



# CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (CIPSS)

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI (FUAM)  
NOW KNOWN AS JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY,  
MAKURDI (JOSTUM)



**Excellence & Professionalism**

**VOL. 1, NUMBER 2**

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# BULLETIN

# From the Centre Leader & Director's Desk

It gives me great pleasure to write this note welcoming you to this issue of our bulletin. At this point in time, Nigeria, nay the world, is traversing challenging terrain. The natural tendency might be an increase in the degree of societal non-compliance, in man's attempt to keep the wolf from the door. The Sustainable Procurement Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project was launched to enable a positive re-engineering of our disposition in Nigeria, especially for a time like this. The JOSTUM SPESSE Centre of Excellence, code-named Centre for Innovation in Sustainable Procurement Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) seeks to do just that.

Project verification is a periodic quality assurance evaluation process employed to determine if a product, service or project component satisfies all the regulations or if it meets the organization's established specifications or standards. The World Bank verifies the SPESSE project biannually. The document in your hands chronicles two such verification exercises conducted in CIPESS: verification for the period July to December 2022 and January to June 2023.

Some of us had a phobia for soldiers right from childhood but in this volume, I can tell you for free that CIPESS has dared where others fear to tread by training soldiers – again in a synchronous double attack fashion. Not only did CIPESS train men and officers of the Nigerian Army College of Environmental Science & Technology (NACEST) at the NASME Barracks but she advanced to the Nigerian Army Special Forces Brigade in Makurdi and trained the combatant officers as well.

Caesar Romero is quoted to have said, “They say the camera never lies. It lies every day” with the advance of photoshopping technology in the 21st Century. However, I wager you will agree with me that our humble attempt at presenting to you what we do in pictures, is not a lie. To witness CIPESS training in photos at some of our training Centres across the North Central geopolitical zone, come along with me to CIPESS training at Abuja where you would see the Executive Secretary of TETFUND Arc Sunny S. T. Echono

and the Premier Director General of the Bureau of Public Procurement, Eng Dr Emeka Ezeh (both CIPESS facilitators, yes!), sharing their rich experience training our short course participants. On the way to Abuja, we take you through Lafia and Jos – enjoy the ride.

“...The Eagle has landed.” said Neil Armstrong in his second most famous quote (I bet you can guess the other one), when he landed on the moon some 50 years ago. With the commencement of Postgraduate programmes (PGD and MSc in the three thematic areas) in CIPESS on 17th April 2023, the eagle has indeed landed in JOSTUM, as one great task (a disbursement linked result or DLR) has thus been achieved. Search the document in your hands for details of this.

There's a saying that “One finger cannot kill a louse” – I reckon we don't have lice in our hair anymore, since the advent of the use of chemicals and heat styling. However, I insist that the proverb is still valid in project delivery. Collaboration is key in achievement of any Project Development Objective. So, from the visit of the Nigerian Red Cross to CIPESS to signing of the MoU between JOSTUM and FUTMinna, CIPESS breezed into Lokoja, Kogi State searching for second fingers to kill the louse. The moments are captured in photos.

So, we move on, one trainee at a time, one student at a time, one sector at a time, until our dream comes true, of achieving the SPESSE Project Development Objective through the whole of North Central Nigeria to the rest of the world.

With warm compliments of our amazingly supportive Vice-Chancellor, Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo, I wish you happy reading.

Thankyou.



**PROFESSOR LAMI A. NNAMONU, FICOM, FCSN**  
CENTER LEADER & DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (CIPESS)



# MANAGEMENT TEAM



**ENGR. PROF. ISAAC N. ITODO,**  
FNSE, FNIAE, FSES, FAEng, NPOM  
VC JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI



**PROF. LAMI A. NNAMONU,**  
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**PROF. A.A. NASWEM**  
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# WORLD BANK VERIFICATION EXERCISE: BINOMIAL OPTIMAL LIMITED COMMENDS CIPESS TEAM

An independent third-party verification agency of the World Bank- Binomial Optimal Limited has praised the team spirit of the management and support staff of the Center for innovation in Procurement, environmental and social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM)



**Prof. Emeke (2nd left) Presenting Verification Report to the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I. N. Itodo (Right)**

The leader, Binomial Optimal Limited, Professor Adenike Emeke gave the commendation on Thursday 20th July, 2023 at the Vice Chancellor's office while debriefing the VC Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Engr. Prof. I.N. Itodo following a four day intensive verification exercise conducted at the Center. Addressing the Vice Chancellor, Engr. Prof. I.N. Itodo, Prof. Adenike expressed gratitude on the warm reception given to her team by the management of the Center and urged them to keep up with the good team spirit. According to her, "There is a lot of synergy and a sense of duty and achievement purpose-driven spirit seen within the member of the Center and we are so glad". The leader of the team further urged the management

of the Center to continually document and share their success stories.

