



Building Technical Skills in Nigeria

Training and Conference Center, Ogere Remo, Nigeria

Dapo Omolade, Facility Manager

In 2005, this facility started with a contract with Chevron to develop the capacity for the operations and maintenance aspect of their business. This facility was set up to provide competence for Nigerians. Prior to this time, Nigerians had to travel out of Nigeria to gain competence to be able to work in the oil companies.

The Ogere training center provides operations and maintenance training to 95 students per year. The center is the first of its kind in the industry.

Dapo Omolade

Well, this room was built some two years ago, and it was built by some engineers from France to the specifications of a replica of what is on Agbami FPSO.

Ogere's simulation training center teaches workers to operate floating production, storage and offloading vessels.

Dapo Omolade

When this came on board, we realized that in the whole of Africa there is nothing like this. There are others that are smaller but not in this size, in this quality. This is the biggest that you have in Africa today.

So what we do here is get them to understand the safety implication of every step when they are doing their job. So when they get to the field they understand, "If I turn this valve this way or this way, this is the outcome." And you can't do that in the field. Automatically, that helps to improve safety on the facility that they operate, which is a live facility.

It's very important that Nigerians are trained to be able to do the job in Nigeria because that gives them ownership of the whole system. It becomes part of them, and they accept that responsibility that, "OK, this business is in Nigeria and is for us. So we can now do everything that we need to do to make sure the business succeeds." And, of course, the effect of that is that later on, they can step into a position of leadership.

I've been in this project from the start, and that gives me an opportunity to see what has happened. To Chevron, almost 400 Nigerians have been trained in this business, working now in the field. And these are all Nigerians – Nigerians from different walks of life, Nigerians from different backgrounds. And that is very remarkable because when you look at the number of people that work in the oil system in Nigeria and you look at the competent and the semi-skilled worker, they understand that Chevron has done very well to bring Nigerians to a place where they can develop their skill and competence so they can go to the field and do the job.

Graduates receive Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organization certification. They go to work for Chevron and other oil and gas companies.

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