

## **The Future of Nigeria's Oil Industry Will Be an Ice Breaker**

...As Regional Oil Gurus and Investors Meet at Houston Energy Conference

As the oil market bounces back to life with a promising commodity price of about \$84 per barrel and an optimistic wave of market stabilization, Sub-Saharan Africa, a region with a high accumulation of oil reserves, gears up to structure the industry in a way that would benefit its people and also ensure adequate returns to investors. This new move is building up momentum amongst national oil companies in the region and investors who have been billed to convene on a platform dubbed "*Critical Mass*" to fashion out strategies that would be of mutual benefit to both producing nations and operators and also showcase the myriad of investment opportunities in the upstream and downstream sectors of the region in an upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sub-Saharan Africa Oil & Gas Conference scheduled for April 29 -30, 2010 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Houston

Leading the golden-pack of industry gurus and top players in this energy conference is the versatile Dr. Emmanuel O. Egbogah, P.Eng, OON, Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria on Petroleum Matters. Dr. Egbogah will give an ice breaking key presentation on the challenges and future of the oil industry in Nigeria, the largest producer of the region and OPEC's frontline member. Egbogah's ice breaker will focus on the nation's burgeoning Petroleum Industry Bill; regulations, promising business climate, peace actualization in Niger Delta, opportunities and way forward. While Dr. Kase Lawal's opening session's presentation will be a case study on the strategies, struggles and accomplishments of CAMAC International, an inspiring account of a small independent oil/gas company making giant stride in the Gulf of Guinea

"As there are myriad of business opportunities in the West African oil sector, so are there also plethora of risk" says Sunny Lawrence-Oputa, the Chief Executive Officer of Energy & Corporate Africa, the organizers of the event. "However, while the investment opportunities in the region are booming with high returns; the good news is that the market risks are surmountable with good knowledge and best practices and this is one of the solutions this conference will seek to provide" Oputa added.

To diagnose the buoyant opportunities and analyze market risks in the region and how to avert them is what Philippe de Pointe a regional market analyst with Eurasia, Kamal Dorabawila, a Principal Investment Officer with IFC (World Bank) and other highly rated top market commentators will be providing with major forecasts.

Other top brass speakers include: Mahammat Hassan, the Petroleum Minister of Chad, Anibal Silva, the Vice Minister of Petroleum, Angola, Gabriel Obiang Lima, Vice Minister of Mines & Energy Equatorial Guinea, Abou-Bakar Traore, Minister of Mines of Mali, Jean Claude Baunde, Governor of Equator Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Dionsio Cunha, Director General of Petroguin of Guinea Bissau, Dr. Babafemi Oyewole of APPA Cotonou, Dr. Nirajan Banik of Schlumberger, Tim O'Hanlon of Tullow Oil, Sr. Vincente Mbuy the Director General of Ministry of Mines and Hydrocarbons Equatorial Guinea, Rod Ragan of Energy Allied, Robert Gerry of VAALCO Energy, Jim Spear of Hyperdynamics, Amadou Dioffo of SONIDEP, Republic of Niger, Anthony Adendorff of PACDEX South Africa and others.