

SUMMARY DOCUMENT REVIEWING THE CONTRIBUTION OF PETER COOKEY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRIZE THEME

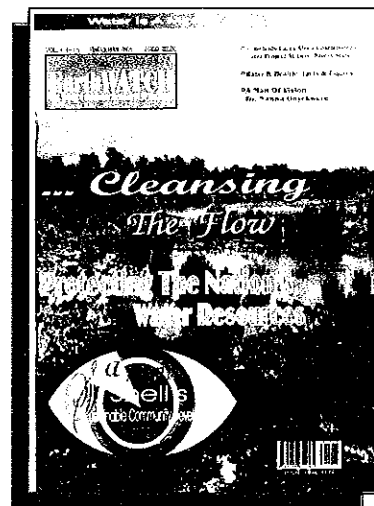


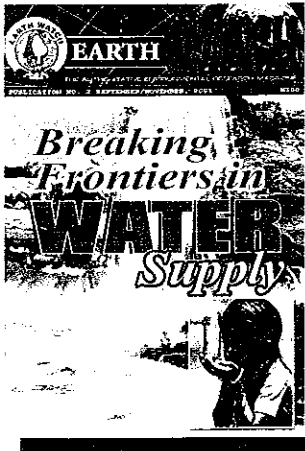
Peter Coockey is a Water Resources and Sanitation Management Reform Crusader in Nigeria. For more than fifteen years he has been studying the trend of water management in his State, Rivers State, and his country, Nigeria. He has also been advocating for better management of water resources and sanitation including proper protection of the water resources (surface and underground).

Peter graduated from the Rivers State College of Health Science and Technology (then School of Health Technology) in 1992 and his project focus then was on water quality, 'The Effect of Oil Pollution on the Health of Nchia Community: Its Evaluation on Water Quality'. The experience of this research work set Peter on his crusade. In the year 1995, Peter worked on 'Physico-Chemical and Microbiological Characterization of Effluents from Selected Industries in Port

Harcourt and their Effects on Microbial Species Diversity' for his postgraduate research work in Environmental Microbiology, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. This research work evaluated the effect of untreated wastewater on the receiving water within the Trans Amadi Industrial Layout, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. This research work led Peter in 2002 to another research on wastewater treatment system and effluent quality as a means of protecting the environment especially the water resources. His Master's degree thesis in Environmental Management from Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria was titled 'Appraisal of Wastewater Treatment Systems and Effluent Quality: A Case Study of two Wastewater Treatment Plants in Port Harcourt Metropolis'. At this point Peter became worried about the quality of our water resources and portability of the water provided to the people.

In 2001, Peter launched the EarthWatch Magazine with an environmental focus and the second issue was on his pet topic water with the cover title 'Breaking Frontiers in Water Supply'. Subsequently, in spite of the fact that the magazine carries a regular department in water and sanitation, there have been several cover focus on water and sanitation issues like 'Cleansing the Flow: Protecting the Nation's Water Resources', Sanitation Crisis in Rivers State-Taking Down the Monster' etc. The magazine has served as a medium of raising awareness and research. Subsequently, Peter in 2002 conceived the idea of the EarthWatch Conference which became the EarthWatch Conference on Water. In 2002, the conference looked at the theme 'Financing Rural Water Supply Projects in Nigeria', Port





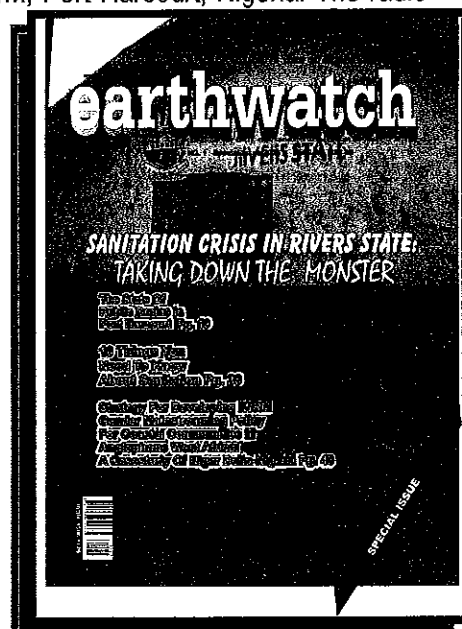
Harcourt. Over the years the conference has taken on such themes as 'Bacteria in Drinking Water: Public Health Implication', Port Harcourt, 2003; 'Treatment and Testing Methods in Water Management', Ibadan, 2004; 'Urban Water Supply and Sanitation', Lagos, 2005; 'Managing Water and Waste in Nigeria: The Urban Challenge', Calabar, 2006. In November 2008, in commemoration of the International Year of Sanitation, the conference will be looking at the 'The Challenges of Financing Sanitation in Nigeria and West Africa towards Achieving the MDGs'.

The conference which has grown now to be the EarthWatch Conference on Water and Sanitation is also recognized as the Nigerian Water and Sanitation Forum; has been a forum for the government, academia, NGO's, private sectors and other stakeholders to meet and share knowledge and issue together in other to proffer solutions and influence government decisions and policy making. Over the years several papers has been presented at the conference that have served as research foundations for other works and government studies. The conference has also been a tool used to connect the government with the academia in other to create a means of cooperation. The conference has also been an avenue for persons with ideas and scientific discoveries to expose them to the public and also as a medium of awareness-raising.

