

Preamble

The African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative (AFMESI), a pan-African, non-governmental organization (NGO) was established by like-minded individuals burdened by absolute lack of or inadequate sensitivity, political will, human capacity, infrastructure amongst other needs that will enable equitable use and protection of the marine environment in countries in the African continent. This disconnect manifests most especially in lack of updated national laws and regulations, accession to and/or implementation and enforcement of the provisions international instruments of intervention aimed at protecting the marine environment. As a means of ensuring sustainable utilisation of the African marine environment and making it fit for purpose, AFMESI seeks to achieve total sensitisation of people, organizations, groups, as well as, Governments.

Our annual Symposium platform was put in place as an opportunity to dialogue with Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, technocrats, NGOs, all other stakeholders across Africa and international partners to deliberate on the issues impeding the advancement of the African Blue Economy. AFMESI Symposia catalyse partnerships for the implementation of holistic solutions to identified issues. In 2015, AFMESI held the inaugural Symposium themed, *Ocean Noise*, to raise awareness and share knowledge on the significant issues that can be attributed to Ocean Noise such as loss of biodiversity. In recent developments, Ocean Networks Canada, University of Victoria, Canada chose AFMESI as a partner to facilitate Marine Acoustics Detection training for young Africans. The

achievements of the resolutions from the 2nd Symposium titled, *Marine Pollution Prevention and Control towards Blue Economy* led to greater than a double increase in AFMESI's partnerships and impacts, as well as, the launch of a Strategic Action Plan (2021 – 2025). By way of this report, the AFMESI Office is pleased to share details and key points from the third and just concluded Symposium, *African Blue World: Which Way to go?*

3rd Symposium: Introduction

The 3rd Symposium of AFMESI was a global event that took place on October 7, 2021 via physical and virtual (livestream) platforms. The in-person event was held at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel, Oniru annex, Victoria Island, Lagos State, Nigeria. COVID-19 precautionary measures were observed.

The broad theme of the event (*African Blue World: Which Way to go?*), provided participants with the 'tool kit' for coastal African nations to become maritime hubs with thriving Blue Economy sectors, with extending benefits for their landlocked neighbours. A total of ninety-seven (97) individuals from various Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, NGOs and private organizations from across Africa participated.

Event Sponsors



Objectives of the 3rd Symposium

The objectives of the event were to:

- 1) Analyze deeply, the limitations and drawbacks hampering the development/practicalisation of the Blue Economy concept across Africa.
- 2) Develop strategies for the sustainable management, use, protection/restoration of Africa's marine resources using relevant regional and international conventions, as well as, the AFMESI Strategic Action Plan as key guiding instruments.

Delegates



The 3rd Symposium of AFMESI is so far historic as we recorded the largest number of participants compared to previous Symposia. Another history-making fact is that for the first time, there was political participation at an AFMESI Symposium. The event drew regional and international engagement. Participants also included civil servants in the maritime sector, ocean enthusiasts, consultants, politicians, scientists, maritime security personnel, private sector players and more.

Opening Session

The program started with the observance of the national Anthem of the federal republic of Nigeria, where the event physically took place.

Welcome Remarks by the Founder/President of AFMESI, Dr. Felicia Chinwe Mogo



Dr. Felicia Chinwe Mogo, the president of AFMESI, expressed appreciation to the sponsors of the 3rd Symposium and welcomed all participants to the event. She explained that AFMESI symposia serve as platforms for re-evaluating the marine environments of Africa, both in terms of potentials, stressors and recommendation of best strategies to the sustainable exploration of marine resources.

Dr. Mogo also highlighted the achievements of resolutions from the 2nd Symposium (*Marine Pollution Prevention and Control Towards Blue Economy*). Stating that AFMESI has continued to drive the resolutions to the appropriate parastatals and organizations. She added that a success-driven Blue Economy

framework is not just one that brings in economic benefit. It needs to also comprise of social accountability, equity and inclusiveness. Dr. Mogo shared that the 3rd Symposium marked a historical moment for AFMESI as in attendance were representatives of political officials whose positions are vital to the theme of the event. She mentioned that political participation is a key factor for the realization of marine environment sustainability and a sustainable Blue Economy agenda for Africa.

