

Oriental-Afren Partnership Empowers 60 Youths in Akwa Ibom

Uyo, 8 April 2013 – Sixty youths from the Mbo Local Council of Akwa Ibom State, who were trained by the Oriental Energy Resources-Afren Resources Partnership, were given N200,000 each to enable them to open their shops and workshops.

In addition to their grant, these youths will be sent to the University of Uyo [UNIUYO] for one month training on how to market their products and services. Each student will receive a stipend of N120,000 to help cover the costs of the training.

These incentives were revealed by the Managers, Community Affairs and Government Relations, Mr. Blessing Okopbo and Mr. Anslem Okere during the graduation ceremony of the 60 youths in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State Capital.

The Oriental-Afren Partnership has promised the beneficiaries continuous support and advice as they open their shops and workshops. For those who successfully open their businesses, an additional N200,000 will be paid to them as an incentive to help them through their start-up process.

The 60 graduates were trained in various skills including computer science, welding and fabrication, tailoring, hat making, and hair dressing to name a few.

The Oriental-Afren Partnership, in addition to the skill acquisition program, gives youths from the area scholarships valued at N100,000 to 50 students every year. The Partnership is also building a modern youth development center in Mbo that will introduce the area youths to a variety of fields of endeavor.

These investments are part of the Oriental-Afren Partnership's effort at building human capacity from its host communities.

The Akwa Ibom State State Government has commended the management of Oriental and Afren for providing these opportunities to its youths.

According to the Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Eunice Thomas, the Oriental-Afren Partnership is carrying out these projects as part of its corporate responsibility, saying that, what the Partnership has done is in line with the objectives of the State Government, which places emphasis on the development of skills and training of its youths for empowerment purposes.

The Commissioner, who was represented by Mrs. Tessy Ntekpo, noted that the efforts of the Oriental-Afren Partnership would help create wealth, reduce poverty, and place food on the tables of the beneficiaries.