Professor Adenike Emeke who appreciated the management of the Center for providing the necessary tools needed for the verification exercise, however, emphasized the need to improve students' brochure, evaluation forms and provide a dedicated backup resource for the

Center's data. She again urged the Center management to organize a firsthand intensive training for all facilitators on the use of Learning Management system (LMS) devices, put more effort into having regional and international partners and to deliberately ensure that facilities at the Center are properly maintained.

Reacting, the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I. N Itodo thanked Prof. Adenike Emeke and her team for the thorough exercise and stated that,

CIPESS was the flagship of the University and he was elated by the excellent findings and report by the verification team. He assured that the University and the management of the Center



**Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I. N. Itodo and CIPESS Management Listing as Prof. Adenike Emeka Presents Verification Report**

would consider every bit of the observations to improve the activities of the center and keep it thriving.



# CIPESS BEGINS POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

**A**s part of activities to commence postgraduate programmes, the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) On Monday, 17th April 2023, held an orientation event for its first batch of Post Graduate Students in the field of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

marketplace. The Centre Leader assured all students of a friendly learning atmosphere, stating that procedures and measures have been put in place to safeguard the safety, well-being, and morality of both men and women.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CIPESS, Prof. S. A. Shomkegh while presenting on the topic "CIPESS Postgraduate

Programmes: Students Requirements," stated that, the project's goal was to produce pacesetters involved in change who will deliver best practices to Nigerians. He stressed that the certificates are critical since their usability, once obtained, will be unparalleled. He added that certification processes



**CIPESS Post Graduate Students receiving Lectures**

Speaking on the theme "This is CIPESS," Prof. Lami. A. Nnamonu, Centre Leader and Director CIPESS thanked the students for their hard work to be a part of the new programmes. According to her, it was also a privilege for the World Bank and the Center to have picked them as pioneers of this phase, given the knowledge and opportunities the programmes will provide, with the World Bank bearing a portion of the cost implications.

Professor Nnamonu consequently encouraged the students to take the programmes seriously and make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and not lose sight of the programme's main goal which is to transform them into trained professionals capable of competing favourably in the global



**CIPESS Post Graduate Students During Orientation Ceremony at the New Senate Chambers, FUAM**

are progressing and that every activity should be considered seriously.

Prof. Shomkegh, while encouraging the students to be bold for the next rigorous exercises, urged them to cultivate and preserve cordial relationships with one another in order to establish a liberal environment for teaching and learning.

# CIPESS SHORT COURSES: SPECIAL FORCES BRIGADE COMMANDER LAUDS PROGRAMME INITIATIVE

The Commander, 401 Special Forces Brigade, Makurdi, Brigadier General Al-Amin Rabiuh has lauded the initiative of the World Bank for instituting projects for the development of human capacity for betterment of the society.

Brigadier General Rabiuh gave the commendation on 3rd June, 2023 during short courses valedictory ceremony for officers and civilian staff of the command which held at the command's headquarters in Makurdi.



DCL, SS, Prof. A. A. Naswem(L) Presenting Certificate of Short Courses Participation to Commander 401 SFB, Brig. Gen. Al-Amin Rabiuh(R)

Delivering a speech during the valedictory event at the Conference Hall of 401 Special Forces Brigade, the Commander

thanked the Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Engr Prof. I. N. Itodo and the World Bank for making the programme available to officers and civilian staff of the command especially in the area of Social Standards. The Command boss said, "For the past three weeks, the facilitators have engrained in us the framework of social protection such as prevention, mitigation and coping strategies to protect basic livelihood and promote risk taking for a better society. The course has broadened our knowledge especially in gender awareness, counselling techniques, social inclusion and psychological first aid". He added.

