

# Expert tasks Chemical Engineers on Revival of Manufacturing Industry

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*The chemical engineer in Nigeria needs to venture into industrial project design, construction and management so as to re-awaken the broken down manufacturing industry, according to a seasoned chemical engineer Monday Irenea.*

He posed the task to chemical engineers recently, while delivering a lecture as Guest Speaker at the Town and Gown Seminar of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Covenant University. Engr. Irenea, who spoke on the topic 'Industrial Effluent Treatment and the Vital Role of the Chemical Engineer', emphasised that venturing into industrial project design, construction and management so as to re-awaken the broken down manufacturing industry would, however, be anchored on the understanding of production processes and the resultant effluent generated.



Engr. Monday Irenea, delivering his lecture at the Town and Gown Seminar of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Covenant University.

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While defining a chemical engineer as that individual who had gone through specific formal training in an acceptable institution, thereby licensed to carry out chemical engineering works, Engr. Irenea, who is the Technical Director, Omisej Nigeria Limited, stated that an industry referred to a compressive system where basic processes were joined together in macro scale to achieve mass production, while industrial effluent was wastewater generated within an industrial complex.

He noted that effluent treatment had become necessary because industrial activities, which had resulted in the production of valuable goods for man's benefit, had also produced waste water that contained harmful components to man and could have adverse effect on the environment. He also stated that the effluent treatment plant aimed to reduce the concentration of chemical/biological parameters in industrial effluent to be below or same threshold of the receiving body in the environment or as specified by regulatory bodies.

Engr. Irenea highlighted the stages in effluent treatment as Treatment Process Determination, Equipment Identification/Selection, Equipment Design, Cost Determination/Approval, Fabrication and Installation, and Test-running/Commissioning.

While stating the roles of a chemical engineer in industrial effluent treatment, the Guest Speaker explained that the chemical engineer understood the function of each of the units and how they interrelated in operation, selection and chemical compatibility; the chemical engineer, alone within the engineering profession, could determine the optimum reaction conditions and chemical combination for the desired reaction kinetics as they interphase within the reaction processes; and the chemical engineer understood pollution threshold and which chemical or industrial process on macro scale could be used to mitigate the limiting threshold amongst others.

The Head, Department of Chemical Engineering, Dr Augustine Ayeni, had in his welcome address enjoined students to pay attention to the Guest Speaker so as to enrich their knowledge of what obtained in the industry. Also at the seminar were faculty and staff of the Department.

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