



## **Waste Recycling: A Tool for Developing Circular Economy**

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### **Report of the Inauguration of Recyclers' Association of Nigeria**

Canton Concourse, November 3, 2018

#### **Opening Ceremony**

The Inauguration of the Recyclers' Association of Nigeria (RAN) was held at the Canton Concourse, 12 Land Bridge Avenue, Oniru, Lagos, at the kind invitation of the Board of Trustees on November 3, 2018

The President of Recyclers' Association of Nigeria Mr. Mazi Ukonu, welcomed all invited guests and members to a landmark achievement for the association.

The gathering of the day metamorphosed from a Whatsapp group created on the 18th June 2015 by Bilikiss Abiola, the former CEO of Wecyclers, to have a place where lovers of environment in Nigeria can gather and discuss. Ever since, the members of the group kept increasing day by day as new lovers of the environment were identified with an interest to join the online group.

After three years, the online group came up with the name Recyclers' Association of Nigeria (RAN) which was duly incorporated by the Corporate Affairs Commission on the 17th May 2018 with Dr. Oresanya Ola (former General Manager of Lagos State Waste Management Authority, LAWMA), Priscilla Achakpa Mbarumun (Executive Director, Women Environmental Program, WEP), Ukonu Alison Tobeckwu (CEO, RecyclePoints), Adeleke Kofoworola (CCDI), Ogunye Oluwadoyinsola Dolapo, Lotanna Okoye Gerald, Adebisi Olawale (CEO, Wecyclers) and as the Board of Trustees. The purposes of incorporating the association is to collaborate as a group, explore opportunities in the interest of its members, and enhance environmental sustainability in developing a circular economy in Nigeria and many more.

The President also mentioned the speakers of the day, Clem Ugorji, Director Publicity with Coca Cola, Nigeria; Mrs Tolu Adeyo, Head/Pioneer, Recycling Department with

LAWMA, who created an enabling environment for smaller recycling companies to operate in Lagos State; Nosa D. Aigbedion from National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA); Mr Jide Onayiga Assistant General Manager, Special services Department representing LAWMA; Duke Benjamin, Head, Energy and Environment for Germany Industries for commerce; Dr. Eugene Itua, Head, Nigeria Economy Summit Group for Circular Economy; Adebisi Olawale, CEO, Wecyclers and support from other institutions like Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance, Guinness Nigeria PLC, Green Recycling Industry Limited.

**First Panel Session – The Role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program in facilitating a Circular Economy**

Mr. Nosa D. Aigbedion from NESREA made a presentation to give an overview of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) before the panel session took place. The following were the highlights from his presentation;

- i) It was formerly known as FEPA but was changed to NESREA when additional responsibility was given by the Federal Government of Nigeria.
- ii) Its motive is to enforce total compliance, ensure that the environment is cleaner, safer and sustainable for all and sundry
- iii) EPR concepts accommodates the corporate companies, the middle operators and the artisan
- iv) From the product design to the production stage, the waste that will be generated in the end should be minimized to the barest minimum
- v) The EPR goes beyond sale of product but also the collection of non-consumables packages/containers from the environment to reduce amount of waste that goes to the landfill and such waste must be converted to wealth
- vi) The EPR entails all the activities with the waste collection, waste management and waste recycling space
- vii) A typical example is the Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance

The first panel discussants were Mr. Nosa D. Aigbedion, Mrs Tolu Adeeyo, Mr. Jide Onayiga, which was moderated by Mazi Ukonu talked about the implementation of EPR guidelines and how it directly affects the feeders of the policy.

Mr. Nosa made it clear with respect to the level of engagement from the Federal or State corridor for the enforcement of guidelines and policies, that there is a good synergy and synchronization between the Federal and the State level concerning the ERP policy.

This was further collaborated by Mrs Adeyo that the state ministries do not work on silo but collaborate through meetings and come up with a document that is binding on all for the achievement of environment sustainability and the good of all.

Without the exception of LAWMA, they have been able to effectively work together with agencies in the State like LASEPA, and ensure that their activities are in line with the guideline for the State and Federal government

The agencies; NESREA, LAWMA and the Ministry of Environment look forward to a more successful cooperative with RAN.

### **Second Panel Session – Circular Economy: Concept Review and Value Creation for Business and Society**

After the tea break, Dr. Eugene Itua made a short presented on Circular Economy (CE) and below were the highlights from his presentation;

- i. Sustainable development requires a shift from the traditional wasteful linear economy
- ii. Difference between Linear and Circular

Linear	Circular
Materials move through a linear process of extraction, production, consumption and eventual disposal ( <b>“take-make-waste”</b> )	It eliminates waste through the redesign, reuse and recycling of products and materials in interconnected systems, biological cycles and market ( <b>“make-use-return”</b> )
This model is problematic as it is inherently inefficient, wastes valuable resources and poses significant risk to both human and environmental health	Well-known circular economy approaches include the Cradle-to-Cradle® design philosophy and the Zero Waste Management.

