

Joachim Ibeziako Ezeji

Biography:

I earned my MSc in Water and Environmental Management from the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), Loughborough University, UK, and a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Calabar, Nigeria. I am a member of such sustainable development groups in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sub-sectors such as the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), and the WHO/UNICEF - Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) Network etc. and actively participate in many important international conferences and symposia. I have expertise and broad work interest /experience in governance and capacity building issues in the context of the water, sanitation and gender mainstreaming targets of the MDGs; the Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes – PRSP; and sustainable water management systems and risk management especially in areas such as diffuse pollution management, climate change challenges and utility issues.

I am a co-founder of RAWDP (www.rawdp.org) as well as Latrine-Tec Ltd; where I work strategically as a social entrepreneur. Latrine-Tec has a broad partnership with both the public and private sector and has since inception in 2006 assisted thousands of both urban and rural families to build and use good toilets, empty septic tanks and pits and use the wastes in agriculture and biogas generation in parts of Port Harcourt and Owerri cities of eastern Nigeria. It retains the innovative model of promoting sustainable sanitation through the use of appropriate technologies and access to micro-credit mechanisms for the short listing, design and construction (costs) of toilets. Sound social approaches helping to make our initiatives effective are a combination of tools especially lobbying, interviews, newspaper articles, petitions, posters, leaflets, newsletters, theater, engaging artists and celebrities, working with the media –TV, radio and the press etc. Two tools amongst all these with the biggest potential impact on our target group has been the theater and media, and we explore them optimally. We have been using a combination of the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

Both Latrine-Tec and RAWDP has in the course of my over 12 years career in the sector leveraged funds from the World Bank, African Development Bank, Multi-national oil companies and many other groups to bring clean drinking water and improved sanitation to thousands of poor people in parts of Nigeria's oil rich Niger delta. I am a visiting research scholar @ the Watson international institute @ Brown University, USA, and currently completing a PhD @ Loughborough University, UK. In addition to a collection of conference and journal papers in the sector, I am also the author of the book – *“Global Wealth –watering the urban poor out of poverty”* <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Global-Wealth-Watering-Poverty-Nigerian/dp/3845421037> .



Manifesto:

My education, skills, networks, travels, milieu and character has tremendously combined to shape my person. I seek a seat in the WSSCC steering committee to assist guide its strategic development. With a background that includes active roles in the private sector (for profit), particularly, sanitation business and entrepreneurship I bring into the steering committee my knack for entrepreneurial excellence which is greatly desired to complement the prevailing advocacy, research and policy orientation of current steering committee members. I am of the opinion that entrepreneurship aids and supports both research and advocacy to become much more effective, while helping to formulate an efficient policy.

As an enthusiastic and well-motivated young professional (under 40 years) who is active in the private sector, I have the resources to work voluntarily and communicate electronically where necessary to advance the work of the steering committee as well as participating effectively in the steering committee meetings (if elected) and other events. This also includes optimal commitment towards providing direction in the development and overseeing the implementation of WSSCC strategies, programmes and activities together with the National Coordinators and in consultation with the members and other relevant partners and stakeholders. I will also be very active in the review of progress made and providing recommendations for improvement and follow-up particularly the mid-term strategy documents of the WSSCC. It is also my wish to bolster the current effort of the WSSCC to engage more countries in Africa and beyond, and enabling them benefit from the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF).

Already I have made substantial contributions and value addition to water, sanitation and hygiene targets globally, particularly in Nigeria. Organisations I co-founded - LatrineTec and RAWDP have assisted well over 10,000 households assess the sanitation ladder through improved latrine installations in the Niger Delta and supported well over 30,000 households improve their drinking water quality through Point of Use treatment technologies and development of alternative sources including new water wells, rainwater harvesting and the building of spring boxes to protect spring supplies in parts of eastern Nigeria. I am currently the project advisor to the International project planning and performance team of the Water and Sanitation Rotarians Action Group (WASRAG); a multi-stakeholder community partnership corporate social responsibility project of Chevron Oil Ltd. I also recently served as a member of the local organising committee of the 35th WEDC International Conference that held 6-8th July, 2011 @ Loughborough, UK. In 2006 -2009 I represented my organisation at the World Water Council and until 2010 a member of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), UK.

The foregoing thoughts and experiences are some of the critical values in the potpourri of values I would be bringing to and adding to the work of the WSSCC and its steering committee if elected.

Thank you!