Tagging on to the theme of the event, *African Blue World: Which way to Go?*, she added that the 3rd Symposium was planned in such a way that it will be interactive with a panel session of professionals in the maritime, diplomatic corps and regulatory sectors, to be followed by a Q & A session. To end her welcome remarks, Dr. Mogo thanked all participants for their attendance and humbly encouraged everyone to pay attention to the deliberations as well as contribute meaningfully to the implementation processes.

Speech by the Executive Secretary of AFMESI, Ms. Chiamaka Mogo

The Executive Secretary of AFMESI, Ms. Chiamaka Mogo began her remarks by thanking participants for their presence. She also thanked sponsors for their support in enabling the 3rd Symposium to become a reality. She gave an overview of past Symposia as well as achievements that have resulted from them. Ms. Mogo shared that in the past one year, since the previous symposium, the partnerships of the AFMESI and the reach of the NGO's work have substantially increased. She shared that: the NGO is on the African Development Bank's, Nigeria Circular Economy Working Group; AFMESI has been consulted by the African Union Inter-African Bureau on Animal Resources in Kenya; the NGO has created a

partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner of Kenya to Nigeria (the current High Commissioner is a life patron of AFMESI);



AFMESI is a member of the Friends of the Gulf of Guinea G7++ group and provides strategic advice on promoting equity and awareness-creation for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, amongst several other achievements of the NGO.

Ms. Mogo encouraged African governments to develop the marine environment sectors, through funding in the areas of ocean science and technology, encouraging indigenous participation in shipping and promoting the engagement of women and young people in maritime.

The Executive Secretary of AFMESI informed participants that the 3rd symposium also entails the launching of the AFMESI Strategic Action Plan for 2021 - 2025.

She showcased a copy of the Action Plan and encouraged partnerships for the implementation of the document.

The Opening Remarks Delivered by His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON, the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Affairs



The opening remarks of the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio were delivered by his representative, Dr. Babayo Ardo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs. The Honourable Minister shared a snippet of his personal and cultural experiences growing up in the coastal Niger Delta region.

He highlighted that the diverse marine resources of the region are environmental and socio-economic treasures to a vast multitude of inhabitants. He stated all such benefits are now threatened by marine pollution, maritime security and uncontrolled exploitation of resources.

The Honourable Minister emphasized Africa's efforts to secure its position in the Blue Economy discourse and leverage economic benefits. He stated that the theme of this year's event was apt and serves as a sort of call-to-order for African nations and the African Union to induce steps to fine-tune our Blue Economy sectors. He highlighted in numerical values the multi-billion dollar revenue that the Blue Economy sector is poised to contribute if well harnessed, as well as numerous employment opportunities that the sector can create.

The Honourable Minister stated that his Ministry is keen to partner across the board to sector the environment and secure the economic prospects of the Blue Economy sector for Nigeria and Nigerians. He praised the AFMESI Team for the structure of the Symposium which he stated will help to fast track strategies and actions that will be helpful for the management of Nigeria's Blue Economy sector. The Minister expressed support for AFMESI and a willingness for his Ministry to partner with the NGO on a long-term basis. The Minister ended his remarks by declaring open, the 3rd Symposium of AFMESI.

Keynote Speech by the Honourable Minister of State for Transportation, Nigeria, Distinguished Senator Gbemisola Saraki

The Honourable Minister of State sent as her representative, a Deputy Director from Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Transportation – Mr. Ofie Adams. The Honourable Minister thanked the AFMESI Team for organizing the Symposium as a means of promoting education on the importance of environmental management and the Blue Economy concept.



She gave a background story on the global origin of the Blue Economy concept. She then added that the Blue Economy holds vast benefits for the African people in terms of improved standards of living and development of our nations.

