



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME TO EKO 2012.

First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for giving me this rare privilege and pleasure to offer a special welcome to our distinguished guests, NMGS members and their family guests, student members and the Press, who are attending our 48th Annual International Conference, tagged NMGS EKO 2012.

Our event brings together the common interest of all geoscientists and mining engineers, dedicated to increasing our knowledge of the earth subsurface and exploiting its resources sustainably, while respecting the environment. Thus, this year's theme –'Unlocking Geosciences and Mining technology for investment opportunities and development in Nigeria', could not be more topical. It recognises the fact that our disciplines are the keys to unlocking investment opportunities and development in Nigeria for the betterment of the populace.

I am particularly excited to welcome our distinguished awardees and other important personalities, who are here this Tuesday, during the opening Ceremony to give their goodwill messages.

NMGS acknowledges a growing responsibility to ensure that we provide a gathering that will capture the interest and imagination of a new generation of geoscientists and mining engineers.

For this Conference, we have on our programme, a total of 180 quality professional papers for oral presentations that will be run under three parallel sessions. In addition, there are ten catchy postal presentations that will be of immense benefit to the participants, apart from the robust and impressive exhibitions, showcasing equipment and services from companies, government agencies, parastatals and Institutions. It is certain that participants will benefit and share ideas with the Exhibitors.

A business excursion tour has been planned in partnership with the Lagos State Government, so that participants will have a first hand information about the on-going and sites of the planned projects, such as the proposed megacity, the on-going infrastructural and industrial development along Lekki-Free trade zone area, the suspended vehicular bridge (the first of its kind in Africa), linking Lekki zone 1 with Osborne, the EKO Atlantic city, where land is being reclaimed from the ocean for developmental purposes and the intercity train services that will link Badagry through mile 2 with Marina. Post-conference technical excursion, has also been planned to see the geology of Lagos and neighbouring states.

I like to seize this opportunity to thank our traditional donors for their generosity and commitment towards the conference. My gratitude also goes to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and NMGS Council members for working assiduously and tirelessly for the success of this conference.

I do sincerely hope that everyone shall have a memorable week from both a business and social perspectives. It is my desire to meet many of you during the week, particularly during our social evenings.

Once more, I welcome you all and GOD BLESS.

**Akinola .A. GEORGE, FNMGS, C. GEOPHY.
NMGS PRESIDENT**