



**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
NIGERIAN MINING AND GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (NMGS-YP)
DURING THE 61ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (AICE)
CEEDAPEG HOTEL, UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE
22nd to 26th March 2026**





Preamble

This report provides a comprehensive account of the activities organized by the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society - Young Professionals (NMGS-YP) during the 61st Annual International Conference and Exhibition (AICE), held at Ceedapeg Hotel, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, from 22nd to 26th March 2026. The NMGS-YP, as the youth arm of the NMGS, continues to play a pivotal role in engaging early-career geoscientists and mining engineers, fostering professional development, and building leadership capacity within Nigeria's extractive and energy sector.

This year's conference presented a unique opportunity for the YP group to expand its reach and impact. Through a combination of networking events, technical sessions, mentorship engagements, and institutional governance activities, the NMGS-YP demonstrated its commitment to excellence, collaboration, and strategic growth. This report also outlines key recommendations, areas for improvement, and a forward-looking plan of activities for the next NMGS calendar year and beyond.



Figure 1 The NMGS-YP Immediate Past President Dr. Shakirat Mustapha-Aminu delivering her opening remark



1. NMGS-YP Connect

Date: Tuesday, 24th March 2026

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Attendance: 127 participants

The NMGS-YP Connect was a flagship evening session designed as a structured networking and engagement forum aimed at introducing early-career professionals and students to the activities, vision, and mission of the NMGS-Young Professionals and Society at large. The session served as the primary gathering point for young geoscientists and mining engineers attending the 61st AICE, creating an environment for meaningful professional interactions, knowledge sharing, and community building.

The programme commenced with an opening remark from the President, Mr. Shadrach S. Sheriff, who welcomed all participants and set the tone for the evening by emphasizing the importance of active participation, collaboration, and purpose-driven engagement among young professionals in Nigeria's mining and geosciences sector.

This was followed by a keynote address from the YP's Immediate Past President (IPP), Dr. Shakirat Mustapha-Aminu, who admonished young professionals to take up leadership roles within the Society and beyond, and to embrace the enduring values of service, sacrifice, and leadership. Her message resonated deeply with the audience, particularly those attending their first NMGS conference.

A presentation was delivered by Ms. Adaeze Awonge, Vice President of the Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) of the Nigerian Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (NAEGE), a specialist group of the NMGS. Ms. Awonge spoke on the benefits of joining YEG and the importance of inter-group collaboration among young professional bodies. The NMGS-YP reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with YEG and other specialist groups to strengthen collaboration among early-career geoscientists and mining engineers across all disciplines.

Distinguished guests at the event included Professor Mike Stephenson, GeoGPT Chief Geoscientist and Director of the Deep-Time Digital Earth (DDE) European/Mid-East/Africa Affairs, Dr. Ishwaran Natrajan, Executive Director of DDE International Promotion, and Dr. Waliu O. Adeolu. The guests addressed the audience on the importance of embracing innovation in geoscience, establishing solid mentorship frameworks, developing entrepreneurial mindset and the critical role that early-career professionals play in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9), which focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation.



Figure 2 The NMGS-YP with Prof. Mike Stephenson and Dr. Ishwaran Natarajan

Breakout Sessions

A key highlight of the NMGS-YP Connect was the breakout session, which divided participants into three thematic groups. Each group was tasked with discussing a specific area of relevance to young professionals in the mining and geosciences sector. After deliberations, a representative from each group presented a summary of their discussions to the full house for collective feedback and reflection. The three thematic areas were:

i. Technology and Innovation in Exploration and Mining

This group examined how young geoscientists and mining engineers can leverage emerging tools such as artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), drone-based surveys, and digital geological modelling to modernize exploration and extraction workflows in Nigeria. Participants identified common challenges including inconsistencies in geoscientific data collection, the absence of proper data inventorization protocols, and the need for a harmonized national geoscience database to improve data accessibility and sharing.