The Honourable Minister expressed gratitude for the invitation and pledged the support of the Ministry of Transportation to the work of AFMESI, as part of efforts to ensure that the Blue Economy sectors of the continent are strengthened.

Goodwill Messages

Messages of Goodwill were delivered by several stakeholders:

Lekki Port LFTZ Enterprise Limited, Nigeria

Goodwill remarks of the Managing Director of Lekki Port LFTZ Enterprise Limited, Mr. Du Ruogang were delivered by the Chief Relationship Officer of Lekki Port LFTZ Enterprise Limited, Mrs. Adesuwa Ladoja. The Managing



Director praised the Founder/President of AFMESI, Dr. Felicia Chinwe Mogo for her dedication to the marine environment and the hard work coupled with a teamwork spirit that she has possessed even from her days as a top-level staff at NIMASA. In congratulating Dr. Mogo and the whole AFMESI Team on the Symposium, Mr. Ruogang also highlighted the efforts of the Executive Secretary of AFMESI, Ms. Chiamaka Mogo. In concluding, Mr. Ruogang expressed kind wishes for the event.

Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA)

The goodwill message of Honourable Onari Brown, the NPA Executive Director for Marine and Operations were delivered by a representative. Hon. Brown congratulated the president of AFMESI, Dr. Felicia Mogo and the entire AFMESI Team for organizing the 3rd Symposium.



In addition, he applauded the NGO's dedication to the cause of marine sustainability. He stated that NPA was pleased to support AFMESI for the 3rd Symposium. Hon. Brown added that NPA will continue to support the efforts of AFMESI through partnerships, to ensure that set goals and mandates are achieved.

Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG)

Mrs. Dolapo Kukoyi shared a goodwill message on behalf of NESG. She started by thanking the President of AFMESI, Dr. Mogo who is also a member of NESG and the Thematic Lead on Marine Ecosystem and Management, for her contributions to the Blue Economy sector. Mrs. Kukoyi highlighted the collaborative mandate of NESG and the think-tank's efforts in pushing the narrative of the Blue Economy being a viable agenda for Nigeria.



She expressed confidence that the deliberations from the Symposium will be of significant importance.

The Ocean Foundation, Washington, DC, USA

The President of the Ocean Foundation (Washington, DC, USA), Mark J. Spalding shared a virtual goodwill message on behalf of the organization. He stated that the Foundation being a globally-minded one was happy to provide support towards the 3rd Symposium of AFMESI. He added that the work of the NGO work is vital and the theme (*African Blue World: Which way to go?*), as well as, the sub-themes (maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, ocean science, ocean governance etc.) of the event were indeed timely.



Mr. Spalding added that the Blue Economy concept is applied in the work of the Ocean Foundation and such a Symposium with its interactive style is critical to keeping the implementation of the Blue Economy strong despite the challenges/affects of the COVID-19 period.

Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)

The goodwill message from NIMASA was delivered by the Executive Director of Operations, NIMASA, Mr. Shehu Ahmed who was represented by Mrs. Rita Egbuche, Director of the Marine Accident Investigation Unit, NIMASA. Mr.



Ahmed expressed NIMASA's agreement with the official mission of AFMESI.

He added that with the role of NIMASA as a regulatory agency in the maritime space, AFMESI can be guaranteed of the Agency's continued support. Mr. Shehu applauded Dr. Mogo for her contributions in the Blue Economy implementation process.

Barr. Raymond Temisan Omatseye, Patron of AFMESI

Barr. Raymond Temisan Omatseye thanked Dr. Felicia Mogo, the President of AFMESI for the Initiative and her contributions towards Blue Economies in Africa. He advised participants to uphold attitudes that promote environmental sustainability for the benefit of the present and future generations.



Barr. Omatseye acknowledged the Executive Secretary of AFMESI, Ms. Chiamaka Mogo for her efforts during the organization of the Symposium. He stressed the importance of such a symposium as a means of knowledge transfer and awareness of the importance of a sustainable marine ecosystem. He also cited the need for the Nigerian government to partner with AFMESI for facilitation of the neat removal of wellheads that have been abandoned by oil companies, as their removal will ensure safe and navigable waters.