As part of the activities marking the EarthWatch Conference on Water and Sanitation, is the EarthWatch Water and Sanitation Awards which seeks to highlight the achievement in the National water/sanitation sector of the country. The awardees are usually presented with plaque and embossed certificate. Some of the awards are Water for the People Award, Water/Sanitation Journalist Award, NGO of the Year Award, Water Agency Award, Water and Sanitation Consultant of the Year Award, etc.

Peter also took his crusade to the electronic media where he hosted a radio programme 'EarthWatch on Radio in Partnership with RayPower 106.5 F/M, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The radio programme was purely an awareness raising programme, which cover serious environmental issues like water resources protection and water supply quality. Peter interviews prominent personalities and experts in the subject matter during the live radio programme and got responses from the public an indication of better understanding of issues being discussed. The intend was to simplify the matter, so that the general public can understand and know how to demand for their right effectively.

All these activities led Peter to establish the EarthWatch Research Institute, which was formally registered in 2008. The institute will operate as professional, academic and membership organization. The mission of the institute is to serve as an inter-disciplinary and multi-institutional centre in core areas which include water resources and sanitation. The institute will serve the purpose of increasing awareness,



carrying out solution oriented researches, engaging in discussion, debates and publication, producing competent professional and challenging government and private sector.

In 2008, also the EarthWatch Foundation was born with an endowment of \$1,596 USD research assistance grant for Postgraduate Research in Water and Sanitation in the Department of Microbiology, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. This research assistance grant is in the memory of Dr. (Mrs.) Beatrice Nene Uba who was Peter's Postgraduate Research Supervisor in 1996 and Peter all time mentor in water and sanitation.

In 2008, Peter was elected to serve in the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) administered by World Health Organization (WHO) to represent all Anglophone African Countries. Peter has been pushing for water and sanitation reform in his State, Rivers State for the past four years. He currently served on the Rivers State Government Greater Port Harcourt Development Committee (GPDC) a committee constituted to plan and design the Port Harcourt Mega City Projects.

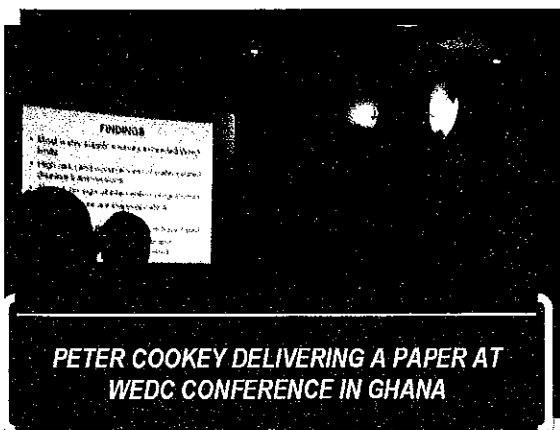
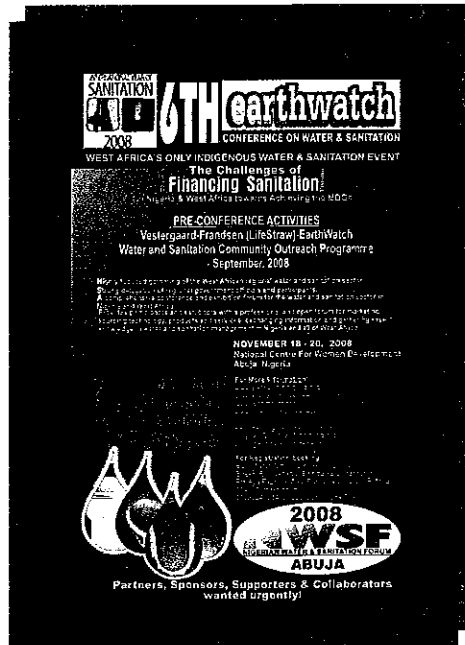
Peter is a strong member of the Water Resources and Waste Management Sub-Committee in the GPDC. He used this opportunity to drive for water reform policy and legislation and to influence his government towards changing the previous system. He also served on the Greater Port Harcourt Master Plan Projects in the Water, Waste and Sanitation Sub-Sectors amongst others. He is currently involved with the drafting of a water and sanitation policy and relevant legislations for his State.

Peter in 1998, returned to his alma mater, Rivers State College of Health Science and Technology to lecture in the School of Environmental Health. He has since trained more than 3,500 students in water and sanitation and supervised related projects on rainwater harvesting, quality of hand dug wells, community water quality monitoring, assessment of rural community sanitation etc. He has delivered papers in international and national conferences. He was among the seven hundred

reviewers of the book 'Water for Food: Water for Life: A Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture' by International Water Management Institute (IWMI). Peter Cookey has published several books and written several articles on water and sanitation. He has organized roundtables, seminars, workshops and trainings at different levels.

The most outstanding thing about Peter is that he has achieved all that he has so far by sacrificing his own personal resources without any external funding. Peter has contributed to

water and sanitation issues by raising awareness, through his conferences, magazine, research



papers, lectures, media programmes and every other opportunity. He has Influence Corporation and sound management in the development and use of water resources in his State and Nigeria. He is now currently reaching out to West Africa and through WSSCC to Anglophone Africa. We believe that Peter Cooley has made an outstanding contribution in the field of water resources and sanitation management.