Key Recommendations: The group recommended that the NMGS-YP continue to organize technical sessions focused on emerging and innovative tools in the minerals industry, including workshops on photogrammetry, GIS applications, drone technology, and introductory programming for geoscientists.



ii. Policy, Regulation, and the Role of Young Professionals in Mineral Sector Reform

This group focused on how young professionals can actively participate in shaping mineral governance in Nigeria, covering areas such as licensing frameworks, the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, AMREC/PARC reporting standards, and local content policies. Their discussions centered on the need for a change in how young professionals are perceived within the sector, and the importance of early-career professionals being strategically placed in organizations and positions where they can influence policy-making and offer professional advice on national mineral sector issues.

Key Recommendations: Participants encouraged young professionals to volunteer for regulatory and advisory bodies, actively seek mentors in the policy space, and consistently make their voices heard. The consensus was clear: young professionals must not be passive observers but must advocate for inclusion and speak up on matters of policy and governance.

iii. Career Pathways, Entrepreneurship, and Building a Sustainable Geoscience Workforce

This group addressed the practical realities young professionals face in building sustainable careers: transitioning from academia to industry, establishing consultancy practices, accessing funding for exploration ventures, navigating mentorship gaps, and creating viable career paths outside the traditional oil and gas pipeline. Participants emphasized the need for young geoscientists to master the foundational theories and science of the geoscience and mining engineering profession before pursuing specialization. This group took further steps by creating a WhatsApp group to continue the conversation.

Key Recommendations: The group advocated bridging the gap between academia and industry by inviting industry professionals to assist lecturers in teaching practical topics, thereby improving students' understanding of real-world applications. They also stressed the importance of continuous skills acquisition and professional development, building robust professional networks, and embracing entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

These three breakout groups complemented each other effectively. The first was technical, focusing on tools and innovation. The second was systemic, addressing policy and governance. The third was personal and professional, centered on career growth and workforce sustainability. Together, they covered the full spectrum of challenges and opportunities facing young geoscientists and mining engineers in Nigeria's solid minerals sector. Moving forward, the advocacy strategies identified, the pathways to securing seats at the regulatory table, and the policy changes needed to unlock greater exploration investment will continue to guide the NMGS-YP's programming and strategic direction.



NIGERIAN MINING AND GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY - YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (NMGS-YP)



Figure 3 Breakout discussions, mentorship session with Dr. Waliu, Prof, Mike and Dr. Ish



2. Technical Session: From Mines to Market

Date: Wednesday, 25th March 2026

Session Title: *"From Mines to Market: Navigating a Business Path in the REE Industry"*

Facilitator: Mr. James Teerkop, Director, Adept Mines and Minerals Services Ltd.

Moderator: Ms. Tejumade Momoh, NMGS-YP Vice President

The NMGS-YP organized a dedicated technical session on the increasingly important subject of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and their commercial potential in Nigeria. The session was opened with a remark from the NMGS President, Ms. Rose Chundung Ndong, *FNMGs*, who encouraged young professionals to position themselves strategically along the mineral value chain and to continuously invest in their professional development.

The facilitator, Mr. James Teerkop, provided participants with a thorough introduction to the fundamentals of Rare Earth Elements, with particular emphasis on the light REE mineral Monazite. He discussed current global economic trends driving demand for REEs, the growing opportunities within Nigeria's REE sub-sector, and practical considerations for professionals seeking to enter or contribute to this value chain. A highlight of the session was a hands-on demonstration where Mr. Teerkop showed the audience physical samples of monazite sand and explained techniques for separating Monazite from host sand sediments. This practical element brought the theory to life and was well received by participants.

