

2nd EARTHWATCH CAREER WORKSHOP 2006
DATE: May 24th – 25th 2006

THEME:
SKILLS FOR ENVIRONMENT/DEVELOPMENT BASED
BUSINESSES/PROFESSIONALS

LOCATION: LABAKE HOTELS, PORT HARCOURT

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION
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ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION:

EarthWatch is an independent organization involved in Magazine/Technical Publications, Conferences/Workshops/Seminars organizations, Research Work, Consultancy, Media and Information Dissemination in the field of Sustainable Development.

EarthWatch has a mission to improve the relationship between man and his environment; to improve the quality of the earth, to inform and educate the people about the earth or environment, to enhance self reliance and concern for the earth's resources and to help people avoid, prepare for, and cope with the earth's abuse and sudden reaction. For the past four years or so we have being involved in the organization of the EarthWatch Conferences on Water, which has now become the Nigerian Water Forum.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- a) To reduce skills gaps and shortages
- b) To improve productivity or the quality of services
- c) To increase opportunities to develop and improve the productivity of everyone in the sector's workforce, including action to address equal opportunities
- d) To improve learning supply, including the development of apprenticeships, higher education, and of national occupational standards.
- e) To develop management and leadership skills

- f) To develop mentoring and coaching skills
- g) To develop a multi skilled workforce to cope with diversification in the sector
- h) To up-date skills in respect of technological advancements so that businesses compete in a global economy
- i) To enable businesses in the sector to better understand consumer responses to economic, social, environmental and technological changes to make best business decisions
- j) *To improve business efficiency*
- k) To improve workforce development, recruitment and retention

WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

The work of the environment and development sector should impact upon every man, woman and child in the country providing quality assured food and leisure activities up to shaping our urban and rural environment and protecting our natural heritage. Therefore people are now demanding for more rationalized way to protect the environment. This is because we are in the world of show me and not tell me.

Businesses within the sector face primary challenges and pressures of under utilization, ignorance, lack of adequate skilled manpower and lack of direction. Secondary challenges of advances in technology, expanding global markets, changing consumer demands and increased leisure time are some of the factors which place increasing pressures on businesses and the environment in which they operate.

In addition, changes in the country's legislations will necessitate new approaches in the sector. These factors will result in businesses in the sector needing to adapt, change and invest for the long term if they are to remain customer focused, profitable and yet sustainable. These changes will bring about a demand for new and constantly developing skills. The objective of sustainable development is to deliver a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future. Sustainable development has a special relevance on all sectors.

More than \$400 billion is spent worldwide annually on conservation and environmental protection, supporting hundreds of thousands of fascinating jobs. In many ways, however, the next generation of environmental professionals face challenges that are infinitely more difficult than those confronted in the past. The task at hand today is not only to control pollution, but to prevent it; to not only slow the rate of habitat and soil loss, but to reverse it; and to not only regulate unsustainable activity, but to create a sustainable way of life on a crowded planet. We need dramatic improvements in technology,

protection of plant and animal habitats, energy conservation and development of renewables, creation of market incentives that complement government action, greater social and racial justice, and better education and ecological understanding. We can safely say that there is enough work ahead to keep all serious environmental workers busy for a lifetime. Conservation, environmental protection, and creating a sustainable future are the work of the 21st century.

EarthWatch seeks to improve and boost skills and workforce in the development and environmental based sector. As well as strengthening the economic argument for skills development, EarthWatch believes that this workshop should equally promote environmental enhancement and social inclusion. Skills in the sector can only be fully developed if there is a genuine partnership between business, government and agencies and providers of learning. The need for skilled professional in the sector has become imperative. This workshop is designed to improve the skills and knowledge base of the professionals in the sector. It also aims at increasing the profitability of businesses in the sector.

Course Outline

1. Basic Careers in Environment & Development Sector
1. Changing Trends in the Environment & Development Sector
2. Volunteering/Mentoring
3. The Attitudinal Principles
4. The Concept of Niche in Environment & Development Sector
5. The Entrepreneurial Skill
6. Tailored business support for micro-businesses
7. Technical and management skill development
8. Better recruitment, retention and marketing of careers
9. Advanced Learning for Skills in Environment/Development

Who Should Attend

With so much to be done, there is literally something for everyone. Among scientists, the environmental world needs biologists, chemists, geologists, geographers, hydrologists, ecologists, oceanographers, meteorologists, botanists, health scientists, toxicologists, foresters, agronomists, and many more. A wide variety of engineers are required to solve our environmental problems. Computer professionals (programmers, modelers, geographic information systems specialists, website designers, database technicians) are in demand. Professionals from law, finance, business, accounting, management, public administration, and insurance have a major role to play. Planners, architects, landscape

architects, and designers will help create an environmentally sound world. Teachers (from kindergarten through doctoral school) and journalists from every medium are crucial to environmental protection and conservation. Social scientists and people from the humanities are found in environmental careers everywhere. A virtual army of technicians and laborers is part of the environmental workforce. Finally, elected officials, activists, and citizen volunteers remain at the very center of our hope for a sustainable future.