



Editor's Note

NIJOTECH IS 40

The very first issue of Nigerian Journal of Technology was published in 1975. That issue had only seven articles but the then Editor, Engr. Prof. Mike A. Nwachukwu of blessed memory made it clear that “... *it is better to get off to a quick start from a narrow base and later spread out than to try, ab-initio, to involve a much larger group and run the risk of being bogged down by inevitable communicational and management problems*”. The managing body of NIJOTECH then was called “Nsukka Technological Group” and they got the journal off the ground in 1975.

The second volume came in 1978 i.e. three years later with only five articles. It was not difficult to know why such a delay occurred despite the high initial starting torque, but apparently there weren't substantial submissions to warrant a publication. Issues continued to appear until 1991.

Between 1992 and 1994, there were no publications at all. This period was also characterized by a mass exodus of academics from Nigeria to other countries on account of low wages, national strikes, local strikes and several retarding dynamics in the governance of this country. It was within this period that most people lost interest in academics. That was the time an ordinary foodstuff retailer would open a register of debtors (academic staff of universities) who buy cups of rice and beans on credit. If all sectors could suffer in this form, NIJOTECH could not have been

exempted.

In 1995, NIJOTECH published again. Still it was one issue per year; in fact the print issues of 1995 to 1997 were in a single bound volume. Yes three issues in one publication, to save cost and again to show that articles were actually very few in number. The reappearance of the journal within this period was not due to any marginal improvement in the academic staff remunerations but due to the doggedness of our Engineering Faculty.

The years 1998 and 1999 did not witness any publication and no reason was advanced, but the slim nature of previous issues attest to the same fact that submissions were low.

In 2000, the journal continued its annual appearance. It was in 2005 that two issues were published for the first time in one year. This was sustained until 2010 when three issues were published and was again sustained till 2013. It was in 2012 that the website www.nijotech.com was launched and before the end of 2013, all back issues were uploaded on the website. Owing to this, the visibility of NIJOTECH increased beyond the imagination of all. In 2014, we were forced to publish four issues in a year due to the large number of submissions coming in. The figure on the inside of the back cover shows this progression. The geographical spread of the source of papers has also increased tremendously and it is now clear that NIJOTECH is already an international journal with no other like it in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our indexing has been steadily growing. We now have over 500 visits on the website daily and some papers have been downloaded more than 2000 times as at 9:30pm on September 30, 2015. We can only accept 43% of what we receive based on review reports. Now originality of articles matters more to us than ever before.

It is not difficult to predict the future of NIJOTECH and even though the Nsukka Technological Group is no longer here, her original philosophy permits us to celebrate our 40TH anniversary, ... and we are much more stronger than when we started.

Engr. Prof. E. S. Obe, Editor & Journal Manager