Commander Rabiuh, who acknowledged to boarding a change agent's aircraft on behalf of the command, assured that the knowledge gained will be put to use in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as professional troops. He also sued for a long-term collaboration between the command and the university that will benefit both sides.

During a presentation on the theme "Drivers of Change", the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. S. A. Shomkegh praised the Commander and his team for their steadfast commitment and support, which contributed to the program's success. According to Professor Shomkegh, the Project Development Objective was to establish sustainable human capacity in managing procurement, environmental, and social standards in the public and commercial sectors in order to improve Nigeria.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, who urged trainees to maintain integrity, claimed that, as change agents, trainees were expected to commit to promoting best practices that would help to reduce instances of corruption and mismanagement in the public and private sectors. He asserted that the growth of the nation will happen only when people commit themselves saying, a positive change is possible through men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and posterity.

Earlier in a welcome address, the Center Leader and Director, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu, represented by the Deputy Center Leader, Social Standards, Professor A. A. Naswem on behalf of the Vice Chancellor JOSTUM expressed delight over the privilege accorded the Center by the Command to deliver the course. the Center Leader who acknowledged the effort and sacrifices of the military officers in keeping the country safe and united further expressed optimism that, the course will change everyday life of trainees. He added that the experience would place the trainees in a better position to deliver on various activities in the social sphere.

Delivering a vote of thanks, Major I. T. Isah appreciated CIPESS Management for a well-packaged and delivered course which left them better informed than they came.

Major Isah assured that the knowledge gained will be applied where needed for the benefit of the society.

# CIPESS IS ROOTED IN TRANSPARENCY: SAYS PROFESSOR NNAMONU

The Center Leader and Director, Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental Social Standards (CIPESS), Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM), Professor L.A. Nnamonu has reiterated the Center's commitment to continually uphold transparency in all activities connected to the Center.



**PROFESSOR LAMI A. NNAMONU**  
CENTER LEADER & DIRECTOR

Professor Nnamonu stated this recently during a bid opening ceremony held at the Center's boardroom.

Delivering a welcome address, the Center Leader and Director on behalf of the Center Management Committee heartily welcomed bidders and observers to the event and further asserted that in accordance with the World Bank guidelines, transparency was the watch word in every sphere of the Center. The Director on the other hand enjoined bidders and observers to spread the news of the Center's preparedness to commence Advanced Certificate Courses, Postgraduate Diplomas and Master of Science degrees in the fields of Procurement Standards, Environmental Standards and Social Standards.

Speaking before the bid opening exercise, the Procurement and Property Management Officer (PPMO), QS Ivambe Alexander explained that, submitted bids were either in soft or hard copies will be opened for the first time in the presence of all.

The high point of the occasion was the formal opening of submitted bids from Kojo Motor Nig. Ltd, RT Briscoe Nig. Plc. and Younes Nig. Ltd.

Reacting after the bid opening exercise, Dr Mhir Aii Iyenge of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and Tor Tseyina of Benue Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (BECCIMA) in their separate remarks commended the Center management for a transparent and fruitful exercise. Dr Aii Iyenge added that the manner in which the exercise was conducted clearly demonstrated that bids were not tampered with prior to the main ceremony and called on the center management to sustain the culture.

On her part, Emmanuella Ikomon of Angel Support Foundation lauded the center management for the hitch free exercise describing it as transparent and fruitful.

Delivering a vote of thanks, the Project Management Officer, Professor E.J. Ekefan commended the observers for their meaningful observations and



**Center Management, Bidders and Observers During Bid Opening Exercise at CIPESS Boardroom**

pieces of information aimed at guiding the center management to take informed decisions for the attainment of set goals. Professor Ekefan added that comments and observations made will be used to derive best results.

# OUR STORY IN PICTURES



**CL&D, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu Making a Presentation During Short Course Orientation Ceremony at 401 Special Forces Brigade**



**The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Arc. Sunny S. T. Echono Facilitating a Course at CIPESS Track B, Cohort 2 Training in Abuja**



**Prof. Emeke (2nd L) Debriefing the Vice Chancellor JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I. N. Itodo after Verification Exercise**



**CIPESS Project Management Officer, Prof. E. J. Ekefan (R) Presenting a Signed Copy of MoU to the Vice Chancellor FUTMinna, Prof. Adamu Faruk Kuta**



**CIPESS Post Graduate Students receiving Lectures**



**Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I. N. Itodo and CIPESS Management Listing as Prof. Adenike Emeke Presents Verification Report**



