

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (I.E.T.), GHANA

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL ADDRESS

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‘A CALL TO GREATER PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCELERATED GROWTH’

PREAMBLE

Engr. Chairman, Members of the I.E.T. Council (previous and incoming), Distinguished Guests, Colleague I.E.T. Members, Members of the Media herein gathered, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I stand before you this morning, humbled at the thought of leading all of us for the two years; excited that we have an opportunity to do new things that would propel us to that ideal we’ve all been dreaming of for years; and yet confident that with the overwhelming vote of confidence reposed in me in November 2016, we shall join hands for a grand take-off.

INTRODUCTION

I.E.T. was established some thirty years ago by a group made up of various classes of engineering and technology professionals who were bound together by a commitment for more dividend in their professional and career development. It has over these thirty years been preoccupied with the attainment of these. Standing here this morning, I want to salute all foundation members of the then Ghana Institution of Technician Engineers which later metamorphosed into the Ghana Institution of Incorporated Engineers before assuming the name IET. They indeed laboured very hard for the establishment to be made complete before some of us even joined and it is only fitting to acknowledge those efforts. It is now the time for us as currently active members to pick up the challenge and ensure that the institution’s growth continue.

I will also use this occasion to thank all members of I.E.T. for offering me the opportunity to serve you as President.

Standing before you, I am aware that expectations are very high. In spite of that, I make no heavy pledges except to require your total support for this two-year non-renewable mandate and declare that I shall not disappoint you.

I remember vividly how one of our foundation members and a past President called me up after my election last year. What was it about? Beyond the initial congratulations and all, he reminded

me that I was going to be the first non-foundation member of this institution to become President of I.E.T. That secondly, I was the first person to assume office of President at an age below forty-five. When we were done, I told myself that, being the first non-foundation member to become President was a great opportunity to review the way we have been doing things for accelerated maximum output without any deviation from the ultimate objective. Again, being a relatively younger President comes with it the advantage of increased vigor, speed, momentum and diversity.

THE ISSUES

Over the last year since my November 2016 election, I have been inundated with calls and discussions from members regarding challenges they believe have to be addressed if I.E.T. has to move in the manner we all envisage. These have included but not limited to:

- 1) Suitability of short courses, seminars and workshops organized for members,
- 2) Challenges in the membership progression from one class to the other,
- 3) Low public visibility of I.E.T. and communication with and from the Secretariat,
- 4) Slow response rate to issues of career challenges affecting members within the various workplaces.

DEALING WITH THE ISSUES

Over the next two years, by the grace of God, I shall work actively with the Council and your good selves to ensure that these and others not mentioned are addressed through the following priority areas.

Required Partnership

I.E.T. has had a long tortuous history which began with the bulk of its members coming from the public utility sector. Thirty years down the line, the bulk of our members are now from the public utility and Local Government Service with a third chunk from the private sector. The working arrangements of the service organizations within these sectors vary from one entity to the other, and over time has appeared not to have inured completely to the benefit of I.E.T. members. The new Council shall seek to engage the key stakeholders in these sectors to ensure that our members are able to obtain the full benefit of their membership vis-à-vis their employment, Continuous Professional Development programmes, progression, etc.

In the last couple of years, our membership spread has covered every nook and cranny of the country, thus making I.E.T. not just a national body in name but indeed. We shall therefore do whatever will help in taking the institution to the doorstep of members. We'd also make serious

efforts at re-visiting matters such as the allocation and usage of membership professional stamps and issuance of identity cards.

Call to effective partnership between leadership and members

The institution will be made to run in a manner as shall be absolutely consistent with both the spirit and the letter of our Constitution. The institution, under my watch, shall endeavor to put at the disposal of members everything required to enable them be truly professional irrespective of their classes and levels. For that to happen however, both leadership and membership shall have to sign up to that partnership where leadership through the Council shall truly lead with policies, programmes, directives and supervision within the framework of our Constitution, while members shall be required to ensure strict adherence to their responsibilities i.e. the payment of our subscriptions by a certain time, improvement in the participation of Continuous Professional Development programmes as shall be held among others. If I.E.T. is to meet the upcoming challenges of a post-modern professional institution, this is a partnership that should not just happen but must be made to happen and soon.

Enhancing Professionalism through the Engineering Divisions

I.E.T. is a professional institution with a Constitution that makes room for the various professional divisions to operate in ways that would inure to the advancement of their careers as well as effectively contribute towards the national development agenda. Somehow this has always remained moot in the Constitution. Efforts shall be made to re-classify the various classes as pertain in I.E.T. after which these engineering divisions shall be properly established and nurtured towards growth.

