

BIOGRAPHIES

ORGANISERS

UNEP FI

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a unique global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the financial sector.

UNEP FI works closely with nearly 200 financial institutions who are Signatories to the UNEP FI Statements, and a range of partner organizations, to develop and promote linkages between the environment, sustainability and financial performance. Through regional activities, a comprehensive work programme, training programmes and research, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote, and realise the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations.

The Initiative has established a network of Regional Task Forces to coordinate its activities around the world. The Task Forces further provide an opportunity for local Signatories and other financial institutions to interact and share best practices.

Through its Regional Task Forces, UNEP FI is working with financial institutions throughout the world to support and expand sustainable financial practice. Regional Task Forces' activities include:

- Awareness-raising and dissemination of UNEP FI's research and publications
- Capacity-building through workshops and online training courses
Find out about our Risk Training Workshops and Online Courses
- Exchanging views, ideas and best practice between members and key stakeholders
- Research and development of tools

Website: www.unepfi.org

SPONSORS

ACCESS BANK PLC

Access Bank Plc. is a remarkable story of the transformation of a small obscure Nigerian Bank into an African financial institution of note; with emerging footprints on the international banking landscape. Access Bank today is one of the top 10 largest banks in Nigeria in terms of asset base. A phenomenal accomplishment considering its antecedents...

The Beginning (1988 – 2002)

December 19, 1988: Access Bank issued a banking license

February 8, 1989: Access Bank incorporated as a privately owned commercial bank

May 11, 1989: Access Bank commenced operations at its Burma Road, Apapa Head Office

March 24, 1998: Access Bank became a Public Limited Liability Company

November 18, 1998: Access Bank listed on the Nigeria Stock Exchange

February 5, 2001: Access Bank obtained a Universal Banking License from the Central Bank of

Nigeria

The Rebirth

The Board of Directors appointed Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede as MD/CEO and Herbert Wigwe as Deputy Managing Director. The mandate was clear: "Reposition the bank to one of Nigeria's leading financial institutions within a five - year period (March 2002 – March 2007)" This task was perceived by many as audacious, given the realities of the Bank at the time. Also appointed to the Board was Mr. Gbenga Oyebode who brought commendable board experience gathered from some of Nigeria's leading companies, such as MTN Nigeria, Okomu Oil Palm Plc. The new management then articulated a Transformation Agenda for Access Bank Plc. This agenda represented a complete departure from all that characterized the bank in the past and became the road map for the transformation of the bank into a world class financial institution. The focus was to:

- Assemble a credible and high caliber Management Team
- Introduce a culture of excellence founded on professionalism and integrity
- Ensure Human Capital Development
- Enlarge Shareholder Base
- Introduce strong procedures and processes to drive day-to-day activities of the Bank
- Instill a passion for customers in all members of staff
- Establish a Low Cost Liability Generation Strategy
- Expand branch network to cover all clearing zones within Nigeria
- Create a world class Brand Image

The impact of the transformation agenda was reflected in the first year. The bank grew its Balance Sheet by 100% and posted an impressive N1 billion in profit before tax. The profit before tax figure was more than the cumulative profit made by the bank in the last 12 years. This also marked the beginning of what would be a 6 year record triple digit growth trend. Similarly, earnings per share had rebounded to 21kobo from a negative 2kobo position, leading to a declaration of a 5kobo dividend to shareholders for the first time in 3 years.

Website: www.accessbankplc.com

TRAINERS

Melissa Makwarimba
UNEP Finance Initiative, Tutor

Melissa is an independent sustainability consultant with an MBA advising and mentoring a variety of private and public sector organisations to integrate sustainable development principles into policy, core business/sector strategy and management activity. The majority of these organisations operate in the financial services, infrastructure, extractives and industrial sectors in emerging economies.

She is an **IFC approved trainer for their Performance Standards** and tutors the UNEP FI's outreach programme on Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) for FIs. Melissa has been engaged by FIs to advise on specific deals/investments ranging from project finance, corporate loans to equity finance. She has also advised a variety of FIs on the integration of environmental and social risk management processes into their business practices.

Melissa brings over 16 years of experience in responding to sustainability challenges which are geographically, sector and institutionally diverse. Prior to going independent Melissa headed up the Resource Consulting business unit of Scott Wilson, Africa and in her early career worked as the environmental advisor for a textile company.

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