**SHORT COURSE GRADUATION  
JOS, PLATEAU STATE  
14th JUNE 2023**

**CIPESS Project Team with Procurement Standards short Course Graduating class in Jos, Plateau State**





# OUR STORY IN PICTURES



**Pioneer Director General, BPP, Engr. Dr. Emeka Muoma Ezeh Facilitating a Course During CIPESS Track B Cohort 2 Training in Abuja**



**Short Course Participants Receiving Lectures at Lafia Center**



**CIPESS Project Team with Procurement Standards Short Course Graduating Class in Jos, Plateau State.**



**The Lead Consultant, CIPESS Management and Participants During a Workshop on Grant Proposal Writing organized by the Center**



**Commander, Brigadier-General Al-Amin Rabiu & officers of 401 Special Forces Brigade, Makurdi at Valedictory Event of Track A CIPESS FUAM Training**



**CIPESS Post Graduate Students During Orientation Ceremony at the New Senate Chambers, FUAM**



**CIPESS Project Team with Social Standards Short Course Graduating Class in Jos, Plateau State.**



# OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Center Leader and Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (R), DCL, ES, Prof. R. Shaato (L) and Short Course Participant During Valedictory Ceremony in Jos



Some Short Course Graduates at NACEST Displaying Certificates



CIPESS Team Led by Center Leader and Director, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu (4th right) and the Commissioner for Women Affairs & Social Development, Kogi State, Hajjia Fatima Buba During a courtesy call



DVC Admin. & APC, PS, Prof. Mrs. C. D. Tuleun Addressing Short Course Participants During Orientation Ceremony in Lafia



Short Course Participants Receiving Lectures at Lafia Center



Center Leader and Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (3rd left), Academic Liason Officer, Dr. J. I. Ona (4th left) with NESREA Staff in Lokoja, Kogi State



CIPESS Project Team & Environmental Standards Short Course Graduating Class in Jos , Plateau State.



## WE WILL ENSURE A TRANSPARENT VERIFICATION EXERCISE: BINOMIAL OPTIMAL LIMITED ASSURES VC

An Independent Verification Agency - Binomial Optimal Limited sent by the World Bank to the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) has assured the Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Engr. Prof. I. N. Itodo of its resolve to conduct a transparent verification exercise devoid of compromise.

Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) won the bid for the North Central region.

According to her, to be sure that this project achieved its aim, an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) from the World Bank visited all the Centers of Excellence to verify their achievements and progress. She added that in preparation for this second round of verification, the team interfaced with all the six Centers of Excellence and conducted verification protocol, checklist and a workshop held with Center Leaders. Prof. Adenike maintained that, the verification exercise in CIPESS was not to witch hunt but to verify claims of the Center and ascertain their level of progress through a joint effort to ensure that the objectives of the project were achieved through synergy.



Team Leader, Binomial Optimal Limited, Professor Emeke Adenike Speaking During a Courtesy Call on the VC JOSTUM, Engr. Professor I.N. Itodo

The team leader of Binomial Optimal Limited, Professor Emeke Adenike stated this on 17th July, 2023 when the team paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor in his office.

Addressing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Emeke Adenike stated that the visit was to conduct a verification exercise on the activities of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards. Prof. Adenike explained that, the SPESSE project is a joint project of the World Bank and the National Universities Commission (NUC) which is aimed at checkmating the development of capacity in three thematic areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards respectively. The team leader added that, the project came about as a result of the need to domicile the three thematic areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards within Nigeria.

She said that, needs assessment was conducted and it gave a clear view of the demands of these thematic areas to be boosted and implemented and as such, Universities across the six geopolitical zones of the country were called to bid for the implementation of the project. Consequently, the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi presently known as Joseph

Prof. Emeke, further lauded JOSTUM and CIPESS remarking that, the Center is one of the SPESSE Centers that has demonstrated great passion and diligence as it is evident in their presentations and timely submission of reports. While commending CIPESS Management for their warm hospitality, the team leader assured the Vice Chancellor that a thorough verification exercise devoid of compromise will be conducted.



