Siemens Power Academy Lagos Partnered With the Lagos State Government in Youth Human Capacity Building

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The Siemens Power Academy in Lagos, Nigeria has recently partnered with Lagos State Government through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Lagos State Electricity Board (LSEB) under the flagship of Youth Energy Career Program [YECP].

The YECP includes 20 young graduates, who were selected from over 1,000 applicants after an aptitude test and series of interviews. It is a six-month-long dual training program at the Siemens Power Academy Lagos. The trainees will be equipped with the knowledge and competences in general electrical engineering, protection of electrical networks, Smart Grid technology, power distribution economics and financial grid, managing of power projects, and on the impacts of power.

As the most populated country in Africa (approximately 170 million inhabitants), Nigeria faces huge challenges, especially concerning youth unemployment. The objective of the YECP is to effectively train and empower young graduates and youth in general for employment in the Nigerian energy/power development market.

Electricity and power are not stable in Nigeria—this slows down a real take off of the country economy. To tackle this problem, the federal government of Nigeria has launched a reform program on power. The megalopolis Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) will be privatized in the medium term. Its almost 25,000 employees are either aging out of the workforce or not properly skilled. To drive the reform package successfully, the Nigerian power sector needs a lot of investment for sure, but also more skilled human capital. Siemens offers answers through innovation to the questions confronting the Nigerian society. The opening of a Siemens Power Academy in Lagos is a strategic milestone to the pioneering role Siemens intends to play in Nigeria. As mentioned by the Siemens Power Academy Lagos manager, Dipl.–Ing. Jean Aboude during the inauguration ceremony on April 4, 2012, “Siemens is happy to support Nigeria in the battle for sustainable skill development and human capacity building for the new Nigerian Power Sector.”

The Siemens Power Academy in Lagos was established in January 2011 as the local branch of Siemens Power Academy T&D. During its one year of existence, Siemens Power Academy Lagos has successfully conducted trainings on the following topics: Protection Engineering, Medium Voltage Equipment, Switching Devices and General Engineering, for the staff of PHCN. Almost 80 engineers from different departments were trained in our facility.

A significant achievement is the launch and implementation of a ten-day certification training program for professionals. Depending on the field, three to four courses in the same area of competence are grouped to form a curriculum (e.g. Protection, Medium Voltage Equipment, Substation Automation). Each participant is expected to undergo a test (theoretical and practical) at the end of the ten days. If the participant is successful in the test, a certificate of competence is awarded.

Siemens Power Academy Lagos works on offering training programs or packages tailored toward the exact needs of the Nigerian society. Specific curriculums for vocational and non-typical engineering training programs have also been developed. As a result, a three-day training package with the title “Power Issues in Nigeria for Bankers” was offered and successfully conducted for Access Bank.
The Siemens Power Academy Lagos is working on three strategic projects: the soon to be concluded agreements with the National Power Institution of Nigeria (NAPTIN), PHCN and replicating the agreement signed with Lagos in other Nigerian states.

Figure 1 - The YECP 20 Young Graduates