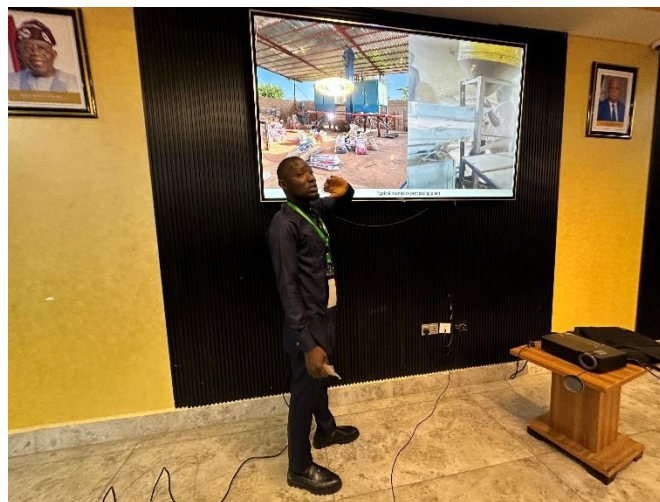


Figure 4 The NMGS-YP Vice President, Mr. James Teerkop during his presentation on REEs (monazite) value chain

In recognition of his contribution to the professional development of young geoscientists, Mr. James Teerkop was presented with an award of appreciation by the NMGS-YP following his presentation.



Figure 5 Madam President, Ms. Rose Chundung Ndong, FNMGS addressing YP. An Award of recognition was given to Mr. James for his contributions

3. Mentorship Session with Prof. A.S. Olatunji, FNMGS

Date: Thursday, 26th March 2026

Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

Attendance: 58 participants

The NMGS-YP held a dedicated mentorship session with the Immediate Past President (IPP) of the NMGS, Professor Akinade S. Olatunji, FNMGS. This session provided a rare and valuable opportunity for young professionals to interact directly with one of the most respected leaders in the Society, who conceived the NMGS-YP Initiative and to receive guidance on career development, professional conduct, and the future of the geoscience's profession in Nigeria.

Professor Olatunji spoke candidly to the participants, urging them to develop clarity of purpose in their careers as geoscientists and mining engineers. He encouraged young professionals to volunteer for meaningful causes, to invest in acquiring innovative skills that set them apart, and to take the mentorship process seriously by actively seeking guidance from seasoned professionals. His words carried the weight of decades of experience and service, and participants were visibly inspired by the session.



Figure 6 Mentorship session with the IPP, Prof. A. S. Olatunji. An award of appreciation was presented to him for his bold vision of forming the YP group and his constant support

An award of appreciation was presented to Professor Olatunji by Dr. Waliu Olukayode Adeolu on behalf of the NMGS-YP, in recognition of his unwavering support for the development of young professionals within the Society.



Figure 7 Prof. A. S. Olatunji and the NMGS-YP after his mentorship session

Donations Received

The mentorship session also marked a significant milestone for the NMGS-YP, as several distinguished members of the Society made generous financial donations in support of YP's programmes and activities. The donations received are as follows:

S/N	Donor	Amount (₦)
1	NMGS President, Ms. Rose Chundung Ndong	100,000.00
2	DG, Mining Cadastre Office (MCO), Engr. Obadiah S. Nkom, <i>FNMGS</i> (presented by Prof. Olatunji)	500,000.00
3	IPP NMGS, Prof. Akinade S. Olatunji, <i>FNMGS</i>	200,000.00
4	Treasurer NMGS, Dr. Waliu Olukayode Adeolu	1,000,000.00
	TOTAL	₦1,800,000.00

The total sum of One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Naira (₦1,800,000.00) was received and will be held in trust within the NMGS account for use in funding NMGS-YP programmes and activities. The NMGS-YP is deeply grateful to all donors for their generosity. These contributions will enable the YP group to plan and execute programmes that were previously constrained by limited funding, and to better prepare for future conferences and initiatives.



4. NMGS-YP Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: Thursday, 26th March 2026

The NMGS-YP convened its Annual General Meeting (AGM) to present a comprehensive report of activities and achievements for the outgoing year, engage members on key institutional matters, and outline the group's plans for the coming NMGS calendar year. The AGM is the highest decision-making platform for the NMGS-YP and serves as an important forum for transparency, accountability, and collective planning.



