lewis-Wikina and Engr. Chizoba Amaechi won gold and silver medals respectively in the NEGG Cycling competition, which held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

We congratulate these awesome ladies and encourage all APWEN members to increase our fitness levels and participate actively in future NEGG events.

Inauguration of LASU Collegiate Chapter

On 3rd December 2014, Lagos State University joined the burgeoning Collegiate league with the inauguration of LASU APWEN Collegiate under the guardianship of Lagos Chapter. Lagos Chapter Chair Engr. Nimot Muili conducted the inauguration ceremony with the support of APWEN President and other members. The Dean, LASU Faculty of Engineering, Engr. Prof. E. Oyetunji, attended in person. He commended APWEN for the initiative whilst charging the students to take full advantage of the associations mentorship and networks. Read the full report at www.apwen.org.

Career Talk

Holy Rosary College, Old GRA Port Harcourt benefited from an exciting, eye-opening Career Talk in December.

Feedback from the students was very positive with a number of girls 'converted' to considering engineering as their option for university study.

APWEN Port Harcourt members with students of Holy Rosary College

APWEN 2015 National Conference & Annual General Meeting will hold in Warri, Delta State from 17th to 18th September 2015. Block the dates in your calendars and keep reading Women Engineers for updates.