

Good day all

It's with great pride and fulfilment that I welcome you all to today's assembly.

It is the first of its kind in Africa and worth all commendation. 2022 was generally a turbulent year for most organizations globally. It reinforced the methodical shift initiated in 2020, shift in models and systems of persons and corporates. While the world wrestled for recovery from the socio-economic impact of Covid-19, the Russia- Ukrain crisis struck an even deeper punch with further cut in energy demands, food and several essentials.

The situation was again further worsened with the high volume of terror activities in Africa for the year 2022. In reality, Africa recorded both the highest volume and the worse socioeconomic impact from terror activities globally in 2022.

Perhaps the biggest of all the challenges yet to deliver its hardest punch is the call for diversion from fossil fuels. A situation which is certain to crash any progress made thus far or projected by African economies, if not carefully managed.

Despite the positive value of Africa's growing population, the challenges are correspondingly increasing, unemployment and gross lack of infrastructures. The fact is bare before us and the situation plain, there is urgent need for Africa to initiate new economic models, indigenous models aimed to drive Africa to emerge beyond long standing survival tactics to innovative tactics. Africa needs new survival models to address her centuries old socioeconomic limitations. One that harnesses the collective strength of Africa to address the single and most minute problems in Africa, where ever they exist.

This is the model that we have adopted to build our success in 2022. We have responded positively to Africa's call for a solutions platform to drive her and manage her industrial interests. A solutions platform that complements and not necessarily compete with international benchmarks. A solutions platform that accurately enmeshes the African ideal and identity and emphasizes the need to build skills, create opportunities, and sustain productivity of manufacturing industries.

In 2022, despite the lack of funds expected, TWF was able to push and pull to achieve most of its programs and projects. Impressively TWF through the committed effort of members followed through with her road map to providing quality solutions in terms of human and corporate capacities. In 2022, TWF advanced beyond obvious limitation and differences to record the following commendable achievements.

Partnerships

- TWF signed an SLA with the SAIW in 2022 to promote and jointly implement ISO 3834 company certification schemes as a vehicle to grow quality and productivity across manufacturing industries in Nigeria
- TWF successfully onboarded PETAN. The Africa's local content was also able to enter into partnership with the biggest energy conference and exhibition in Africa through its embrace of PETAN onto the Board of TWF.

Membership

TWF in order to achieve and dustbin impact adopt a unique membership model i.e., corporate based and not necessarily country-based membership.

IN 2022, Uganda and Cameroon were both welcome to the TWF family. Both countries are currently very active promoting the policies and programs of TWF in their respective countries and regions.

Personnel Scheme

Thanks to the unmatched commitment of experts in each of TWF TNB committees. The welder and Fitter syllabuses and implementation structures were developed and successful concluded.

TWF Welding Inspection Certification Scheme and structure was also developed. However yet to be test run due to delays in delivery of defect samples. The first batch of the weld was received in 2022.

Regional Activities

In the year 2022, TWF participated in key regional events in both East and North Africa.

- TWF SDG Event Cameroon
- TWF Regional Symposium- Egypt - North
- TWF participation in WAITRO conference - North
- TWF participation at OGTAN Technical Industry Lecture- West
- TWF Regional Symposium- Uganda- East

I would like to appreciate the management of TWF for the hard work and contribution over the past year. The year, 2023 holds much promise for Africa as we work together but certainly not without challenges in view.

2023 promises a rebirth of industrial ordinances in Nigeria. A much more closely knitted collaboration to collectively develop solutions to lingering limitation to manufacturing in Africa.

In 2023, TWF has the following key activities in view

- Sub Saharan Petroleum International Exhibition and Conference- 14-17, February,2023.
- TWF 1st Annual Assembly and Conference, Cairo Egypt-14-17 March,2023
- Launch of TWF Welding Inspection Certification Scheme (TWF WIC)- **Welding Quality Seal-Africa**
- TWF Profile and related publications
- Participate - IIW Annual Assembly and Conference ,2023

The launch of TWF welding inspection certification program is a huge accomplishment for the Federation. One that is certain to initiate a huge adjustment in Africa's industrial settings, expand the frontiers of skills management in Africa in the coming years and most importantly empower Africans to grow industries methodically.

At this point, it is important to clarify that TWF and IIW are not competitors but complementary organizations. TWF schemes therefore will complement IIW schemes in Africa within the TWF Skill Management Map. It is hoped that going forward, the relationship with IIW and TWF will grow and complement mutual interests.

Gentlemen, in 2020/2021 everything looked bleak. It looked bleak. Today's report and assembly has shown that collectively, we possess the depth and exposure to contribute to the table of solutions in manufacturing globally.

In conclusion, I am grateful to my fellow TWF Board members for volunteering their time and resources to have brought us this far. It is a testimony to what we can achieve when we truly work together.

Thank you and God bless

TWF President – John Tarboton

14 March,2023