

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 5TH NATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE
HELD AT THE GIGINYA CORAL HOTEL, SOKOTO FROM 24TH TO 27TH NOVEMBER, 2014

1.0 PREAMBLE

The 5th National Water Conference, organized by National Water Resources Institute, Kaduna in collaboration with Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority, Sokoto took place from 24th to 27th November, 2014 at the Giginya Coral Hotel, Sokoto. It was declared open by the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, His Excellency, Alhaji (Dr) Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko (Sakin Yamman Sokoto) represented by the Honourable Commissioner for Water Resources Alhaji Shehu Dalhatu Tangaza. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Mrs. Sarah Reng Ochekepe ably represented by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Istifanus Musa Mik Fuktur.

The Conference, being an annual event, brought together stakeholders in the water sector in Nigeria to exchange experiences and put up recommendations towards achieving the national water resources developmental objectives for water supply, energy, food security and ecosystem. A total of 238 participants attended the Conference, representing Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at Federal and State levels, Local Governments, the Academia, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Private Sector.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Water and Energy**". The conference consisted of plenary sessions, technical sessions and exhibitions that addressed various water resources issues in six sub-themes that include the following:

1. Impacts of Demographic and Economy on Energy and Water demands;
2. Coordinating energy and water policies and governance (structure, ownership, regulator arrangements, multi-stakeholders participation in governance, etc);
3. Addressing the Economic and Financial aspects of Water and Energy (Full-cost recover; Public-Private Partnership; Privatization, etc);
4. Developing information and decision support systems for energy and water;
5. Strategies for Sustainable Hydropower Development and Management in Nigeria; and
6. Water-Energy-Agriculture Nexus and Ecosystem Security.

This year's conference also featured the 3rd edition of the Junior Water Prize Competition which is open to young scientists of 15-20 years of age, who must be (a) in Senior Secondary School, (b) in National Diploma programmes in the Polytechnics or (c) in 100 to 300 levels in the Universities. This event brought together four schools that met the minimum benchmark and qualified to be in the final part of the competition during the conference.

2.0 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Key recommendations from the various plenary and technical sessions were aggregated from which the following resolutions were adopted:

1. Available records have shown that Nigeria has over 200 dams that are grossly underutilised for hydropower and consequently recommends that effective and efficient utilisation of these dams should be implemented without delay to meet the energy needs of the country;

2. Studies on some of the existing reservoirs revealed high level of siltation, which calls for urgent comprehensive assessment of the siltation status of all the reservoirs and the development of cost-effective de-silting mechanisms;
3. There is the need to complete the irrigation infrastructure of most of the existing dams for utilisation of their water for irrigation farming to ensure food security;
4. The need to revitalise hydrological and hydrogeological monitoring for effective planning, design and management of water resources systems was recommended;
5. Climate change and its associated challenges should be adequately addressed through research and development to minimize environmental impacts and the adverse effects on water, energy and food security;
6. The development of the nation renewable energy resources should be vigorously explored to complement existing sources;
7. Capacity building of water sector staff should be aggressively pursued to fill the existing skills gaps through training;
8. Public Private Partnership arrangement should be accorded high priority to attract investment for the realisation of water resources sector development plans;
9. Adequate policies should be put in place for better and effective assessment impact of demographic and economy on Energy and Water demands of the country;
10. Functional and efficient national water resources data management system should be accorded priority for water, power and food security;
11. Mainstreaming gender targeting vulnerable group in the service delivery of water supply and sanitation in the country;
12. Mechanisms should be put in place and accorded priority for effective inter-sectoral and interagency cooperation and collaboration for better service delivery.

3.0 APPRECIATION

The Conference delegates express appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency, Executive Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji (Dr) Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko (Sakin Yamman Sokoto) and the good people of Sokoto State for their support and hospitality for the hosting of the conference and special thanks to the Governor for declaring the Conference Open. They also express gratitude to Mrs. Sarah Reng Ocheke, the Honourable Minister of Water Resources for her commitment and support for the sustenance of the annual Conference and the Junior Water Prize competition.

Dated this 27th day of November, 2014 in Sokoto, Nigeria

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