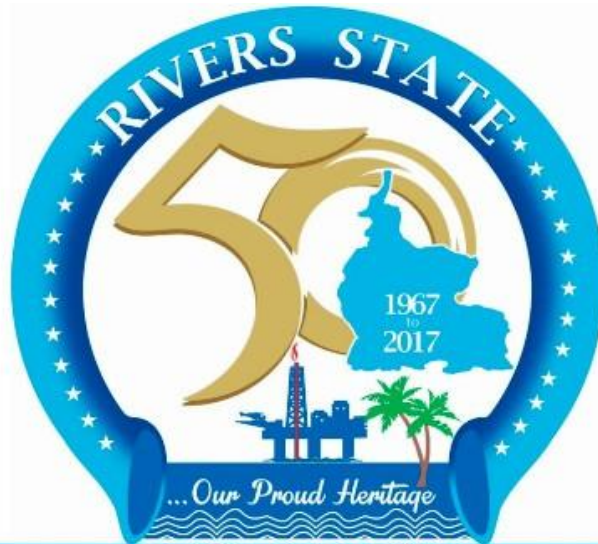


WATER AND SANITATION NEWS

Issue 12 e-Newsletter : May 2017

Theme of the Month: **Water Sector Workforce & Development**



GOLDEN JUBILEE

Drinking water supply



PHWC

SERVICES

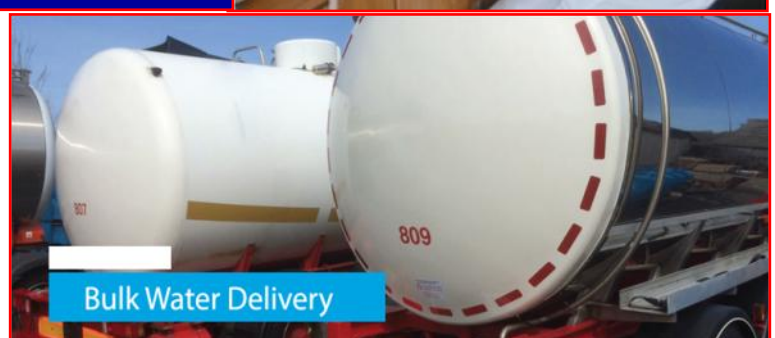
- Drinking water supply
- Bulk water delivery
- Water Quality testing & Treatment
- Wastewater Treatment



Water Quality Analysis & Treatment



Waste Water Treatment



Bulk Water Delivery

Port Harcourt Water Corporation PHWC. 6 water Works Road Rumuola Port Harcourt, Rivers State Nigeria
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Quality is our Goal

INTERVIEW

Golden Jubilee Reflections: The Development of the Water Sector



Engr. Bowadua Ngiangia
Water Operations Manager
Port Harcourt Water Corporation

I have worked in the water sector for 35years, in that time I have served in Bonny, Bori, Ahoada, Omoku, Abua, Emuoha, Eligbu, Nonwa-Tai water project.

BRIEF HISTORY: The Water Board had established functional stations in nearly all LGAs of Rivers state, most of these stations have since dilapidated leaving the sector with no functioning station and causing a decline in capacity to provide water for the populace. With the start it had, it would have been expected that the sector would have had a better stance than it currently does.

CHALLENGES: The Rivers state Water sector has not been sustainable over the years due to its inability to be self sufficient; with the continued dependence on government allocation, budget reduction meant a crash of the system especially the Water Board. The Water Board failed to grow with the global community, got left behind and is now struggling to catch up with the rest of the world. When the world moved on to Industrialization, Commercialization and Self sustenance as a means of ensuring sustainability of the water sector, Rivers state maintained a social structure.

ADVICE: A systematic expansion of stations and facilities as proposed by the Port Harcourt Water Supply & Sanitation needs to be done; this expansion once successful has the potential to grow to Greater Port Harcourt region and close communities like Oyigbo, Eleme and Okrika as the state gradually works out a water system to connect all regions. A lot is riding on the success of the Port Harcourt Water Supply & Sanitation project and its success will definitely spread and impact the rest of the state.



Theme of the Month: Water Sector Workforce & Development

INTERVIEW

Golden Jubilee Reflections: The Development of the Water Sector



Isaac .T. Edward
Former HOD Lab & Operations
Rivers State Water Board

I am a Medical Laboratory / Microbiology graduate from the Rivers State University and I have worked in the Rivers State water sector for 38years.

