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## Julius Berger, AFEME Signs Memorandum of Understanding on Training of Personnel, Advancing Skills for Mechatronics in Nigeria.

Nigeria's leading engineering construction company, Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, in its pioneering effort to bridge skills gap in the engineering industry, last week signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Armed Forces Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (AFEME) Mechatronic School**, signifying a collaborative commitment towards the training of its personnel and students.

Speaking at the MoU signing, Head of AFEME Mechatronics School and the host of the event, Capt. Mohammed Idris described the day as a **'momentous one'**, explaining that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the School and Julius Berger Nigeria Plc signified another key milestone in both organisation's consistency of purpose and proactive contribution to the country's industrial and technological development and advancement. He said that **"this alliance is important since it will foster a skilled workforce in the field of Mechatronics, aligning with the ever-evolving demands of the industry; and contribute significantly to the growth and advancement of the Mechatronics sector in Nigeria"**. Capt. Mohammed emphasized that the emerging shared vision for the future will bring about a competent, innovative, and adaptable workforce, congratulating the school and Julius Berger for the bold step towards shaping the future of education and professionalism in Nigeria.

The Head of Julius Berger's Plant and Equipment Department, who in conjunction with the Human Resource Department coordinates the work of the Academy, Francois Roos said, **"Julius Berger seeks to further enhance the company and country's productivity by proactively taking initiatives to develop the capacities of young minds."** Taking that into account, he said, **"we have to train people for the future because if we don't, we will not be able to harvest the benefits of the future. We understand that technologies are evolving, and for us at Julius Berger, it is something we are keenly following and taking into consideration. Yes, it is the future of the young people, but it is equally important to pass the experience of the past to these younger people."**

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Speaking during the signing of the MoU, the Head of the German Technical Advisory Group said, he would like to see Julius Berger take the lead as an industry representative in the introduction of modern greener automotives and in setting the pace manpower development in that area. According to Col. Abel, the evolving nature of technology requires proactiveness and that his organisation is looking forward to higher scale partnership between AFEME and Julius Berger in the introduction of modern greener technologies and the development of the required manpower.

Agreeing with Col. Abel, Mr Roos reiterated Julius Berger's dedication to the trainings of its staff in the technology of now and the future. Roos explained that Julius Berger is aware of the risks associated with training a workforce and the tendencies of workers to leave for greener pastures, but he quoted Richard Bradson, saying, ***“what if you don't train the workers and they stay, imagine the standard and quality that you will have in the future.”***

Mr. Francois Roos acknowledged the invaluable contribution of Mr. Ajamah Himernuel, who is the Coordinator of Julius Berger Plant and Equipment Academy (PEA) and the seamless synergy maintained with AFEME Mechatronics School under the headship of Cpt. Idris, saying the effort of both men deserves commendation. He equally thanked Col. Abel and Mr. Olorunfemi Ojomo who is Head of Human Resources at Julius Berger, for their immense support.

The MoU was signed by the Head of German Technical Advisory Group, Lt. Col. Frank Abel on behalf of the AFEME Mechatronics School and Julius Berger's Head of Plant and Equipment Department, Francois Roos on behalf of the company. Attesting witness to the MoU are Julius Berger's Head of Human Resources, Mr. Femi Ojomo, the Coordinator of Julius Berger Plant and Equipment Academy, Ajamah Himernuel, Talent Management Manager at Julius Berger, Adeyinka Adeniyi, and the Head of AFEME Mechatronics School, Capt. Idris Mohammed. Other Julius Berger staff at the event were Michael Ashofor of the company's Corporate Communications Department, as well as Uzoma Olivia and Moses Happiness of the company's Media Relations Office.