JOSTUM VC, Engr. Professor I.N. Itodo (3rd right), CIPESS Management and Binomial Optimal Limited

Responding, The Vice Chancellor JOSTUM, Engr. Prof. I. N. Itodo appreciated CIPESS Management for the work so far and on the other hand assured the Binomial Optimal Limited team of his unreserved support for the course. He called on the verification team to draw his attention to any lapse(s) they may observe in the course of their assignment.

## CIPESS TRAINS JOSTUM STAFF ON GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING

**C**enter for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS) On Wednesday, April 12, 2023, organized a three-day course on Grant Proposal Writing for nominated personnel of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM). The three-day programme, held at Precious Event Center in Makurdi, drew participants chosen on merit from colleges and directorates of the University.

skill to deliver on the assignment, also encouraged participants to make the most of the opportunity to learn and share skills for the long-term benefit of the University and society at large.

In his welcome remarks, Dr C.O. Eche, Chairman of the Conferences, Workshops, and Retreats Committee, thanked the Lead Consultant and Facilitator, Dr Barnabas Ikyo, for accepting the duty of training University workers in the area. Dr Eche, while congratulating the participants on their willingness to participate in the training, urged them to conduct themselves correctly and cooperate fully to ensure the workshop's success.

Dr Barnabas A. Ikyo of the Centre of Excellence for Food Technology and Research (CEFTER), Benue State University, Makurdi, on his part, thanked CIPESS



**DCL SS, Prof. A.A. Naswem(L) & CL&D, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu(R) During Grant Proposal Writing Workshop**

Declaring the workshop open, Professor L.A. Nnamonu, Center Leader and Director, CIPESS, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor I.N. Itodo, congratulated participants on making the list and praised Deans and Directors of the University for the credible selection process that brought forth young minds for the training.

Professor Nnamonu, who rated the Lead Consultant and Facilitator, Dr Barnabas Ikyo, as a champion with the necessary knowledge and



**The Lead Consultant, CIPESS Management and Participant During a Workshop on Grant Proposal Writing Organised by the Center**

management for selecting him for the assignment. The CEFTER Director stated that he was delighted to share his knowledge and experience with participants on home soil and urged them to be generous in knowledge sharing as well as actively participate in order to achieve set goals of the workshop.



# THE CERTIFICATES YOU'VE OBTAINED CAN CHANGE YOUR LIVES: PROF. Nnamonu TELLS NACEST GRADUANDS

The Center Leader and Director, Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social standards (CIPESS), Professor L.A. Nnamonu has urged short course graduands of the Nigerian Army College of Environmental Science and Technology (NACEST) to treasure the certificates issued to them as they have the potential of changing their lives.

Professor L.A. Nnamonu who was represented by the Deputy Center Leader of Social Standards, Professor A.A. Naswem stated this on Saturday, 17th June, 2023 while delivering a goodwill message at the short courses valedictory ceremony held at NACEST Auditorium, Nigeria Army School of Military Engineering (NASME), Makurdi.



**Prof. A.A. Naswem(R) Presenting a Short Course Certificate to a Graduand at NACEST**

Delivering the welcome/goodwill message, the Center Leader on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Professor I.N. Itodo congratulated graduands for the feat and stated that, the three weeks intensive training was aimed at building human capacity in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social standards. Professor Naswem, while encouraging participants to hold their certificates in high regard, noted that the skills gained from the programme if properly applied where necessary will bring about a beneficial transformation in workplaces and society in general.

On his part, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor S.A. Shomkegh while delivering a lecture on the theme "Drivers of Change" asserted that, as change agents, participants were expected to contribute to reducing incidences of corruption and mismanagement of public resources, believe in equality, diversity, and inclusion of human beings and, commit themselves to providing mentorship to

young professional. Professor Shomkegh encouraged graduates to constantly speak up for what is right regardless of the cost noting that, "a positive change is possible through men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and prosperity". He also encouraged participants and their families to enrol for the other course options offered by the Center in order to develop the necessary human ability for the benefit of society.

During the valedictory speech session, the class representatives of Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards, Chidinma Nwafor, Adaji Zakari, and Chilun Stephen, respectively in separate remarks expressed gratitude to the World Bank, CIPESS and NACEST management for the opportunity to participate in the training. The class reps claimed that the training was timely and that they were better informed and committed to applying the knowledge gained where and when it was needed. Chidinma Nwafor said, the three weeks exercise was enjoyable and beneficial. She further challenged participants to stay committed to doing right in the face of adversity in order to maintain the Change Agents' status.

