

Good day all

It's a delight and privilege to be delivering this report again and it will be best to start with a quote from Henry Ford **"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."**

Societies have now settled from the upset of the covid effect. Truly the covid event triggered a methodical shift across all societies and continent and sphere of life like never before. It is now obvious that things can never remain the same as it used to be. The quest for solutions and solutions ownership that complements global agenda to guarantee sustainability is at a heightened peak and Africa is responding appropriately with the development of solutions.

Limitation in human, lack of sustained funding and weak institutions have always been some of Africa's biggest. TWF has had to wrestle with these realities to stay alive and afloat. The return to normalcy has restored these traditional challenges associated with growing Africa for Africa.

This annual assembly and the report now being presented does give an insight to how we have performed in terms of managing limitations occasioned by traditional limitations associated with our continent

In 2023, despite all the odds, we did not only do remarkably well but did go further to successfully cause some impressive major upset that complements the interest of Africa and Africans.

We have not only sustained past progresses but also made new additions. I am therefor pleased to update you as follows

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 Africa. Avenues to increase awareness and encourage companies to embrace of ISO 3034 are ongoing. At this conference 2024, there will be presentation of papers and participation in panel sessions to increase awareness and encourage companies engage the process
- In 2023, TWF was onboarded courtesy of PETAN as official partners of SAIPEC. SAIPEC is Africa biggest energy conference and exhibition. It attracts local content leaders and experts across the continent annually to discuss, network and propose new paths for Africa's energy industry. TWF Welding Workshop is now an integral part of SAIPEC programs.
- TWF successfully signed a mutual welder inspector recognition agreement with CWB Group one of the clear leaders in the global welding industry. This agreement creates rooms for training bodies in Africa to access implementation of CWB's advanced Autowelding and Boiler Welder programs.

- TWF successfully created a draft template for Africa's occupation standard in welding for welders. This template will be available to all countries in Africa without cost for adoption and implementation as we collectively build and integrate our industries
- The TWF Welder Inspector program development has reached an advanced state. Thanks to all the experts contributing the scheme. The syllabus as well and the accompanying details to set us an integrated welder inspector certification program for Africa is now ready. Details of this scheme will be presented in the course of the assembly
- TWF success participated in major international and national events- IIW Internal Assembly in Singapore, Tanzania Energy Congress, Nordic Connect Nigeria and was supposed to participate in the Steel Assembly in South Africa but for visa challenges.
- TWF engaged in discussions with IIW to onboard IIW welding Coordinators program as ANB Africa. At the moment inconclusive, TWF hopes to conclude all arrangement and make it available to Africa aided by the lead experience of SAIW.

It is important at this point to reiterate that the goal of TWF in the development of solutions is not necessarily aimed at competition but to complement the global solutions template. This is evidently visible in its approach to onboard programs which it recognizes as being valuable and of impact to the sustained interest of Africa.

Membership application to TWF has increased for individuals in 2023. This is commendable as it shows the willingness of experts to contribute the development of Africa and to network amongst themselves in Africa. During this assembly membership certificates for approved membership applications will be issued.

I would like to appreciate members of the Board and management of TWF for progress thus far. We did record some progress from 2023. It is expected that we will raise the bar notches higher in 2024 as we continue to work together with a uniform objective.

I appreciate the Board and management of International Institute of Welding and in particular Prof Thomas for his interest to see all parties work together for the sustained benefit of all countries and continents.

In 2024, TWF has the following key activities in view

- Sub Saharan Petroleum International Exhibition and Conference- 13-15, February, 2024.
- TWF 2nd Annual Assembly and Conference, Lagos, Nigeria 5 -7 March, 2024
- Accreditation of TWF Welder Inspector scheme
- Implementation of complementary schemes (e.g. CWB, IIW)
- Participate - IIW Annual Assembly and Conference ,2024

In conclusion, I look back in retrospect and I recollect that in 2020/2021 everything looked impossible, in 2022, it looked bleak, in 2023 real and diverse challenges emerged. In 2024 what do we expect to achieve? It depends how deep we are ready to dig and how wide we are ready to reach in embrace of allies that complements our collective interests. We do not always need to reinvent the wheels where they exist already.

Thank you and God bless

TWF President – Dr Hamed Abdel-Aleem

5th March,2024