Figure 8 NMGS-YP 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Executive Continuity and Elections

In accordance with the NMGS-YP Byelaws, the consent of the AGM was sought for the current set of executives to continue serving for another calendar year. The AGM approved this request. However, three (3) executives were stepped down from their positions, and one (1) executive was unable to continue due to the age limit clause stipulated in the Byelaws. Consequently, nominations and elections were conducted to fill these vacancies. The elections were held by open ballot and were chaired by the NMGS-YP Immediate Past President, Dr. Shakirat Mustapha-Aminu.

The newly elected executives are:

S/N	Name	Position
1	Mr. Maleek Taiwo Adebayo	General Secretary
2	Ms. Aminat Olateju	Assistant General Secretary
3	Ms. Wisdom Kehinde Oladimeji	Southwest Representative
4	Mr. Usman Lawal Bindawa	Northwest Representative

Outgoing executives being replaced:

S/N	Outgoing Executive	Replaced By
1	Mr. Tsaku Emmanuel	Mr. Maleek Taiwo Adebayo
2	Mr. PES Yele Manlaku	Ms. Aminat Olateju
3	Mr. Hassan Yusuf	Ms. Wisdom Kehinde Oladimeji
4	Mr. Ahmed Bashir	Mr. Usman Lawal Bindawa

The NMGS-YP extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to these outgoing executives for their dedicated service to the growth, success, and visibility of the NMGS-YP.

Find below the full list of the 2026/2027 NMGS-YP Executives and their contact information.



NIGERIAN MINING AND GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY - YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (NMGS-YP)

Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society – Young Professional (NMGS-YP) 2026/2027 Executives

s/n	Name	Position	Phone	Email
1	Shadrach Sehmilo Sheriff	President	+2348147334819	shadrachsehmilo@gmail.com
2	James Teerkop	Vice President	+2347037727773	Jamesteerkop@gmail.com
3	Tejumade Momoh	Vice President	+2347063013318	Tejumomoh01@gmail.com
4	Maleek Taiwo Adebayo	General Secretary	+2348062181944	hardeybayormaleektaiwo@gmail.com
5	Aminat Olateju	Assistant General Secretary	+2348100820070	aminatolateju11@gmail.com
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8	Tosin Oyeniya	Public Secretary	+2348188157156	oyeniyitosin27@gmail.com
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14	Dr. Chinedu Ibe	Southeast Representative	+2349167019752	chinedu.ibe@unn.edu.ng
15	Dr. Shakirat Mustapha-Aminu	Immediate Past President (IPP)	+2348155040585	mustaphashakirat90@gmail.com

You can reach out to us officially via: youngprofessionalsnmgssyp@gmail.com



Figure 9 NMGS-YP 2026/2027 Executives present after the 3rd AGM. L-R Ms, Wisdom Oladimeji (Southwest Rep.), Mr. Isah Abdulrahman (Northeast Rep.), Ms. Aminat Olateju (Assistant Gen. Sec.), Mr. Maleek Taiwo Adedayo (General Secretary), Mr. Oluyeye Folurunsho (SouthSouth Rep.), Mr. Shadrach Sehmilo Sheriff (President), Ms. Tejumade Momoh (Vice President), Mr. Ghali Munir (Financial Secretary), Dr. Shakirat Mustapha-Aminu (IPP), Mr. James Teerkop (Vice President), Mr. Usman Lawal Bindawa (Nortwest Rep.)

Certificates of Service and Recognition

In a significant acknowledgement of service, executives who served during the 2023 to 2025 NMGS calendar year were awarded certificates of service and recognition for their invaluable contributions as pioneer executives of the NMGS-YP. These individuals laid the foundation upon which the current structure and achievements of the NMGS-YP rest, and the group would not be where it is today without their sacrifices and commitment.