BRIEF HISTORY: one significant milestone achieved by the Rivers State Water Board was the upgrade of water treatment by the installation of Soda Ash & Chlorine Water treatment facilities. The Water Board also successfully established several new stations at different parts of the state which increased production capacity and also allowed the Board contribute to development in the state through undergraduate internships.

CHALLENGES: Power supply was not readily available leading to reduced rate of production. There was also absence of adequately trained specialists for example; after upgrade of water treatment facilities, there was absence of manpower to handle new facilities thereby inhibiting production.

ADVICE: Communities are willing to pay for water but a consistency of service is requisite. The Moscow and Eagle Island stations should be given more attention due to the dense population of the region they service. Training should be done to bring staff up to date with current technologies especially where the facilities are being upgraded.



INTERVIEW

Golden Jubilee Reflections: The Development of the Water Sector



Chief Stanley Nwofor
Former General Manager
Rivers State Water Board

I have worked in the water sector for 35years, all of those years were spent at the defunct Rivers State Water Board.

BRIEF HISTORY: The Rivers State Water board started out as the Utilities Board before becoming the Rivers State Water Board in the early 1990s. The first set of water lines were laid in 1956 using asbestos-cement pipes by Late Tompeh who was General Manager at the time, the second lines followed in 1994 running from Rumuola to Moscow. The third set of lines which were laid at Eagle Island were the first set of PVC pipes to be used, this third line was established due to the high population density of that region and there was a plan to link this network to Diobu but this was hindered by the absence of a bridge at the time.

CHALLENGES: One major challenge which the water sector has faced was the absence of financial autonomy as the Water Board's finances were managed by the Rivers State government. This restriction resulted in the absence of funding to effectively run the stations; the populace were willing to pay for the water service but the Water Board was unable to meet up with demand due to inability to sustain the station for production.

ADVICE: To ensure sustainable service delivery in the sector, effective management is important especially in the unavoidable occurrence of pipe bursts due to the age of the lines. The Borikiri station should be rehabilitated to serve the densely populated region and the asbestos - cement pipes should be replaced with PVC pipes.



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CORPORATE NEWS

PHWC Conducts Enumeration Exercise at Eagle Island



The survey commenced on the 27th March, 2017. PHWC enumerators were trained on the use of kobo toolbox mobile software for data collection.

The Location under survey is Eagle Island which is the water supply pilot scheme area and also selected for the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) under the ongoing Port Harcourt Water Supply & Sanitation Project.

The Objectives of the Enumeration includes the following:

- Establish customer GPS location for metering plans, both present and future needs
- Determine potential customer locations, building addresses, numbers and types
- Determine customer willingness to get connected and pay for potable water
- Identify metered & billed customers
- Private borehole owners and GPS locations of boreholes

PHWC Holds internal Finance Training



The account department of PHWC was trained on Chart of Accounting (COA) by Mr Francis Fakoyejo, an accounting expert with the Project Management Consultants for the Port Harcourt Water Supply and Sanitation Project.

The COA is the foundation or engine of accounting, and the quality of accounting report depends on the chart itself. In attendance was the staff of account department.

The participants were trained on the significance and knowhow of accounting codes for project financial management based on the components and categories enshrined in the PHWSS project document.

Theme of the Month: Water Sector Workforce & Development

CORPORATE NEWS

World Bank Mission to Port Harcourt Water Corporation



Representatives of the World Bank and Federal Ministry of Water Resources visited Port Harcourt Water Corporation on a mission to check the progress of the Port Harcourt Water Supply and Sanitation Project.

Leading the team was the project task team leader for the World Bank, Khairy Al-Jamal who expressed the Bank's support to ensuring the success of the project.

The team met with the Hon. Commissioner Rivers state Ministry of Water Resources and with the Director General, Rivers state Water Services Regulatory Commission to discuss the advancement of the project.

The team was also given a tour of the PHWC facilities at the Rumuola headquarters, Eagle Island pumping station and the Waste Water Treatment plant and ended the mission with attendance of the Faecal Sludge Management Workshop.

