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NIGERIA: National Water Resources Institute

- International Office for Water - Cooperation - International actions - Vocational training and engineering -

Date de mise en ligne : Wednesday 30 July 2008

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The National Water Resources Institute (NWRI) is the only institute in NIGERIA in charge of training and applied research in the water sector. This institute, located in Kaduna , was created in 1979 under the supervision of the Nigerian Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The NWRI's main activities and missions are: basic and professional training, basic and applied research, documentation and database management.

The institute has trained 1,400 students since its creation.

NWRI has a staff of 200 people and an annual budget of about 1.000 MFF.

The actions of the International Office for Water with NWRI fall within the scope of the co-operation established between the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs (The French Embassy) and the Nigerian Authorities.

Since 1993, the total budget of our co-operation has amounted to 4,600 MFF.

The objective of this co-operation is to provide technical assistance to NWRI with the furthering of its development by adapting French know-how in the water sector.

Several types of assignment were carried out :

- **The training of trainers** and of NWRI's clients on major topics such as treatment of drinking water, wastewater treatment, maintenance, the reuse of treated water for irrigation,...
- **Experts' evaluation linked to the development of NWRI's new activities** (analysis laboratories, technical assistance service for wastewater treatment, positioning regarding the water agencies, documentation, ...)
- **Equipment supply** : OTV pilot unit for drinking water production, SOAF pilot unit for wastewater treatment, pollution monitoring and laboratory equipment, documentary collections, computer hardware,... These SOAF and OTV pilot units are demonstration models of the French technology in Nigeria.

Among other things, these actions allowed NWRI, in 1996, to get a contract with the World Bank for the training of Nigerian operators of drinking water treatment plants within the framework of a rehabilitation programme for drinking water treatment plants in Nigeria . This contract was signed, owing to a drinking water treatment pilot supplied by OTV and the training of NWRI's trainers on its use.

In the next few years, the development of this co-operation will be concerned with :

- - the establishment of a teaching pilot system for drinking water supply allowing training courses to be held on this topic,

- - the setting-up of a Nigerian Water Data Network led by NWRI and inspired by the French experience of the French Water Data Base and SANDRE (The National Data Reference Centre for Water)

Actions in Nigeria should now be regional with bilingual (English-French) training programmes, in " team teaching ", jointly managed by IOWater-and NWRI, addressing the whole West African sub-region.

Specialists from neighbouring countries are thus invited to attend the NWRI training programmes included in the catalogue (water analysis, drinking water production, wastewater treatment) and to meet their counterparts of this part of the African continent in order to exchange their experiences.

IOWater, an ISO 9001 certified training centre since 1999 as concerns its training programmes, proposed to the NWRI the establishment of indicators for assessing the effectiveness of all its activities in order to meet the national and international donors' expectations regarding the efficiency of their financing.