

PRESIDENT'S 2019 NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

2018 was a massively successful year for us, and we owe it all to YOU!

Despite the socio-economical challenges in the country, we made positive impacts and this email is to thank you for your trust, dedication, determination and support in our various events, actions, capacity building programmes and campaigns during this year. Thank you!

With your help:

- We have successfully advocated for the introduction of a new reporting guidelines by the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE). Special thanks to the Centre for International Governance (CIGI), Canada for their support.
- The 4th Africa Conference themed "Advancing Sustainability Principles for National Development" was a huge success having now published a communique which will guide our advocacy work for 2019
- We have continued to provide industry leading consulting and training programmes to support our various advocacy campaigns and most importantly to support the private sector in building sustainable businesses. The implementation of the Nigerian Sustainable Banking Principles (NSBP) has helped institute global best practices in the banking sector. We await further developments with the introduction of the global banking principles which will further help align the sector with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. We have been very active in this space in 2018 and have a number of programmes already scheduled for 2019. Thank you for believing in us.
- Our Social Return on Investment (SROI) - Measuring Impact training programme has been specially designed in partnership with developmental workers and funding organisations to help assess intervention programmes and measure (sometimes in figures), positive impacts on social. This course is now available tuition free to the civil society organisations with appropriate affiliations.
- To continue our capacity building efforts in the area of social impact, we have included all certification courses categorised by our team to have direct

impact on social such as ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S), ISO 14001 Environmental Management, ISO 26000 Social Responsibility and ISO 9001 Quality Management. There are funding opportunities available for the civil society and developmental workers in this area as well.

- Other practice areas such as Site Audits and Sustainability Reporting will welcome some leading experts to the team as work resumes in 2019. They will help in providing cutting edge sustainability reporting to the private sector and serve the growing demand for social audit from our international partners.
- The NSE having introduced the sustainability guidelines for listed companies, our advocacy efforts for 2019 will now focus on getting the Nigerian Government to constitute the National Action Plan for the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UN GPBH) and the National legislation on Corporate Social Responsibility usually referred as the “CSR Bill”. For this, we are planning a number of side events at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on SDGs and similar forums in 2019.
- Finally, in line with goal 17 of the SDGs, we will step up our commitment to partnering with a number of organisations in the area of research, documentation and internet technology as well work with other CSR/Sustainability consultants to help introduce fair operating practices (particularly clause 6.6.5 of ISO 26000) which we believe, will be the greatest challenge for 2019 as the sustainability market gradually opens up.

Once more, on behalf of our Board of Directors, I say thank you for a fantastic 2018. Let’s do it again but much better in 2019.

Together, we will make Africa a better place to live and work!

Happy new and prosperous year!

Sincerely yours,

Eustace Onuegbu FIMC, CMC

President