- iii. CE is not waste management as it goes beyond the pursuit of waste prevention and waste reduction. It inspires technological, organizational and social innovations across and within value chain
- iv. CE does not only amount to adjustment aimed at reducing the negative impacts of the linear economy, but it represents a systemic shift that builds long-term resilience, generates business and economic opportunities and provides environmental and societal benefits.

- v. The opportunities in CE are but not limited to growth which means job creation, opportunities for investment, great for bottom line and a key enabler of growth

The second panel discussants were Duke Benjamin, Dr. Eugene Itua, Adewale Adebisi which was moderated by Wunmi Ogunde.

Dr. Itua addressed the concern on how awareness on circular economy can be raised in Nigeria; before you can take on an idea and own it as part of your responsibility, and then it must be beneficial to you. An average Nigerian must truly know what CE means without which we cannot achieve a Circular Economy. This behooves that every Nigeria is adequately sensitized embrace this as Knowledge brings forth responsibility. This was further reiterated by Mr. Adewale Adebisi and Mr. Duke Benjamin.

Adewale believes that when government enforces the implementation of policies, this will assist in achieving a circular economy and the private sectors can partner or collaborate in achieving a Circular Economy.

There is no practical approach that can help develop a circular economy than the one which is economically viable. Some innovations drive policy making We need to build business that will fight and thrive

The session was rounded up by Mrs. Ronke Odeleye Director, Environmental Services, Ministry of Environment; sharing nuggets from being an environmentalist for the past thirty-one (31) years; have ethical responsibilities – what have I learnt from this gathering, what am I taking away, what am I going to do with what I have learnt.

### **Unveiling Recyclers' Association of Nigeria**

This is the moment everyone was waiting for. The President, Mazi Ukonu unveiled the association while declaring it open to members of the public in Nigeria by registration. The association logo has a recycling symbol made of samrock green colour which warehouses the Nigeria's map with "RAN" vertically centered at the middle of the map with a Spanish green, white, green colour

He further declared that membership of the association is open to all 'active' individuals or corporate entities like waste collectors, waste handlers, waste processors, advocacy and consulting agencies who accept and work in the aims and objectives of the association.

The Recycler's Association of Nigeria seeks to increase the awareness of proper waste management, waste recycling within the community and an avenue to strengthen cooperation within its members in the promotion of a circular economy.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Fireside Chat with Bilikiss Adebisi Abiola**

She was the founder and the former CEO of Wecyclers, her wealth of experience in the waste management and recycling sector is worth sharing to encourage younger lovers of environment who are upcoming in the environment sector. She shared the following with the audience;

- i. The inspiration came when she took a class on Development Ventures at MIT, Sloan; problems facing developing countries and the thought of improper waste management in Nigeria struck her mind
- ii. In Nigeria where people live below \$2/day, where the occurrence of malaria fever/typhoid is rampant due to clogged water ways with plastic waste, where an occurrence of misfortune in their lives cause them to drench more in their poverty level as they live one step to calamity
- iii. This needs to change and she came about the initiative where they get rewarded for keeping or picking plastics off the street in Lagos State.
- iv. It's not always easy migrating from the theoretical analysis to practical works but you just have to get going.
- v. Grants are good sources of funding for startups to kick start their businesses
- vi. Create a business model and work by it
- vii. Seek help, assistance, and clarification if in doubt from companies within the same space to move forward
- viii. Start, learn by doing, learn from those who had made mistakes in the past
- ix. Stay ahead with innovation, challenges help us to be creative and innovative
- x. Read and study other successful company's model

### **Fireside Chat with Mazi Alison Ukonu**

He is the co-founder and the CEO of RecyclePoints and the president of RAN. He shared some apt information on the success of RecyclePoints to help others who wants to build a successful venture like his. Below were the highlights of the chat;

- i. It started when the family was fined 2011 in the United Kingdom for improper waste sorting and disposal
- ii. This could be replicated in Nigeria where the citizens are less concern about the waste, they generated

- iii. Google is your friend; he searched the internet to get people who formed the team to start RecyclePoints
- iv. A lot of work must be done; think it, put it down, go to the market and try it out
- v. Have a reasonable level of understanding of the market
- vi. Monitor your figures closely as a shift can have an adverse effect on the business
- vii. Create good relationship with your customers and staff; it fosters the bond in the company
- viii. Be committed to that which you believe, make progress on it; pains would come but it will be worthwhile in the end
- ix. Be disruptive, don't follow the crowd

### **Masterclasses**

RAN is an association that is mindful of the successful running of the business of its members; reason why two masterclasses were scheduled for a low fee.