In a vote of thanks, the Registrar of the Nigerian Army College of Environmental Science and Technology, Lt. Col. O.S. Job, who doubled as a participant, stated that, they were better informed and inspired about developing sustainable capacity in managing procurement, environmental and social aspects in the public and private sectors in Nigeria. The registrar also thanked the World Bank for the initiative, CIPESS Management for effective course delivery, and the College's Rector, Maj. Gen. U.N. Babangida for constantly supporting and motivating them to strive for excellence. He emphasized that the knowledge gained will improve their ability to carry out the college's mandate which is to train mid-level skill manpower with the required technical and vocational skills at national diploma and higher national diploma levels, respectively.

# NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY SEEKS COLLABORATION WITH CIPESS

The Nigerian Red Cross Society, Benue State Branch has expressed its willingness to collaborate with the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) to build human capacity for the mutual benefit of all.

crucial in easing human suffering triggered by crises through the supply of basic utilities, therefore, complementing the government's effort. According to him, collaborating with the Center will benefit both sides as the society will also provide relevant programmes for both Center personnel and trainees.



**Team Leader, Anthony Abah(L) Addressing Representative of the Center Leader, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh(M) while Dr. F.I. Igbaheba Listens**

Responding, the Center Leader and Director, CIPESS, Professor L.A. Nnamonu, represented by the Monitoring and evaluation Officer, Professor S.A. Shomkegh commended the team for their visit and stated that the Center was open to such collaborations in

Anthony Abah disclosed this on Wednesday, 14th June, 2023, when a delegation from the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Benue State Branch paid a courtesy visit on the Center.

order to assist groups and organizations in realizing their goals. Professor Shomkegh stated that the Center has relevant courses on hand that will benefit the society's personnel and volunteers. The Center Leader, who urged the Society to remain committed to their

While applauding CIPESS' effort in building human capacity in Benue State and beyond, Anthony Abah who led the team stated that, the team was at the Center to seek and strengthen collaboration that will facilitate capacity building of society staff and volunteers in relevant areas. Mr Abah stated that the Benue State Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society has been



**Members of CIPESS Management and Nigerian Red Cross Team During the Courtesy Visit**

mission, stated that the process leading to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Center and the Society will begin forthwith for the benefit of all.

## CIPESS: WHERE WE ARE

In our previous outing, we substantially reminisced the journey of Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) to an expectant extent. However, as a Center obligated to build sustainable human capacity through training, professionalisation and research in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards, work is in steady progress and the Center is consistently breaking grounds and achieving milestones in line with its mission and mandate.

As the hub for professional training in North Central Nigeria, CIPESS has progressively concluded arrangements for the establishment of more study Centers in Kogi, Kwara and Niger State of the North Central region. This is in addition to the already established and operated Centers in Benue, Nasarawa, Abuja and Plateau State. The take-off of study Centers in Kogi, Kwara and Niger State is eminent because arrangements are at an advanced stage as the Center has carried out facility assessment, signed Memoranda of Understanding, facilitated stakeholders' engagement, and conducted Training of Trainers exercises in the states.

To ensure continuous human capacity development in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards through training and professionalization, the Center on 17th July, 2023 simultaneously launched yet another short courses training in Lafia and Keffi both in Nasarawa State. Participants enrolled for training in these study centers would soon be issued certificates of participation.

Within the period under review, CIPESS has had its second phase of independent third-party verification exercise featuring the Center's activities from June, 2022 to June, 2023. The verification exercise which is a biannual routine of the World Bank was aimed at verifying activities and claims of the Center. Indeed, the exercise which lasted for more than four days was obviously worthwhile as the Center received unreserved commendations from the Binomial Optimal Limited team sent by the World Bank for the exercise.

Even as the Center await the result of the verification exercise from the World Bank, the prospects of standing out among the other Centers of Excellence are glaring as one weighs the achievements recorded within this period and the volume of data presented to the verification agency of the World Bank.



**UCHE MICHAEL AONDOHEMBA**  
Communications Officer



# SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS ENHANCEMENT (SPESSE) PROJECT



## SPESSE




### MISSION

To produce a critical mass of highly skilled and fit-for-purpose professionals in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards for sustainable development.

### VISION

To be a Dynamic Regional Hub for Expert Training and Research in Public Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Based on Global Best Practices

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