SPE AFRICA REGION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2026

Dear esteemed members of the SPE Africa Region,

November: The homestretch is here

A strong year deserves a strong finish!

November brings us halfway through the final quarter of 2026, and we are finally in the homestretch. It is an opportunity to appreciate how far we have come, reflect on our accomplishments and make the remaining weeks of the year count.

Looking back, I am encouraged by the progress we have made across the SPE Africa Region. Our Sections have remained active, our volunteers have continued to serve with dedication, and our members have contributed meaningfully to the development of Africa's energy industry.

October was particularly eventful, with engagements at the 2026 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE) in Houston, the SPE International Board Fourth Quarter Meeting, our Africa Regional Section Officers Workshop and the OTL Africa Downstream Energy Week 2026. We also shared our plans for 2027, which promises to be another exciting year for the Region.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, *"Well done is better than well said."* Those words are particularly relevant as we approach the end of the year. Our attention must remain on following through on our commitments and making meaningful progress for the members we serve.

ATCE 2026: Connecting with our global SPE community

October took us to Houston, Texas, for the 2026 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE) at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

It was a pleasure to participate in this important global gathering, which brought together petroleum professionals, technical experts and industry leaders to share knowledge and discuss developments affecting our profession.

The conference featured insightful keynote presentations and technical discussions, providing opportunities to exchange ideas with colleagues from different parts of the world.

For the SPE Africa Region, ATCE also offered an opportunity to strengthen relationships with SPE International leadership and ensure that Africa's growing technical expertise and professional contributions remain part of the Society's global conversations.

SPE Africa Regional Section Officers Workshop: Strengthening our Sections for the years ahead

Alongside ATCE, we hosted the SPE Africa Regional Section Officers Workshop, bringing together Section leaders and representatives from across the continent.

The workshop provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences, discuss challenges affecting their Sections and identify practical ways to improve member engagement across Africa. The programme featured roundtable discussions and technical knowledge-sharing sessions that encouraged greater cooperation among

our leaders.

An important moment was the **SPE Nigeria Council leadership handover**, during which I had the privilege of overseeing the transition of the Council Chairpersonship from **Mr. Francis Nwaochie** to **Mr. Etta Agbor**. I sincerely thank Francis for his dedicated service and congratulate Etta on his appointment. I look forward to working with him as he takes on this responsibility.

We were also privileged to have seven past SPE Nigeria Council Chairpersons in attendance, bringing valuable leadership experience and institutional knowledge to the gathering.

It was equally an honour to welcome **Olivier Houzé, Susan Howes** and **Ian Phillips**, representing the 2025, 2027 and 2028 SPE presidential years, respectively. Their participation allowed our Section officers to engage directly with SPE International leadership on membership priorities, volunteer development and the future direction of the Society.

SPE International Board Fourth Quarter Meeting: Advancing the Society's strategic priorities

Another important engagement was the 2026 SPE International Board Fourth Quarter Meeting, also held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

A major focus of the meeting was the finalization of the review of **SPE's five-year strategic plan**, including a careful examination of the Society's mission and vision. This work will guide how SPE responds to the needs of its members and maintains its relevance to the energy industry in the years ahead.

I am particularly grateful for the confidence placed in me to serve as Chair of the SPE International Board Membership and Engagement Committee for the coming year.

My priority in this role is to ensure that the membership and engagement objectives of the new strategic plan are translated into practical improvements for our members. I will work closely with the Committee, fellow Board members and SPE staff to strengthen member participation and improve the professional value members receive from the Society. As Africa Regional Director, I remain committed to representing the interests and expectations of our members across the continent in these important discussions.

OTL Africa Downstream Energy Week 2026: Rethinking West Africa's fuel supply systems

October also provided an opportunity to contribute to the OTL Africa Downstream Energy Week 2026, where I delivered a high-level presentation and participated in a plenary discussion themed "West African Fuels Congress: What's New and What's Next?"

Drawing on global, regional and Ghanaian data, I discussed how the 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis exposed the vulnerability of fuel-importing economies. The disruption significantly reduced shipping traffic through the Strait, lengthened alternative supply routes and pushed Brent crude oil prices higher, with serious implications for import-dependent markets.

It was a rewarding opportunity to share practical recommendations and contribute to conversations that have direct implications for energy security across West Africa.

Looking ahead to 2027: Preparing for a strong final year

As November progresses, our attention is increasingly turning towards 2027. We have already begun preparations for several important activities across the SPE Africa Region, and I am excited about what lies ahead.

One of our major engagements will be **ATC 2027 in Mozambique in June**, together with the **SPE Africa**

Regional Awards, where we will celebrate the achievements and contributions of outstanding professionals within our Region.

Nigeria will host the Africa Regional Section Officers Workshop, Young Professionals Workshop and **Africa Student Congress**, providing further opportunities for professional development and engagement with our emerging leaders.

We are also exploring a potential partnership with the African Energy Chamber for Africa Energy Week 2027, with SPE providing technical support to the event. I look forward to sharing more information as these arrangements progress.

On a personal note, 2027 will be my final year serving as SPE Africa Regional Director. By God's grace, the past two years have been rewarding, and I remain deeply grateful for the confidence and support I have received from our members.

As I prepare for this final year, my focus is on completing the initiatives we have started, providing greater support to our Sections and ensuring that the Africa Region is well positioned for the leadership that follows.

There is still important work ahead, and I am determined to finish my tenure well.

Final thoughts: Finishing the year with purpose

As we approach the close of 2026, I extend my sincere appreciation to our members, Section officers, volunteers, young professionals and students for their continued contribution to the progress of the SPE Africa Region.

The engagements of October have reminded us of the importance of strong leadership and active member participation. They have also provided useful direction for the work ahead in 2027.

I encourage our Sections to remain focused on their outstanding commitments and begin preparing for the opportunities the new year will bring. I am confident that with the dedication of our members, we can build on the progress already made.

Thank you for the privilege of serving this remarkable professional community. I look forward to continuing our work together as we complete 2026 and prepare for another productive year.

Let's finish strong!

#WeAreSPEAfrica

Warm regards,

Dr. Riverson Oppong
SPE Africa Regional Director
CEO - Chamber of Oil Marketing Companies, Ghana

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