



# NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATIONISTS

BLOCK 47A, FEMI OKUNNU HOUSING ESTATE, LEKKI/EPE EXPRESS WAY, LEKKI PENINSULA, LAGOS.  
P. M. B. 12598, MARINA, LAGOS, NIGERIA. TEL: (234)-1-3429082, 234-09092143198.  
E-mail: [info@nape.org.ng](mailto:info@nape.org.ng) Website: [www.nape.org.ng](http://www.nape.org.ng)

## COMMUNIQUE OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> NAPE - UAP LEADERSHIP FORUM HELD AT CASONI HOTEL, PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

MARCH 11- 13, 2022

The Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE), held its 15<sup>th</sup> NAPE-University Assistance Programme (UAP) Leadership Forum between Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 on the theme: ***Bridging the Industry-Academia Gap: Consolidating the Gains of the Past and Projecting into the Future*** at the **Casoni Hotel, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria**. The forum attended by over Eighty (80) professionals from the academia, petroleum industry, and government institutions deliberated extensively on the various ways of ***Bridging the Industry-Academia Gap*** and moving from ***“think-tank” to “do-tank”*** and came up with the following recommendations in creating succession plan opportunities and career paths for future geoscientists:

1. Digital Transformation: Digitization should be integrated into the University Curriculum, especially for teaching and learning Geoscience, as it is now the trend in the industry (Software, Hardware, Internet connectivity, Cloud infrastructure, etc.). In addition, innovation and digitization should cut across both geological and geophysical interpretation (E.g. Seismic and well Log with emphasis on fieldwork), which should also incorporate machine learning into our curriculum.
2. There should be a sustained collaborative effort between universities and industry to draft a course content on renewable energy for universities, as there is the need for academia to align their Research and Development (R&D) activities to suit industry needs. In addition, there should be continuous improvement/review of the academic curriculum to meet the industry needs of today and the future, especially in light of the energy transition to unlock new initiatives and drive change. University lecturers should focus on research and development, which will inculcate relevant skills and knowledge that would produce industry-ready students.
3. NAPE should encourage NOCs and IOCs to offer more internship and sabbatical opportunities for Nigerian Geoscience students and lecturers, respectively, to enhance knowledge transfer. In addition, NAPE should champion funding requests for Scholarships and R & D. NAPE should lead the campaign to develop a well-structured Internship Programme by NOCs and IOCs which is well designed and curated. Furthermore, there is a need to create some short-term industrial visits of 2 weeks to 3 months in addition to the already existing 6 months to 1-year opportunities and tying internship opportunities to Contracts Jobs.

4. There should be a creation of Centres of Excellence in various geopolitical zones in the country which will serve as geoscience research hubs in those zones
5. As Nigerian industries/companies are gradually taking over the oil and gas operations, the human capacity development should be improved upon and well-funded by stakeholders (industry, government, academia, and professional associations). NAPE should encourage experts/industry professionals to train students in the schools, hence transferring relevant skill sets to adapt to future demand. Industry staff (active or retired) should be encouraged to go to universities to bridge the gap. The universities should embrace the concept of visiting geosciences programs by NAPE. University needs to work closely with the industry in a mutual and symbiotic manner, where values are created on both sides.
6. Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) should collaborate with NAPE to enable data access for the academia for research and training. An example is having open-source data to be used by academia and having specific data for research. The Academia and Students should properly channel the request for data, if they need data from companies, they should go through the NUPRC for easy data accessibility. NUPRC should be the agency giving data directly to the Academia and not go through the companies. All data given for research should be properly georeferenced. Data older than 10 years should be made available in a dedicated digital location for easy access upon request. The data from fieldwork by universities should also be domiciled at the NUPRC.
7. NAPE to act as a Special Purpose Vehicle by providing a buddy system between industry professionals and academia. There is a need to re-engineer University-Industry collaboration in Research and Development, Current Trends, and Emerging Technologies to provide solutions to identified industry and societal challenges. The industry should assist academic institutions with industry tools so students can learn using state-of-the-art facilities.
8. There is a need to provide basic upstream geoscience and reservoir management and operations geology training platforms for internships with the intent of building local human capacity for national growth. Capability development via a detailed and resilient competence framework for the future as well as upskilling and reskilling of personnel needs to be put in place for easy adaptation to the changing business environment. We need to build a Nigerian society that will help ameliorate human capital flight and the national brain drain.
9. Improved funding to support academic research work through the endowment of professorial chairs, provision of research equipment, and support (for example, workstations and software licenses, etc) is advocated. Academic institutions should access the \$50m R&D fund from the Nigeria Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and other agencies for research and development, which adds value to Nigeria's Local Content.
10. Refresher programs for university lecturers are strongly encouraged. The need for training and retraining of younger career academics cannot be overemphasized. For example, there should be increased sponsorship for train-the-trainers programs and short courses.

11. The Basin Evaluation Competition, a hugely successful NAPE initiative, which promotes talent discovery in Academia, should be extended to all universities across the country with support from industry through the provision of basic facilities that are required.
12. NAPE mentoring circle should be sustained and extended beyond the Industry to Academia.
13. There is a need for universities and industries to collaborate on special projects that would add value to academia and industry by way of the Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) and Internship program where teamwork and business goals can be reached.

Breakout sessions of the forum discussed the essentials of the theme with an emphasis on:

- Geoscience Data Repository and Availability in Educational Sector
- Fixing the Students Internship Conundrum
- The role of digital Framework in Geoscience Studies and Fieldwork

The forum recommends that with all the above in place, the goal of Bridging the **Industry-Academia Gap** and creating succession plan opportunities in career paths for future geoscientists through well-structured sabbatical and internship programs is attainable. In addition, there is a need for the provision of good research data and a geoscience curriculum targeted to meet the demands of the industry, in order to close up the existing gap.



**Philip Ajaebili**  
University Assistance Programs Chair, NAPE



**Dr. James Edet FNAPE**  
President, NAPE