Collaborative Partnership with Sister Institutions

Together with the next Council, I.E.T. shall endeavor to build the effective collaborative bridges with as many like-minded professional institutions locally as shall be required to enhance its objectives. Externally, we shall explore the possibility of establishing similar relationships sister institutions as was the case some years back.

Enhancing our role on the Engineering Council

Within the Engineering Council, I.E.T. shall continue to be an actively responsible body within the Engineering Council, ensuring that engineering and technology practitioners operating under its ambit continue to do so with the highest possible standards of professional engineering and technology practice. This, we shall undertake, with much stricter adherence to the I.E.T.'s Code of Professional Practice on members while tightening our scrutiny in the admission process for new members and upgrading of current members.

Strengthening the Secretariat's role

The institution's Secretariat has over time been the vanguard of our operations. Relatively small as the physical structure of the facility appears, we would continue to work towards the enhancement of the working environment in the Secretariat as well as improvement in the efficiency of the operations of same, using enhanced ICT tools, modern techniques, etc all in a bid to re-position the Secretariat as a critical fulcrum around which all operations evolve. This would be geared towards its responsibility to members through an enhanced flow in communications and other support services.

Improvement in our Communications

Over the last decade or so, this institution has admitted members who live and ply their profession in all manner of places across the country. It is therefore imperative that leadership takes the appropriate steps to ensure that irrespective of wherever they are in and out of Ghana, members are able to effectively communicate with the institution, obtain documents and information as required and generally be able to learn. To this end, efforts shall be made towards making the website and social media platforms much more user-friendly and relevant while exploiting the use of newer systems such as the Webinar.

Encouraging ourselves

In line with Clause ii of Article 3(A) of our I.E.T. Constitution, I have consulted with my two Vice Presidents and together, we have drafted a Two-Year Strategic Plan as well as the 2018 Annual Plan incorporating the issues as raised above and more. These will form the basis for our 2018 Annual Programme. All of these would be tabled at our maiden Council Meeting and implementation rolled out, once they are approved.

Indeed, the task confronting I.E.T. is enormous and we would all need to properly join forces to slay this giant before us. On my part, I am fully persuaded that nothing can hinder us from achieving the lofty ideals that our forebears set for us and which we all continually re-echo. I want all of us to constantly avert our minds to Genesis 11:6, in which story it took the oneness of purpose of the Israelites to achieve their goal of building the Tower of Babel, even at a time when every other position of strength had been withdrawn. With that same tenacity of purpose, we shall take I.E.T. to its pride of place.

Acknowledging the role of previous Leadership

We have all been treated to the popular maxim: *"A nation that does not honour its heroes isn't worth dying for"* and as I wind up, I would want to salute the outgoing Council under the

leadership of the President, Engr. Emmanuel Boadu. We appreciate the difficulties they had to go through including that tragic accident that took our President off the scene for some months. The love for the institution was their motivation and they are here today, having successfully served out their mandate.

When I joined I.E.T. in the year 2000, I was caught up by the enthusiasm of Engr. Kwaku Ofori-Bruku who subsequently became the President and so greatly inspired me. I had the opportunity of serving on a few Committees during his presidency. When I got elected last year, he was full of hope for my presidency but alas fate did not enable him to see this day. May his gentle soul and that of all others who preceded him continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord!

In 2011, I was elected to serve as Vice Chairman for the Southern Sector with Engr. Anthony Laweh as Chairman. Indeed, Engr. Laweh created so much space to enable me improve my leadership potential that he vehemently questioned my decision not to contest for leadership in 2014 when the next election was up. Indeed, God knows best and the right timing is here. Same goes for Rev. Engr. Dr. Eric Otinkorang Ankrah, also a past President. I am eternally grateful to both of them for their great encouragement and wise counsel, which we'd continue to require going forward.

CONCLUSION

To every member of the 2015-17 Council, God bless you for your labour of love. You may be off the Council for now but please note that you are certainly not retired as yet and we'd be falling on you for your continued assistance.

To you listening to me as a fellow wise man of this very noble institution, God bless you for your activism. Keep the suggestions coming in and let's join forces to get I.E.T. flying to its destination.

Long Live I.E.T.!

Long Live the professional practice of Engineering and Technology!

Long Live Ghana!

God bless us all!