NITP/ NAT-AWTPN/ 2022/026 **15-06-2022**

GOODWILL MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF TPL (DR) A. M OLASENI'S MAIDEN ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES ON IMPROVING PROFESSIONAL PLANNING PRACTICE THROUGH EFFECTIVE PLANNING EDUCATION IN NIGERIA HOLDIND ON THURSDAY 16TH JUNE, 2022 YABA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY ALUNMI BUILDING, YABA DELIVERED BY THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN TOWN PLANNERS IN NIGERIA (AWTPN), TPL (MRS) BELLO, RISIKAT BUKOLA FNITP. MRTPI, MNIM

PROTOCOL

1. In Pursuant to Section 20.1 (c) of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners Constitution 2010 as amended in 2020 which gave birth to the Women body of the Institute called **ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN TOWN PLANNERS IN NIGERIA (AWTPN). The aim is to enhance and empower** Women Town Planners for inclusive and sustainable human capacity development that will influence human settlements development positively.

   In addition to this, the trend in urban and regional planning studies have shown increasing integration of women into sustainable national development programmes. According to the report from the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, there are more women in public offices than ever before, but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality.

2. Furthermore, the importance of women integration and empowerment in influencing sustainable Human Settlement policies and programs to Improve Professional Planning Practice is sacrosanct to the development of a nation. Moreso that gender and development literatures have served to shape programmes and agenda of national and international agencies.
3. Nevertheless, let me state here that in improving professional planning practice for effective Planning Education in Nigeria, there is need to :
    - Reduce Gender inequality and discrimination in planning practice. Women have the right to equal access and benefits from policy implementation. They can also lead decision making whether in Ministries, Production Companies, Technologies, Statistical Offices or Institutions charged with global economic oversight. Therefore, all elements of town planning, must take gender dimensions into account, so that women have facilities and services essential to their needs and rights.
    - Achieving effective Planning Education will ensure that city works for all and make urban planning processes more inclusive through knowledge-based participation.
    - In Planning educational sector, a Core foundation course must be assigned to Senior and experienced course advisers who will impart their wealth of experiences on students in this field and on a wide range of information on available specializations in town planning education.
    - NITP and TOPREC should facilitate professional accreditation of planning programmes in Nigerian polytechnics and Universities, so as to increase the number of institutions offering professional town planning courses thereby boosting the numbers of town planning graduates to meet the manpower demand for planning practice.
    - NITP and TOPREC should dynamically pursue advocacy planning

practice and image laundering. This is to check the impediments associated with the Institute, Council and profession in Nigeria.

- To support effective Planning Education in Nigeria there should be constant community consultations and interdisciplinary collaborations with other sister professional bodies.
- The use of information Technology as an effective Planning Education tool is an important factor at improving professional planning practice in Nigeria. Today the use of ICT-enables participatory planning framework for guiding policy-making towards smart planning education.
- A more inclusive Mandatory Continuous Professional Development Programme (MCDPD) engaging AWTPN and Youth Planners Forum (YPF) In facilitating the programme.
- Improved Professional Exams like TOPREC and Fellowship Exams with Computer Based Technology.

4. In conclusion, we should encourage more participation in the practice of town planning profession by discouraging brain drain, foster women capacity and leadership development, Protect and empower female town planners in the Institute.

   NITP and TOPREC should facilitate professional accreditation as well as encourage ICT based Participatory Planning framework in supporting Planning Education that will improve Planning practice in Nigeria.

   However, the Association will like commend the effort of Tpl (Dr) A. M Olaseni for organizing this programme to appraise the existing structure of Planning Education in Nigeria and we hope to partner more on programmes like this in future.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING GOD BLESS YOU👍