PHWC holds Faecal Sludge Management Workshop

The World Bank is providing technical support to Port Harcourt Water Corporation for Faecal Sludge Management in Port Harcourt & Obio / Akpor. For this reason, the bank, a Faecal Sludge Management training was held to educate relevant stakeholders on the importance and impact of FSM.

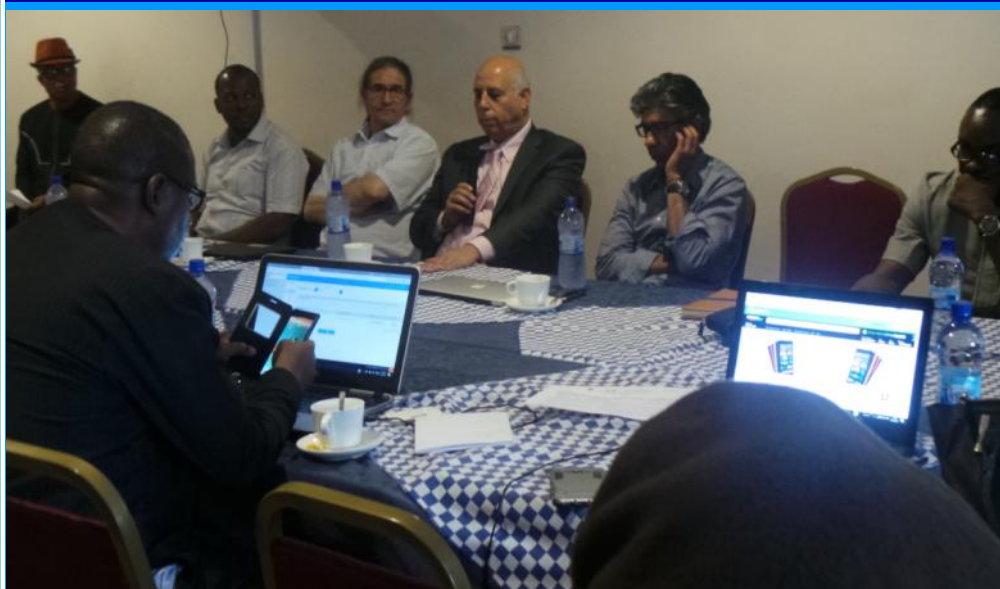
In attendance were the representatives of the World bank, PHWC, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Aquaya, Rivers state Waste Management Agency, Rivers state Ministry of Environment, Sewage truck drivers association, and relevant NGOs.



The Workshop sought not only to educate on FSM, but also to gather the input of these relevant stakeholders in order to reflect their ideas in carrying out the project.

FEATURES

5 Questions from the Faecal Sludge Management Workshop



What is FSM?

The sanitation service chain that comprises of containment, collection, transport, treatment and safe end use or disposal of faecal sludge

Can you briefly explain the importance of FSM in relation to PHWC and her statutory responsibility?

PHWC statutory responsibility to provide wastewater/sewage management services in Port Harcourt City. This has to be done in an environmentally friendly manner.

What are the significant gains of the just concluded FSM workshop?

- Better informed stakeholders on FSM that will take the knowledge and step it down further in their individual organizations
- Stakeholders knowledgeable about the economics of end products of well managed Faecal Sludge
- Awareness of the dangers of wrongly managed faecal sludge and waste water on environment and the people
- Synergy among stakeholders in Rivers State in finding sustainable water and sanitation services solutions that is convenient, socially acceptable and environmentally compliant.

How will you rate the turnout, reactions and feedbacks you got from the workshop?

96% turnout of the invited participants, The participants were enthusiastic to see an effective FSM service in the city, on feedbacks the stakeholder are more enlightened on the subject and feel more valued as they were included in the process.

What can residents of Port Harcourt/ Obio Akpor LGA expect from PHWC in terms of the knowledge gained from FSM workshop?

A better service delivery (treatment plant availability) from PHWC and more stakeholder partnership to improve the whole FSM service chain as well as a cleaner and safer environment for the region.



Eddiong Ini Obot
Planning & Sanitation Engineer

WATER AND SANITATION NEWS

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FEATURES

PHWC WORKFORCE SUSTAINABILITY MODEL



The heartbeat of any industry is its Human Resources; business experts have it that once a business gets its human resources right, the birth of a successful organization is achieved. The competition for key competency and Skill is a global war in all industries and more daunting in the water industry, this challenge varies throughout the globe and within the various Water Utilities especially those in developing countries such as Nigeria.