Mr. Tim Dixon (IEAGHG, UK) and Dr. Katherine Romanak (University of Austin, Texas, USA)

Dr. Katherine Romanak and Mr. Tim Dixon jointly conveyed their goodwill messages virtually. They felicitated with the AFMESI Team on the Symposium. Dr. Romanak appreciated Dr. Mogo as a colleague to both herself and Mr Dixon on the Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) discourse. Appreciating

the vast contributions of Dr. Mogo to CCUS, Dr. Romanak called her the “Queen of CCUS in Nigeria”.



Tim Dixon also shared that in addition to working with Dr. Mogo on CCUS, they were colleagues engaged in some work regarding the *London Protocol*.

Mr. Tim Dixon and Dr. Romanak felicitated with the AFMESI Team on the Symposium.

Women International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) Nigeria

The President of WISTA Nigeria, Mrs. Eunice Ezeoke started her goodwill message by congratulating Dr. Felicia Mogo who she calls, “Madam Blue Economy” and the AFMESI Team for organizing such an event.



She stated that the event will yield positive guidelines for building the Blue Economy sector. Stressing the critical nature of the ocean to the marine environment and human lives, she encouraged awareness creation against marine pollution especially the issue of plastic waste in marine environments.

African Women in Maritime (WIMAfrica)

The Continental President of WIMAfrica, Barr. Jean Chiazor Anishere (SAN) congratulated the AFMESI on the 3rd Symposium. Barr. Chiazor Anishere by sharing examples, emphasized the importance of the Blue Economy and the vital nature of the Ocean to our everyday lives.



In addition, she assured the AFMESI Team of the support and partnership of WIMAfrica in fostering Blue Economy sectors in Africa.

High Commissioner of Kenya to Nigeria and Patron of AFMESI



H.E. Amb. Dr. Wilfred Machage, the High Commissioner of Kenya to Nigeria, thanked the President of AFMESI, Dr. Felicia Mogo, for her efforts in driving the Blue Economy discourse in Africa.

He stated that there is a spiritual duty to sustainably manage water bodies. He added that the threats of climate change to Africa are real and thus, the need to safeguard against those threats through proper use and protection of marine resources. The High Commissioner of Kenya to Nigeria and Patron of AFMESI expressed delight with AFMESI's works and the theme of the 3rd Symposium.

Western Naval Command (WNC), Lagos state, Nigeria

The Flag Officer Commanding, Western Naval Command, Lagos state, Rear Admiral Jason Gbassa was represented by Commodore Gideon Kachim.



The Flag Officer Commanding appreciated Dr. Mogo for her vast efforts in the maritime sector. He reiterated the importance of the Symposium and the necessity of care for the marine environment.

Otunba Kunle Folarin, Chair of the Nigerian Ports Consultative Council, Nigeria



In his goodwill message, Otunba Kunle Folarin appreciated the AFMESI team for the organization of the event, he applauded the strategic action plan of AFMESI as key and relevant document for maritime experts and government institutions. He also emphasized that the focus on Blue Economy has to comprise of both sustainability and wealth generation, not solely the latter.

Abuja Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Port State Control



The Secretary General of the Abuja MoU on Port State Control, Captain Sunday Umoren spoke passionately on the array of benefits that the implementation that the Blue Economy has to offer, including job opportunities.

Captain Umoren encouraged stakeholders to partner with AFMESI to achieve the NGO's objectives as well as advance the Blue Economy in Africa.

Address by the Special Guest of Honour (for Industry) of the 3rd Symposium ,
Engr. Greg Ogbeifun

The Chair/CEO, Starz Investments Company Limited, Engr. Greg Ogbeifun served as the Special Guest of Honour for Industry at the 3rd Symposium of AFMESI. In his address, Engr. Ogbeifun praised the AFMESI Team. He added that Dr. Mogo's expertise in marine environment management matters has been impactful and deeply enlightening. He encouraged Government institutions to acknowledge the efforts of AFMESI and partner on several matters.



