



COMMUNIQUE OF THE NIGERIAN BUILDING AND ROAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NBRI) STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM WHICH TOOK PLACE AT LADI-KWALI HALL, SHERATON HOTEL, ABUJA BETWEEN 24TH- 25TH MAY, 2011

THEME: "VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN BUILDING AND ROAD RESEARCH AND STAKEHOLDERS"

A. INTRODUCTION

NBRI Stakeholders Forum took place from the 24th to 25th May 2011 at Ladi Kwali Hall, Sheraton Hotel, Abuja and was graced by the Honourable Minister for Science and Technology, Prof. M. K. Abubakar, FAS. The Permanent Secretary was represented by the Director, TAA of the Ministry and the Chairman NBRI Governing Board Engr. Dr. Obong Chris Ekpeyong chaired the opening session.

The Honourable Minister of Science and Technology in his keynote address emphasized that the nation cannot develop without research and development and innovation in Science and Technology. The Government of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan in taking cognizance of this has taken steps to encourage commercialization of R & D products to reposition NBRI and other Research Institutes to better address their mandates for the country's goal of economic development. He also emphasized the accreditation of Research Institutes which will be undertaken by the Nigerian Academy of Sciences.

Stakeholders present included NIOB, CORBON, ARCON, FERMA, NSE, NIQS, COREN, NITP, TOPREC, the Bank of Industry, the FHA, the Academia, REDAN and the FCT among others. However, it was observed that major players in the construction industry such as Julius Berger, Dantata and Sawoe, Bullet, Setraco, CCECC were absent from this forum.

Papers were delivered by eminent scholars, captains of industry and experts on the following topics:

- i) Achieving NBRI Vision and Mission: Proposed Strategies and Challenges
- ii) Promoting Effective Linkages Between NBRI and Stakeholders in Construction Industry
- iii) Options for Capacity Building and Road Research in Nigeria

- iv) Framework for Efficient Development and Application of Pozzolana Cement in Nigerian Construction
- v) Building Collapse Phenomenon in Nigeria: The Role of NBRRI

B. DELIBERATIONS

The Forum recognized the efforts of both Governments and private individuals in housing delivery and road construction in Nigeria. It also noted acute shortage of accommodation in both rural and urban centres and the deplorable conditions of our roads and observed that:

- i. There is the need for capacity building in the area of applications and production of NBRRI technological innovations
- ii. NBRRI research products need to be standardized in line with International requirement.
- iii. There is need for effective dissemination of research findings and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- iv. There is acute shortage of accommodation in both urban and rural areas of Nigeria, because housing has not been recognized as an essential social service.
- v. The cost of construction of buildings has gone beyond the reach of an average Nigerian due to high cost of imported building materials and construction technology. It was also observed that there are appropriate indigenous building technologies that can drastically reduce the cost of construction
- vi. Research and Development (R&D) in the construction and road sectors is inadequately funded.
- vii. Despite the poor funding of research activities, modest but significant achievements have been recorded by NBRRI in the development of appropriate building materials and road construction equipment using locally available materials as well as conducting researches valuable for housing and road development.
- viii. There is weak collaboration and partnership between NBRRI and stakeholders such as, Academia and Industry.
- ix. There is a dearth of qualified indigenous artisans and craftsmen in the construction industry. The Forum also recognized lack of adequate provision of laboratory equipment in Technical and Vocational schools to meet current and future manpower needs.

- x. NBRRI should endeavor to patent her research findings and to disseminate information on them.
- xi. There is need to carry out further research in the use and application of substitute Cementing Materials.
- xii. NBRRI should champion the training of skilled artisans and craftsmen for the construction industry including certification.
- xiii. There has been technological failure and inadequacies in building and road construction materials

C. RESOLUTIONS

In view of the above, the Forum resolved that:

- i. NBRRI should liaise/collaborate with relevant Government agencies to establish Standards for their research products and to patent them with NOTAP.
- ii. NBRRI should be empowered by law to certify the quality building and road construction materials in Nigeria
- iii. There should be deliberate government policy to promote the continuous development and utilization of existing technologies and materials. Governments at all levels should therefore lead the way in the use of alternative building materials and technologies for the construction of public facilities such as health centres, classrooms, barracks and markets, etc.
- iv. Government and industry should adequately fund R&D which should be market driven.
- v. A construction research fund, e.g. 1% of Custom and Excise Duties on all imported construction materials and equipment, as well as similar funds from the profit of construction companies should be set aside for R&D in NBRRI.
- vi. The weak collaboration and partnership between NBRRI and Stakeholders such as the Academia and the Industry should be strengthened for easy accessibility to research findings.
- vii. The lack of adequate provision of equipment in Technical and Vocational schools where available should be adequately equipped to meet current and future manpower needs. There is the need for NBRRI to set up a school for the training of artisans

- viii. There should be strong public private partnership for full commercialization of research findings to reduce cost and create accessibility for usage in both rural and urban areas. NBRRI needs to employ building marketers and a crop of fund raisers.
- ix. There is need for NBRRI to create a platform for all professional bodies (COREN, NSE, CORBON, NIOB,NIQS, NIA,ARCON,NITP TOPREC etc.) to collaborate and proffer solutions to building collapse in Nigeria and enforcement of the National Building Code
- x. NBRRI should work closely with its stakeholders for the promotion of Research, Development and Innovation (R, d & I) and these stakeholders include :Engineers, Architects, Builders, Town Planners, Real Estate Dev. Assoc. of Nigeria, Building Materials Producers Assoc. of Nigeria, Community Dev. Associations, universal basic Education commission, National Board Technical Education, and National Universities Commission, FERMA, FCT, ETF, FHA etc .
- xi. The Forum recognized the contribution of NEPAD in the utilization of our resources. NBRRI is therefore encouraged to collaborate with NEPAD Nigeria to enhance its mandate.
- xii. There is need for NBRRI to show interest in Ajaokuta Steel Complex because of the strategic importance of its end products to all constructions.
- xiii. The Forum recognized the need for NBRRI to take the lead in the production and popularization of substitute pozzolana cement.
- xiv. There is need for NBRRI to focus her research efforts on quality of buildings and road construction materials. This will assist in minimizing technological failure and inadequacies in building and road materials.
- xv. There is need for NBRRI to reach out to Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP) in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and similar donor funded projects.
- xvi. NBRRI should endeavour to use ICT in her research activities.

D. CLOSING

Participants were grateful to NBRRI, Press, Sheraton Hotel Towers and all those who worked hard to make this event a success.

Signed:

Prof. Danladi Slim Matawal
Director-General/CEO, NBRRI.