

Communique issued at the end of the 12th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nigeria Association of Hydrological Sciences (NAHS), tagged ‘Port Harcourt 2022’ held @ the Bankers Hall, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt

The 12th Annual International Conference of the Nigeria Association of Hydrological Sciences (NAHS), held on 11th & 12th October, 2022 at the CIBN Bankers Hall, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The theme of the Conference was **‘Climate Change: Issues and Challenges for Sustainable Water Management in Nigeria’**

The Panel of discussants included experts in the fields of hydrology, hydrography, and water resources management. Policy makers, academia, government agencies and parastatals, training and research institutions, private sector operators, civil society and the general public also participated.

At the end of the brainstorming sessions, the following observations were made and some recommendations became imperative.

Observations

1. That the proportion of water entering Nigeria through the Niger and Benue Rivers is less than 25% of the total surface water generated in the country and that the larger proportion of water causing flood along the Niger and Benue flood plains is generated from within the system in Nigeria. Therefore, there is huge amount of water resources being wasted that can be harnessed for sustainable development.
2. That a high proportion of the surface water is lost to the Atlantic Ocean, could be harnessed for economic use. The excess water which is not harnessed has devastating effect on life and properties.
3. That perennial flooding of cities and plains and resulting huge damages to properties and even loss of life is worrisome. Major contributory factors are lack of reservoirs for attenuating peak flows; siltation in rivers, creeks, as well as inappropriate development on flood plains.
4. Lack of adequate urban drainage systems and integrated functional sewerage in both urban and rural areas is a national challenge. There is need to deeply reflect on the design and implementation of such solutions.
5. That population increase and urbanization impact water demand, water quality and sanitation and fast out-pace the rate of infrastructural development in the water sector
6. Meeting future water demand given the threats to water resources posed by climate change will require significant improvements to water resources development and management.

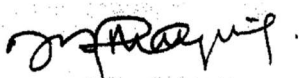
This will require significant investments to support capacity building initiatives using regional and national institutions.

Recommendations

1. Government should prioritize the development of water resources infrastructure such as dams and levees especially on Benue River and its tributaries.
2. There is a need to promote interdisciplinary co-operation, inter-agency collaboration and partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations regarding sanitation, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience systems.
3. There is need for the establishment of adequate monitoring stations for data gathering in each of the Eight Hydrological Areas including the Niger Delta which hitherto had no single monitoring station.
4. Periodic desilting of reservoirs and dredging of rivers and water ways across the country is vital and necessary.
5. That government through the appropriate agencies should enforce rules and policies addressing development on flood plains and waterways.

Appreciation

The Conference wishes to express its profound gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Chief (Barr.) Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, CON; POS-Africa and the Vice-Chancellor, Rivers State University, Professor Nlerum S. Okogbule for their hospitality and immense support during the Conference.



Prof. O. D. Jimoh FNAHS
President



Dr. G. T. Amangabara
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