Mr. Davis Okeowo facilitated on Business Modelling & Planning and Miss Grace Ihejiamazu on Accessing Grants and Funding Opportunities for Startups.

It was a pack full session with tips to move members businesses forward as testified by most of the attendees.

### **Closing ceremony**

Mr. Taiwo Adewole thanked the inaugural committee of the event, as well as all the other persons who had contributed to its success. The next meeting shall be communicated to all members in due time.

### **List of Annexes**

- Annex 1 Programme of the Inaugural Event
- Annex 2 List of Participants at the Inauguration
- Annex 3 List of Register RAN members
- Annex 4 List of Recyclers Association of Nigeria Inauguration Committee
- Annex 5 List of Recyclers Association of Nigeria Executives

### ANNEX 1 – Programme of the Inaugural Meeting

<b>FIRST SESSION</b>	
09:00am	Registration
09:40am	Welcome Address
09:40am	Unveiling RAN
10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Panel Discussion The Role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programme in facilitating a Circular Economy
10:50am	Questions and Answers
11:00am	Tea Break
11:15am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Panel Discussion Circular Economy: Concept Review and Value Creation for Business and Society
12:00pm	Questions and Answers
12:10pm	Goodwill Message
12:30pm	Lunch

<b>SECOND SESSION</b>	
<b>TIME</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
01:00pm	Fireside Chat with Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola
01:30pm	Masterclass by Davies Okeowo – Business Modelling and Planning
02:30pm	Fireside Chat with Mazi Alison Ukonu
03:00pm	Masterclass by Grace Ihejamaizu – Accessing Grants and Funding Opportunities for Startups
04:00pm	Constitution Review/EXCOS Ratification
05:00pm	Networking/Closing Remarks

## Annex 2 - List of Participants at the Inauguration

NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	REPRESENTATIVE
Adebola Sobanjo	Recyclecarb Hub Limited	Ibadan	Adebola Sobanjo
Ojo Olubusayo	Estola Facilities & Management Services	Lagos	Kayode Abijo
Madinako Ogo	iFarm Recycler Nigeria Limited	Port Harcourt	Olasoji Fisayo
Olasoji Ayoola	Wastepay Nigeria	Akure	Self
Temitope Okunmu	FABE Nigeria	Lagos	Phoda Jonah
Ompfika Okeke	Aiiopen Company	Asaba	Onydola Okeke
Femi Idowu-Adegoke	Ecoviridis Environmental Technology	Lagos	Dr. Femi Idowu-Adegoke
Adaobi Enyekwe	RecyclePoints Limited	Lagos	Adaobi Enyekwe
Francis Nnachi	Solid Chemical & Resources	Kano	Francis Nnachi
Makeem Omotayo	HISL	Lagos	HISL
Datnpe Porbeni	UNIDEISA Limited	Lagos	Gabriel Ibru
Olaitan Olakanmi	Risley Bridge Company Limited	Lagos	Olaitan Olakanmi
Chibunna Ogbenna	Renewcycle Group	Imo	Cheezago Emmanuel
Sandre Onwekwe	Ecoprune	Lagos	Sandre Onwekwe
Odediran Adesole	HISL Recyclers	Lagos	Odediran Adesole
Ogunlofin Babatunde	Emmson Resources	Lagos	Ogunlofin Babatunde
Alex Akhigbe	African Cleanup Initiative	Lagos	Alex Akhigbe
Habib Ahmed	Environment Expression Limited	Abuja	Habib Ahmed
Stephen Ohinoba	Resurgence Harem Limited	Ogun	Stephen Ohinoba
Ugonna Awekuuru	Gadehen Recycler	Lagos	Ugonna Awekuuru
Omo Ogunseri	Recyclehub Limited	Delta	Richard Obioma
Folakemi Praise	Mottainai Recycling	Lagos	Folakemi Praise
Ade Adewuyi	Mottainai Recycling	Lagos	Ade Adewuyi
Obi Kelvin	Mottainai Recycling	Lagos	Obi Kelvin
Nubi Afolashade	UNILAG	Lagos	Nubi Afolashade
Gnankpon Tunde Michael	Eight Project & Environmental Company Limited	Lagos	Gnankpon Tunde Michael
Tamara Ponbi	Irtus Consilting	Lagos	Tamara Ponbi
Victor Igmoh	Scrap Empire	Lagos	Victor Igmoh
Olatunji Raji	D'Allure Scrap Limited	Lagos	Olatunji Raji
Tairat Bashorun	Sustyvibes	Lagos	Sustyvibe
Ngozi Enenike	Dispose Recyclers	Lagos	Ngozi Enenike
Benedine Onlekea	Ala Recycler Limited	Abia	Benedine Onlekea
Agboola Ifeoluwa	Obafemi Awolowo University	Ile-Ife	Agboola Ifeoluwa
Hinckley Recycling	Hinckley Recycling	Lagos	Aorian Clevs
Raymond Global	Raymond Global	Lagos	Gloria Adaba
Amarachukwu Babatunde	Greenix Envitotec	Lagos	Amarachukwu Babatunde