Engr. Ogbeifun expressed interest in the eventual resolutions of the event and expressed hope for their implementation by the responsible stakeholders and institutions.

Speech by the Chief Host of the 3rd Symposium, Dr. Bashir Jamoh



The Director General of NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh was represented at the event by his Special Assistant on Communications and Strategy, Mr. Ubong Essien. In his speech as Chief Host of the event, Dr. Jamoh pledged lasting support towards AFMESI. He shared with the audience, some of the latest efforts of NIMASA in advancing the Blue Economy sector in Nigeria such as the creation of five working groups on strategic areas that are crucial to maritime development in Nigeria. Dr. Jamoh thanked the Founder/President of AFMESI, Dr. Mogo and the whole AFMESI team for their efforts.

Introduction of the Panel Session and Fireside Discussions



A robust panel session took place and was moderated by Dr. Mogo. The following were the panelists :

H.E Amb. Dr. Wilfred Machage (***High Commissioner of Kenya to Nigeria***)

Major General Jonathan India Garba (rtd.) (***Advisory Board Member, AFMESI***)

Mrs. Jean Chiazor Anishere, SAN (***President, WIMAfrica***)

Ambassador Funmi Folorunso (*AfCFTA Co-Champion on Transportation, Nigeria*)
Prof. Suzan Kholeif (*Professor of Oceanography, National Institute of Oceanography and fisheries, Egypt*)

Prof. Kelly Hoareau (*Director, James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute, University of Seychelles*)

H.E Amb. Dr. Wilfred Machage, presented on the topic, *Accounting for the Values and Wealth of the African Blue Resources for Economic Growth* —



He stated that the topic of discussion is relevant as most African nations are coastal nations and the majority of import and export trade across the continent is done via the ocean. H.E. Amb. Dr. Wilfred Machage highlighted other socio-economic benefits of African Blue Economy resources such as recreational benefits as well as sources of food. He added that however, due to poor management of the marine environment, those socioeconomic benefits are being reduced and there lies an urgency to ensure that the marine environment is sustainably managed. He mentioned that regional frameworks (e.g the African Maritime Transport Charter and its Plan of Action of 1994, the African Integrated Maritime Strategy towards

2050) designed to develop and protect African marine resources need to be implemented by nations across the continent.

H.E Amb. Dr. Machage stated that to account for the values and wealth of the African blue resources, there is need for:

1. Strong inter-regional cooperation to enable effective sharing of information that is relevant to our common marine environments.
2. Development and strengthening of mechanisms to prevent illegal activities (e.g. pollution, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing etc.) in our maritime domain.
3. Applying scientific research to solve issues and develop our maritime domain.

Major General J.I. Garba, Patron of AFMESI gave a presentation on the topic, *Impact of Security and Piracy in Maritime Business in Africa (with Solutions): The Case of Gulf of Guinea* —



Major General Garba stated that the Gulf of Guinea sub-region is enriched with several marine resources. He noted however that issues of piracy, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the region are plaguing the region. He shared statistics on the alarming rates of those illegal activities in the maritime space of the Gulf of Guinea and stated that the maritime domain of the sub-region has the most red flags for maritime business.

He mentioned that to effectively overturn this crisis, African nations including Nigeria and institutions have created plans of action. One of such highlighted by Major General Garba is the Critical Maritime Route Monitoring Support and Evaluation Mechanism (CRIMSON). He noted that political will is critical to eradicating the current illegalities in the maritime domain of the Gulf of Guinea. In addition, he stated that awareness creation, funding, as well as, close monitoring and policy implementation are vital. He highlighted the potentials of a secure Blue Economy sector: trade, food security, renewable energy, amongst others.

Barr. Jean Chiazor Anishere, SAN spoke on the topic titled, *Gender Diversity in Achieving Blue Economy* —

Barr. Jean Chiazor Anishere stressed the need for cross partnerships with international organizations as a means of building the Blue Economy sectors of Africa. She noted that within the African continent, government intervention is important in terms of developing policies and ensuring that they are well implemented. She added that data gathering is important for the institutions and industries tasked with the Blue Economy development.



