

# **IMPORTANCE OF E-LIBRARY AND EVENT RESOURCE CENTRE IN AN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY**

## **Executive Summary:**

There has been a significant shift of emphasis from one writing material to another over the years. The format of library resources has also changed with the demand of time and the advances in technology through the ages. For example; stones and clay tablets gave way to papyrus and parchments, the use of paper as an information holding document brought a great leverage to the users of the ancient writing materials. Thus books became the dominant information material of notable value then. Till now, books still remain relevant. However because of the flexibility of use of electronic based information materials, books are gradually being replaced by electronic materials. Many libraries have transformed and are transforming their resources through digitization process from paper to electronic hence the need for the establishment of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association (PENGASSAN) E-library and Event Resource Centre (EERC) is an essential evolution in the Oil and Gas Industry in Nigeria.

Among the key promises of the current President of PENGASSAN, Comrade Francis Olabode Johnson, as contained in his election manifesto includes the establishment of Digital Libraries and Event Resource Centers in all its zonal locations across the length and breadth of the country. As part of the Association's commitment to sustain the importance the oil and gas sector has played on the economy and social development of the country, the leadership agreed to raise at least N1.5 billion for the construction of the Centres. Recall that since 1966 when crude oil was first struck in commercial quantities at Olobiri present day Bayelsa State and despite all promises and attempts no single edifice of such exists to service the needs for further research and studies on the activities, actions, and events of players in the industry.

Recall also, that PENGASSAN currently has Zonal offices located in Port Harcourt, Warri, Kaduna and Lagos which also has the national headquarter. The zones are administered by Chairman and Secretaries for efficient and effective coordination of activities.

The formal ground-breaking ceremony for the Port Harcourt zone was performed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 and when completed shall comprise of offices for the zonal secretariat, a well-equipped learning hall and a multi-purpose event hall with the capacity of over 200 persons which will also be an additional sources for revenue generation firstly for the zones and ultimately to the national level.

EERC in the Oil and Gas Industry is a vital part of the global modern systems of information storage and retrieval. People from all walks of life including business executives, government officials, scholars, researchers and scientists use E-library and Events Resources Centre for their business outreach, awareness campaign, research and development. In line with the trend, value and premium placed on e-learning and information dissemination has necessitated the upsurge in the establishment of e-Library and resource centres in most industries. Through this means, relevant information is kept on a portal through where staff, researchers, clients and other users access.

It is pertinent therefore, for the Oil and Gas Industry to continually gain new skills and knowledge for professional, personal development and success. PENGASSAN EERC is positioned to meet the upgraded and unprecedented advancement in ICT which is changing the mode of operations for the positive. It will provide information systems capable of providing access to a coherent collection of materials, most of which will be in digital format for easy access to multimedia, geo-spatial data, or numerical datasets amongst other relevant sources. It is important for creating better business competitiveness, jobs creation, investment opportunities, infrastructural improvements, global inclusion and participation as required by the 21<sup>st</sup> century businesses and entrepreneurship.

The centre will be shaped around the epicenter for a dynamic environmental and learning platform that will foster global participation in business. In the contemporary business world where knowledge and innovation are keys to competitive success, it is therefore, imperative for the Oil and Gas Industry to implement EERC to provide the necessary services and impetus on ICT to a growing population and to conform to international business competitiveness and standards.

## **Potential Benefits of E-Library and Events Resource Centre (EERC)**

- ✓ The centre will serve as internet café for sourcing relevant research materials for researchers of all categories in the industry.
- ✓ Optimize searches and library collections for research and education for development as well as professional services and practical applications.
- ✓ Give users easily access to e-resources and materials, regardless of location, language or formats.
- ✓ It will enhance information dissemination within the business environment.
- ✓ Create new opportunities for others who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to benefit maximally from ICT facilities.
- ✓ Enhance access to the holdings of e-libraries worldwide through automated catalogs.
- ✓ Promote access to both physical and digitized versions of scholarly articles and books.
- ✓ Empower researchers to convey a richer message through the use of multimedia and hypermedia technologies.
- ✓ Promote skills development programmes and work force initiatives for an enhanced e-learning and training facilitation

In addition, EERC will play a pivotal role in assisting the key-players and captains in the Oil and Gas Industry to define, develop and deliver programmes and also facilitate development in the industry. This will further enhance business opportunities that are in line with global practices. The center's immediate benefit shall focus on the creation of a better business competitiveness, job creation, investment opportunities, infrastructural improvements, global inclusion and participation within the information society process.

## **Conclusion:**

PENGASSAN E-library and Events Resource Centre will undoubtedly change the way information is generated, organized, stored and distributed and thus, serve as indispensable tools for learning and research about the activities/programmes of the Oil and Gas Industry. This is justifiable through the behavior of today's researcher in terms of information seeking.

Information seekers today seems to be comfortable with using a wide variety of sources for information such as internet search engines, e-print servers, web sites, full-text databases, electronic journals, and print resources. The relative amounts of use and enthusiasm for use vary, but most importantly today's users are mostly flexible and adaptable with the current digital trend.

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