

EDITORIAL

In July 1973 the teaching staff of the University of Nigeria, Faculty of Engineering, meeting to discuss matters of common concern, resolved unanimously to constitute itself into the nucleus of an association to be called the Nsukka Technological Group (NTG) and having as its primary function the publication of a learned journal. This was in no way a hasty decision. The idea had been tossed around for nearly two years and there was a complete awareness of the onerous demands and hazards of such a venture. But at that historic meeting it became transparently clear that there was no logical alternative and that the time to start had finally arrived. An Editorial Board was elected and charged with the responsibility of bringing out the first issue of the Nigerian Journal of Technology by Easter 1974. As it has turned out the time-table was rather optimistic.

As formulated at the NTG meeting the Nigerian Journal of Technology (NIJOTECH) is intended for the publication of original stimulating creative research activity and a higher standard of engineering practice in Nigeria. In this way, it was hoped, the journal will contribute to the acceleration of the process of technological development in the country. As an organ it will be managed by the NTG but will be open to all contributors. It follows that while the journal had its origin in legitimate protest, its aims and aspirations, which have found echoes in other Nigerian Universities, are entirely objective and universal.

The appearance of NIJOTECH is also timely. The nation is witnessing a series of significant developments which taken together is helping to give Nigeria a palpable technological image. In quick succession the Federal Military Government has acquired a larger role in the oil industry; it has implemented the indigenization decree which will place Nigerians in control of the nation's rising industrial power: it has set up the first national motor car assembly plant; and most significantly of all, it has, after years of study and indecision, finally named the site of the nation's first steel mill.

These stirring developments are indicative of a growing national confidence. But there are hard real ties to be faced. The realization of higher technological objectives is predicated on the existence of a coherent community of highly competent, mature and creative engineers and scientists. The nation in the years ahead must, with the leadership of the scientific community, learn increasingly to generate solutions to its technological problems from within. The alternative is either to perpetuate subtle forms of foreign domination or to face stagnation and decay. This is where we come in-for we believe that it is by initiatives of the type represented by NIJOTECH that this nation's place in the world of technology will be ultimately determined.

To those friends of NIJOTECH and others who have wondered or may be wondering; if Nsukka Technological Group, why Nigerian Journal of Technology our reply is simple. Our view is 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. To paraphrase the concluding words of our guest article: NO ONE KNOWS WHAT A MAN CAN DO UNTIL HE'S DONE IT. This maiden issue of NIJOTECH is proof of our earnestness. We hold up our aims and objectives to the Nigerian public and the world of learning at large; we hold up to them also our maiden effort; we invite all like-minded persons, fellow engineers, and scientists who share our vision of the technological potential of this great country to come forward and work with us in fellowship.

Engr. Dr. Michael A. Nwachukwu