



M.Sc Students, UNIPORT and their lecturer, **Dr. Kayode Oduola**, in a group Photography with **Dr. Jossy Nkwocha**, the Plant Shift Superintendent (PSS) **Engr. Martins Chigbu** and other plant engineers during a study tour of Indorama Petrochemical plant

UNIPORT M.Sc Students on Study Tour of Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Plants

Nineteen aspiring chemical engineers who are currently undergoing M.Sc programme at the University of Port Harcourt's Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals participated in a one-day study tour of Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals plants on Wednesday, 12th October 2016.

The tour exposed the students to various units in the operations department including the Olefins, Polypropylene, Polyethylene and Power Plant, Utilities and Offsite (PPUO). The students were conducted round the plants by Engr. Martin Chigbu, Plant Shift Superintendent (PSS).

In each of the plants, there were engineers who took them on the practical workings of the individual plant's operations. They include: Engr. Eze Luke, Olefins Plant; Engr Charles Osuji, Polyethylene plant; Engr. Eugene Vole, Polypropylene plant; Christian Opusunji, Bagging warehouse, as well as Douglas Tonte, David Ukpong and Raymond Emah for PPUO.

The students were taught how IEPL gets Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) for cracking process using different catalysts to produce ethylene, which is used in producing polyethylene and

polypropylene resins. They were also taught the operations of other machines/equipment such as heat exchangers, furnaces, steam boilers, pumps, cooling towers, storage tanks, and distillation columns, among others.

After the plant tour, the students and the resource persons engaged in interactive session moderated by Dr Jossy Nkwocha, head of Corporate Communications. In his opening remarks, he said Indorama-Nigeria has continued to grant study and excursion tour to students as part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to help in molding the younger ones to achieve their career goals. Last year, 2015, a batch of 15 M.Sc students from the same UNIPORT Centre of Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals undertook 6-weeks Intensive Internship in the company.

Some of the students who spoke

to Impact magazine said they were indeed grateful to the company as the tour enriched them with good practical knowledge of various modern industrial machines and systems, especially the complex petrochemicals processes.

Said Jennifer Abang: "We visited four plants. It was a wonderful experience to see the practical aspect of polymer processes and technologies. The tour showed me the different aspects of chemical engineering; it showed me how precision and attention to details are very necessary for an aspiring chemical engineer."

Another student, Ugochimjereze Akujobi said the study tour has crystalized his view on some chemicals processes. "It was joy for me for a company of this magnitude to receive us and make its facilities available for us; it shows transparency and how much value it places on education of the younger generation. This tour acted as a bridge between the theoretical and the practical. I say thank you to Indorama!" he enthused.

In a vote of thanks, Dr Koyejo Oduola, Acting Director of the Center thanked the management for helping the students achieve their goals. He said they were indeed grateful for the synergy between the company and the university. He said the knowledge the students gained would help them in their endeavor as aspiring engineers.