Lotanna Gerald Okoye	Ecoplastic and Alumium Recycle Service	Abuja	Lotanna Okoye
Doyinsola Ogunye	Mental and Environmental Development Initiative for Children	Lagos	Tolani Kadiri
Mariam Lawani	Greenhill Recycling	Lagos	Mariam Lawani
Omoh Alokwe	Street Waste Company	Lagos	Omoh Alokwe
Agharese Lucia Ojelede	En-pact Solutions Limited	Lagos	Agharese Ojelede
Maryam Njie	THERMAL Initiative	Lagos	Maryam Njie
Taiwo Adewole	Recyclepoints Nigeria	Lagos	Taiwo Adewole



**ANNEX 3 – List of Registered RAN members**

NAME	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	COUNT
123recycle	Corporate	1
Alamonk Recyclers Ltd	Corporate	1
AMORGEN NIG COMPANY.	Corporate	1
Chanja Datti	Corporate	1
Chestron Limited	Corporate	1
D'allure Scraps Limited	Corporate	1
D'allure Scraps Ltd.	Corporate	1
Ecoplastic	Corporate	1
Ecoprune	Corporate	1
EcoViridis Environmental Technology	Corporate	1
Enpact Solutions	Corporate	1
Environmental Expressions Limited	Corporate	1
E-Terra Technologies	Corporate	1
Fabe Environment Enterprise.	Corporate	1
Fountain Resources Global Services Ltd	Corporate	1
Gedeihen Recyclers	Corporate	1
Greenhill Recycling Limited	Corporate	1
Hinckley Associates Nig Recycling	Corporate	1
HISL Recyclers	Corporate	1
Horlag Recycling	Corporate	1
iFarm Recyclers	Corporate	1
LasGidis Recyclers	Corporate	1
Medic Initiative	Corporate	1
Mottainai Recycling	Corporate	1
Muda Africa.	Corporate	1
Recyclehub.	Corporate	1

RecyclePoints Limited	Corporate	1
Remould Global Ventures Ltd	Corporate	1
Risley Bridge Company Ltd.	Corporate	1
Solid Chemicals Resource Limited	Corporate	1
Srap Empire	Corporate	1
Street Waste Company	Corporate	1
Tairan Industries Ltd.	Corporate	1
Thermal Initiative	Corporate	1
Tong da Industries	Corporate	1
UNILAG	Corporate	1
Vicfold Recyclers	Corporate	1
Wecyclers Nigeria Limited	Corporate	1
Africa Clean up Initiative	Associate	1
Bohia Environmental services limited	Associate	1
Dispose Recyclers Limited	Associate	1
Ecobarter.	Associate	1
Eight Project and Environment Ltd	Associate	1
Emmsog Resources.	Associate	1
Fransum Global Nigeria Limited	Associate	1
Greenex Envirotech	Associate	1
Recycle Artcreate.	Associate	1
Recycle Garb Hub Ltd	Associate	1
Resurgence Haven Limited	Associate	1
Tamara Posibi-Irtus Consulting.	Associate	1
Tulle Box Enterprise.	Associate	1
WasteWatch Africa	Associate	1
Alamonk Recyclers Ltd	Affiliate	1
Ecoprune	Affiliate	1
HISL Recyclers	Affiliate	4
Mottainai recycling	Affiliate	2
RecyclePoints	Affiliate	3
Chibunna Ogbonna	Student	1
Bolu Aiyepola	Student	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>

**ANNEX 4 - List of Recyclers Association of Nigeria Inauguration Committee**

<b>Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) Inauguration Committee</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SEX</b>
Femi Idowu-Ajibogun	(M)
Wunmi Ogunde	(F)
Goodluck Festus	(M)
Olaitan Olakanmi	(F)
Taiwo Adewole	(M)
Omoh Alokwe	(F)
Mariam Lawani	(F)
Nanle Daniel (Exco Member)	(M)
Sandra Onwuekwe (Exco Member)	(F)

**ANNEX 5 - List of Recyclers Association of Nigeria Executives**

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
President	Mazi Alison Ukonu
Vice President	Agharese Lucia Ojelede
Secretary	Doyinsola Ogunye
Assistant Secretary	Sandra Onwuekwe
Treasurer	Lotanna Gerald Okoye
Financial Secretary	Olaide Eremiokhale
Provost I	Chidubem Uchendu
Provost II	Maryam N'jie
PRO I	Nwamaka Raji
PRO II	Funto Boroffice
PRO III	Nanle Daniel