Barr. Chiazor Anishere noted the need for African nations to key into maritime innovations such as the generation of renewable energy from water, aquaculture, application of biotechnology and more. She added that partnerships between AFMESI, other NGOs, international institutions as well as regional governments will be of importance.

Ambassador Barr. Funmi Folorunso presented on the panel topic titled , *AFCFTA implementation strategy for the maritime sector* —



Amb. Barr. Folorunso stated that the African Free Trade Continental Area (AfCFTA) agreement can play a significant part in the development of Africa's Blue Economy, given the mandate of AfCFTA in transportation and the reduction of trading costs between African countries. She stated that it will be beneficial for AfCFTA and AFMESI to partner on achieving the goals of a sustainable Blue Economy. Amb. Barr. Folorunso mentioned that the Blue Economy Strategy of Africa also stresses on shipping and transportation. She expressed, in her capacity as Secretary General of the African Shipowners Association, the intent of the Association to partner with AFMESI to foster the development of the African Blue Economy.

Amb. Barr. Folorunso expressed optimism that her nation, Nigeria will become a maritime “transportation hub” for goods and services, if the Blue Economy is properly promoted and implemented in Nigeria.

Prof. Suzan Kholeif presented virtually on the panel topic titled, *Integrated ocean management, science and governance* —

Prof. Suzan Kholeif gave a brief statistical overview of the coastline as well as trade benefits of the ocean for the African continent. She also highlighted the fact that the ocean is a significant oxygen supplier for human life. She expressed that the Blue Economy, if properly implemented will help secure the continent from current challenges affecting the marine environment. Prof. Kholeif added that strong ocean governance and equity are needed in the region.



Prof. Kholeif made the following recommendations for strengthening the Blue Economies across the continent:

1. Scientific data development as a guide to creating policies for the sustainable management of our marine resources.
2. Ensuring equitable participation of women and youths in the Blue Economy sectors.
3. Developing critical technologies that will put the continent up to speed with top, global players in the maritime sector.

Prof. Kelly Hoareau spoke on the panel topic titled, *Accounting for the values and wealth of the African blue resources for economic growth* —



Prof. Kelly Hoareau started her presentation with a geographical view of Seychelles which shows that the nation is so significantly more of a coastal nation than a terrestrial one. She outlined the approximate monetary values of Blue Economy resources of some select nations. Prof. Hoareau stated that to accrue the benefits of those resources, a sustainability-guided framework is vital. She also highlighted that while there is a usual focus on just a few sub-sectors, there are several sub-sectors that exist with the Blue Economy discourse. For example, as she shared through an image, there are: “Shipbuilding & repair”, “Marine equipment manufacturing”, “Fisheries”, “Marine business services”, “Offshore oil & gas” etc. Prof. Hoareau noted that the practice of all those sub-sectors have to be done in cognisance of their effects/affects on the environment. She stressed on the need for innovations in building the Blue Economies of nations and that funding, as well as, investments are key to enabling innovations. As such, she recommended that participants search and read up on articles by the *High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy*.

Follow-up deliberations based on the panel session/fireside discussions

Barr. Mrs. Margaret Orakwusi introduced herself as a Patroness of AFMESI and expressed her agreement with the mandates of the organization. She emphasized that the president of AFMESI, Dr. Mogo has been working effortlessly in ensuring that we have a cleaner marine environment and that the Blue Economy discourse is boosted.

Barr. Orakwusi spoke passionately about the riches of our African marine environments and mentioned some of the issues affecting the marine environment in our continent. She stressed on the issue of IUU. In appreciation of what Barr. Orakwusi shared, Dr. Mogo responded by stating that the next action of AFMESI is to implement our Strategic Plan and in doing so, an awareness program will be initiated specifically to address the issue of IUU.



