

Outcome
NIGERIA IIRSM BRANCH Meeting & Technical Dialogue on
Sustainability in the Workplace
-Advancing Occupational Safety & Health Through the Sustainability Framework
Friday August 31, 2018

In a welcome address, Mrs. Ronke Odeneye, an Exco Member of IIRSM Nigerian Branch and the Director, Environmental Services of the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment, who represented Dr. Eugene Itua, the IIRSM Nigeria Branch Chairman, encouraged the participants to appreciate the importance of sustainability and support IIRSM in this drive.

She pointed out that sustainability is a topic that continues to gain traction and attention as we all strive for growth that is balanced in terms of social, economic, and ecological terms. She pointed out that although there are many worker issues embedded within the concept of sustainability, it has been used in such a manner that tend to 'silo' it to 'the concepts of "environmental sustainability" and "socio-economic sustainability" rather than an integrated vision for sustainable outcomes.' She noted, for instance, that a singular 'focus on any one aspect of sustainability can result in unintended negative impacts (e.g., hazards to workers arising from improvements to reduce environmental impacts) or creating tension between goals (e.g., labor/environment).'

Thus she enjoined all to think out of the box especially, students in the area of research to address issues bordering on sustainability in the work place.

Engr. Jamiu Badmos, the Founding Partner of Finsbury Heinz Limited, who moderated that session challenged everyone on the need to be ambassador of sustainability. He also told the participants the benefit of sustainability in safeguarding not only the health and safety of workers at work place, but the Environment, the Economy and even Governance.

The Technical presentations for the day were done by Cadbury West Africa HSE Manager, Engr. Bolaji Oyewo and the MTN SHE Manager, Mr. Fyran Mbata. In his paper titled Sustainability at Workplace – Advancing Occupational Safety and Health Through The Sustainability Framework, Engr. Bolaji Oyewo recommended that everyone has the responsibility to ensure that our activities do not impact negatively on the Environment, Society and the Economy. He told the gathering that before this present dispensation, environment had been relegated to the background but with issues on sustainability, the need to be concerned about the environment has become paramount. He stressed the point that Sustainability speaks to many things such as energy and other materials. He provided some initiatives that Cadbury West Africa has carried out to drive sustainability, especially with regard to waste, amongst others. He concluded his presentation by

maintaining that Sustainability is about the continuity of our existence and Sustainability speaks to the future.

The MTN SHE Manager, Mr. Fyran Mbata in his contribution emphasized that Sustainability is about balancing our needs and activities with the constraint of the planetary boundaries. He pointed out that all stakeholders (whether internal or external) are at risk and all must be carried along when considering activities that bear on environment, social and economic issues. He maintained that occupational health and safety issues must not be left out in attempt to ensure the balance. He told that gathering that in driving sustainability there are many conflicting goals such as; quality, safety, deliveries, cost, environment, workplace relations but we must not lose focus of the main goal. We must be proactive.

In conclusion, Mr. Fyran Mbata encouraged each organisation to decide area of focus as Sustainability is very broad. He mentioned the sustainability initiatives that MTN is driving; such as cutting down the use of diesel and embracing renewable energy initiatives as well as office waste management activities.

The 47 persons in attendance collectively agreed on the following Action Points as necessary for all relevant stakeholders to ***Advance Occupational Safety & Health through the Sustainability Framework:***

1. That there is connection between sustainability and Occupational Safety and Health.
2. That the sustainability framework should be used to advance occupational safety and health in the workplace in addition to seeing sustainability from the traditional environment, social and economic sense
3. That the potential actions for leveraging sustainability in advancing workers' Occupational safety and health is great and enormous.
4. That the use of sustainability framework to advance OSH in the workplace increase corporate morality, motivate employees, higher productivity, more quality, better company image, and better production costs
5. There is need to fully articulate and integrate within sustainability framework occupational safety and health
6. That IIRSM provides a platform for driving the agenda in creating and reframing approaches to protecting workers through sustainability framework that encourages innovation and winning new opportunities for green growth

Eugene O. Itua, *Ph.D*
IIRSM Nigeria Branch Chairman