

An address presented by Dr. Eucharia Oluchi Nwaichi (a Nigerian), an international Fellow of UNESCO LO'real 2013 FWIS on the occasion of the 13th edition of the L'Oreal Polska and UNESCO programme "For Women in Science" Scholarships 2013 held at the Contemporary Art Museum Warsaw on Monday 14 October 2013

The Hon. Minister of Science and Technology Poland, Most distinguished members of Jury, Most eminent Director of the Institute of Agrophysics Lublin (my host Institute), Members of the Polish Committee for UNESCO, All notable guests both local and international, Brilliant 2013 UNESCO L'Oreal Polska Fellows

It is with deepest sense of humility that I stand before you today to make few remarks in a "spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down" philosophy and manner on this great occasion of the 13th edition of the L'Oreal Polska and UNESCO programme "For Women in Science" Scholarships 2013.

Wake Up Your POSSIBILITY: APART from my excellent performances in science subjects and keen interest in the environment which spurred me to study Biochemistry, environmental damage to the soil, water and air which I observed while undergoing an industrial training (a requirement of a Bachelors degree), in one of the devastated areas in the Niger Delta region spiked me into thinking of how to contribute in remediating the environment.

My Bachelors' degree research findings led me to enrol into a Masters degree from which research I developed my potentials for environmental studies. I went into the PhD programme with so much enthusiasm and my supervisors were great, always urging me on to compete with international researchers, to make my research findings known in reputable journals and other media of communication. That's how I started".

The research which won the international UNESCO LO'real 2013 fellowship on 28th March 2013 at the Sorbonne University Paris, is on the remediation of the environmental components, the soil particularly, using two locally available species in a bid to make it cost-effective, accessible and

environmentally friendly in nature. In the oil sector (the major polluters), chemical and excavation methods are heavily in use. It's just like shifting the goal post of a problem when you excavate and dump at another site. You just transferred the problem, so here we are trying to do a holistic remediation using biological means" termed 'Phytoremediation'.

How many of us, after several well-publicized and ultimately unsuccessful attempts toward our lifelong dream, would get back into the cold, behind – the – scene, always – campaigned – for, difficult – they – say discipline - Science? YOU (the winners) are! That's why we are here! Falling down is not falling out, you have demonstrated from daily research frustrations. You stood out of the mediocre crowd because nobody notices NORMAL!

Women, they say are ornaments of the world but you have employed our (women) enduring, patient and fighting spirit to make these diverse decorative architecture in your various fields of science being displayed here today. Make the Most Out of Your Research Experience, and Give Back at the Same Time to UNESCO LO'real Foundation, the government and the good people of Poland, your Environment and the World at large. Live each day like you expect something great to happen and SHARE YOUR STORIES!

I give you a hand of collaboration this day.

Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria! Long live Republic of Poland! Long live UNESCO LO'real Foundation! Long live Women in Science!