The nature of Jobs in the Nigerian water industry is quite unique and an overview of skill set for the job pool in River State's water sector shows:

- Scarcity of competent Water Professionals due to Retiring technical Workforce in the water sector.
- Young graduates and professionals from the private sector and young graduates lacking sufficient experience in the water sector.
- Experienced professionals especially from the public agencies with insufficient technological

Know-how to meet the requirement of managing a modern water utility.

PHWC Hybrid staff structure is designed to combine these three groups and thrive on a knowledge transfer and mentorship development principle. The old workforce brings to the table scarce technical and terrain knowledge while the new workforce brings on contemporary technical and technological work practices and procedures thereby bridging the skills gap of inexperience.

The Hybrid Staff Structure also involves Mentorship and coaching; leveraging on the expertise of consultants and other African utilities for competency development and sustainability of the utility and the sector.

With a structure like this, hope for revival of the water sector is building momentum and offering countless opportunities for innovation and sustainable work in the water industry.

FEATURES

SAFE WATER, SAFE HEALTH *(cont'd from Issue 11)*



It is important to note that the major source of pathogenic bacteria contamination in water is faecal matter. Inappropriate disposal of faecal matter comes back to haunt us in the quality of water consumed. Every Household should regularly check the water they consume especially households with children as they are most vulnerable to this harmful contaminants. Port Harcourt Water Corporation's Water Quality Analysis lab is adequately equipped to effectively and accurately run comprehensive water tests and we are also open to questions and consultations. Safe guard your health, know what you drink. Determining bacterial presence in drinking water is the single most important procedure, this is because a single glass containing few pathogenic (disease-causing) bacteria can result in illness, posing an immediate health risk. Pathological parameters cannot be ascertained by sensory evaluation

(appearance, smell and taste of the water) as is done by most of the non-enlightened people, reason being, contaminants in the class do not effect visual or sensory changes although they are present in the sample. There are numerous pathogens that cause different water borne illnesses, but testing for each one specifically to ascertain absence of each is very expensive and time consuming. However, testing for coliform bacteria is widely accepted and accredited as a more feasible way to simplify this trend, there are three levels of generalized indicator analysis tests that are used to confirm the presence of pathogens and microbes, these indicator tests have varying degrees of risk and specificity. They are:

1. Total Coliform: This is the most general indicator tests of the three, it is done to ascertain if there is any microbial presence at all in the water sample.
2. Fecal Coliform: This is a subset of the total coliform, they are normally generated from the intestine of mammals.
3. Escheria Coli (E.coli): This is the most specific of the three coliform indicator tests, it is a subset of faecal coliform. Some of the health impacts of E.coli include Urinary tract infections, bacteraemia, meningitis, diarrhoea, (one of the main cause of morbidity and mortality among children), acute renal failure and haemolytic anaemia.

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DO YOU KNOW?



- Every 60 seconds, a working adult touches as many as 30 objects that may be contaminated by bacteria or viruses causing infectious disease and can affect the health condition of employees.
- A door knob, desktop surfaces, computer keyboards, mouse or a lift buttons in the office of public places and telephone receivers are more contaminated than restroom toilet seats.
- Since our hands are responsible for the spread of 80% of common infectious diseases, effective hand hygiene continues to be universally recognized as the smartest, most cost effective means of infection control in the workplace. Health promotion or wellness programs have been shown to be effective at reducing absenteeism, health costs, workers compensation claims and turnover but often forget to address infectious diseases.
- Workplace infection control programs focusing on hand hygiene have been found effective at reducing absenteeism on the average. An important component of prevention is hand hygiene training and supplies including soap, sanitizer, paper towels and tissues. Maintaining hand hygiene is essential to ward off the risk of acquiring infectious and contagious diseases after coming in contact with contaminated surfaces.

EDITORIAL

The month of May is important to the Nigerian workforce as the National Workers day is celebrated annually on May 1st. In Rivers state, it is especially important because the state was created in the same month.

This month's newsletter is dedicated to celebrating the Water Sector Workforce and also the development of the sector, hence the theme 'Water Sector Workforce & Development'.

We wish the Rivers Water sector and the entire state more progressive years ahead.

— EDITOR

For comments and observations, email us
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