

***Oriental and Afren Work With University of Uyo to Bolster  
Petroleum and Chemical Engineering Department***

Lagos, Nigeria; 23 August 2012 –Oriental Energy Resources and Afren Nigeria, in collaboration with the University of Uyo, have formally announced that the University’s Department of Petroleum and Chemical Engineering has been fully reaccredited by the Nigerian University Commission and the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria.

The University of Uyo in Akwa Ibom State is a full-fledged University with 12 faculties that offer undergraduate degrees in 66 programmes; however, its Petroleum and Chemical Engineering department lost its full accreditation from the National University Commission in 2008 due to a lack of the educational infrastructure required to sustain accreditation.

Afren representatives, led by its chairman Egbert Imomoh, entered into discussions with the University’s representatives in January, 2010 in order to identify a programme through which the company could contribute to the revitalisation of the Petroleum and Chemical Engineering Department.

Following a series of meetings between Afren and Oriental Senior Management and the University of Uyo’s leadership, a decision was reached to commission Professor Ekwere Peters of the University of Texas in the United States of America to produce a detailed plan on the actions required to return the Department to its rightful status.

This report formed the basis of the programme of work driven by Afren and Oriental at the University and has included the provision of laboratory equipment, scientific journals and textbooks.

The Department, after going through the compulsory inspections carried out by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) respectively, has been granted full accreditation status by both bodies (NUC 2010 – 2015, COREN 2012 - 2017).

Alhaji Mohammed Indimi, the Executive Chairman/CEO of Oriental said: “I am delighted at the reaccreditation of the department and we are strongly committed to the communities in which we operate in. Together with our partner, Afren Nigeria, we will continue to work towards achieving our overall aim of a people-centred culture which enhances the conditions necessary for technical and business excellence”.

Speaking at the ceremony in Lagos, at the weekend, Imomoh said: "Afren was founded in order to bridge the gap that faces indigenous companies seeking to achieve production in the upstream sector. One of the core challenges faced by local companies is the lack of a large skilled pool of petroleum engineers and this initiative is designed to revitalise the Department of Petroleum and Chemical Engineering and re-establish it as a facility that can train the next generation of Nigerian engineers. In an area of Nigeria so rich in petroleum resources, it is vital that efforts are made to bolster students in that area's access to quality education and opportunities, and we are proud to be playing a part in making that hope a reality."