(L - R: Barr. Mrs. Margaret Orakwusi, Dr. Mrs. Felicia Chinwe Mogo)

Presentation of the AFMESI Strategic Action Plan (2021 – 2025)

The AFMESI Strategic Action Plan was presented by Mr. Ibukun Adewumi, the Director of International Partnerships, AFMESI.

Mr. Adewunmi informed participants that the NGO is a leading voice on scientific-based knowledge sharing, advocacy and capacity building for marine environment sustainability in Africa. He mentioned that AFMESI has continued to make progress from its first symposium in 2015; creating an advisory board of maritime professionals; having its second symposium in the year 2020 and; building critical



partnerships across Africa and with international organizations. Mr. Adewumi specially noted that AFMESI organised a side event at the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP 25) event of the year 2019.

He stated that to further the capacity of nations across the African continent to respond to the threats facing our water bodies and the marine resources contained in them, the AFMESI team created this Strategic Action Plan that will serve as an



important guide for the next 5 years and create lasting positive impacts. He outlined and subsequently explained, the 5 strategic goals of the document which are:

1. Engagements and relationships
2. Science and research
3. Advocacy and implementation
4. Communications
5. Fundraising and organizational foundation



Commitment by stakeholders as the Strategic Action Plan was launched

The Special Guest of Honour for Industry of the 3rd Symposium, Engr. Greg Ogbeifun, encouraged participants to provide financial and other forms of donations to foster the efforts of the AFMESI team. Engr. Ogbeifun pledged his financial support to AFMESI by stating that for the next 1 year he will provide the sum of a hundred thousand (100,000) Nigerian Naira per month to AFMESI.



He stressed that the AFMESI management team use out of their own personal, financial and other resources to run the organization and that their efforts should be supported.

Resolutions of the 3rd Symposium of AFMESI

The event noted the following comments and prayed for their full implementation:

- 1.) The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) pledged continued partnership with AFMESI.
- 2.) AFMESI to continue to promote awareness-raising on the issue of ocean noise through collaborations with government institutions and other stakeholders.

- 3.) The Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Nigeria to establish new partnerships with AFMESI that will drive the Blue Economy development and leverage benefits for the Niger Delta region.
- 4.) The Minister of Niger Delta Affairs represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry encouraged other ministries, departments and agencies in Nigeria to partner with AFMESI on environmental sustainability matters.
- 5.) WIMAfrica is committed to partnering with AFMESI on promoting the development of Blue Economy across Africa.
- 6.) Speakers stressed the need for science and data-driven Blue Economy implementation across Africa.
- 7.) AfCFTA to partner with AFMESI to foster the implementation of the African Blue Economy Strategy.
- 8.) The African Shipowners Association is committed to initiating a partnership with AFMESI.
- 9.) NIMASA pledged its partnership commitment to AFMESI.
- 10.) AFMESI to create an IUU awareness-raising program.
- 11.) AFMESI is committed to working with stakeholders in implementing the AFMESI Strategic Action Plan (2021 - 2025).

12.) The Chairperson, Starz Marine and Engineering Limited, Engr. Greg Ogbeifun pledged to support AFMESI with the sum of 100,000 Nigerian Naira for the next one year.

13.) The Federal Ministry of Transportation, Nigeria through the Minister of state for transportation (represented by a Deputy Director of the ministry) expressed the assurance of their continued support towards AFMESI.

Closing Remarks delivered by the Executive Secretary of AFMESI, Ms. Chiamaka Mogo



The closing remarks were given by Ms. Mogo. She thanked all the speakers, patrons and patroness of AFMESI, representatives of government institutions and all participants for their attendance. She appreciated stakeholders for their pledges and commitments to supporting the NGO. The Executive Secretary also expressed gratitude to the whole AFMESI team and external, service providers who worked hard to ensure that the 3rd Symposium ran smoothly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogo' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chiamaka Mogo, BSoc.Sc., MPPGA

***Executive Secretary,
on behalf of the Founder/President, African Marine Environment Sustainability
Initiative (AFMESI)***

November 5, 2021

PHOTO SPLASH