5. Recommended Activities for the Next NMGS Calendar Year and Beyond

Drawing from the outcomes of the 61st AICE, the feedback received from participants across all sessions, and the strategic direction of the NMGS-YP, the following activities are recommended for implementation during the next NMGS calendar year (2026/2027) and beyond. These activities are designed to consolidate the gains made so far, expand the reach and impact of the YP group, and position the NMGS-YP as a leading voice for early-career professionals in Nigeria's mining and geosciences sector.

Phase 1: Q2 2026 (April to June) Consolidation and Planning

- **Post-Conference Debrief and Report Dissemination:** Finalize and circulate this conference report to all NMGS-YP members and the NMGS National Executive Council (NEC). Conduct an internal review meeting with the executive team to evaluate performance, document lessons learned and set priorities for the new year.
- **Onboarding of New Executives:** Formally onboard the four newly elected executives provide handover documentation and integrate them into ongoing projects and communication channels.
- **Membership Drive and Database Update:** Launch a structured membership registration and renewal campaign targeting early-career professionals across Nigerian universities and organizations. Update the NMGS-YP membership database to reflect current and active members.

Phase 2: Q3 2026 (July to September) Capacity Building and Outreach

- **Technical Workshops and Training Series:** Organize at least two (2) virtual or hybrid technical workshops based on the recommendations from the breakout sessions. Priority topics include Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing for Mineral Exploration; AI/ML Applications in Geoscience; Drone Survey Techniques and Photogrammetry; and Introductory Programming (Python) for Geoscientists.
- **Mentorship Programme Launch:** Establish a formal NMGS-YP Mentorship Programme that pairs early-career professionals with experienced NMGS members across various specializations. Develop a mentorship charter, matching criteria, and quarterly check-in framework.



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- **Collaboration with YEG and Other Specialist Groups:** Formalize collaboration frameworks with the Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) and other NMGS specialist groups for joint events, knowledge exchange, and resource sharing.
 - **Social media and Visibility Campaign:** Strengthen the NMGS-YP's presence on social media platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram) through regular content creation, member spotlights, event promotions, and educational posts on geoscience and mining topics.

Phase 3: Q4 2026 (October to December) Policy Engagement and Advocacy

- **Policy Advocacy and Engagement:** Develop a position paper or policy brief on a relevant topic. Present this to the Geoscience Policy group.
- **Career Development Webinar Series:** Host a series of webinars focused on career pathways, entrepreneurship in geoscience, consultancy building, and accessing funding for exploration ventures. Invite successful young professionals and entrepreneurs as speakers.
- **REE and Critical Minerals Workshop:** Building on the success of the technical session at the 61st AICE, organize a dedicated workshop on REEs and critical minerals, incorporating hands-on practical components such as mineral identification, beneficiation techniques, and market analysis.

Phase 4: Q1 2027 (January to March) Conference Preparation and Institutional Growth

- **62nd AICE Preparation:** Begin early planning for NMGS-YP activities at the 62nd AICE, including securing speakers, defining session themes, preparing event budgets, and coordinating with the NMGS Conference Planning Committee.
- **Annual Report and Impact Assessment:** Compile a comprehensive annual report documenting all NMGS-YP activities, financial expenditure, membership growth, and impact metrics for presentation at the AGM.

Long-Term Initiatives (Beyond 2027)

- **NMGS-YP Scholarship or Grant Fund:** Work towards establishing a small scholarship or research grant fund for outstanding young geoscientists and mining engineering students, funded through donations, sponsorships, and fundraising activities.
- **International Partnerships:** Explore partnerships with young international professional bodies in geoscience (such as the AAPG YP, SEG Student Chapters, IUGS Early Career Network, and DDE Young Scientists) for joint programmes, exchange opportunities, and global visibility.



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- **Geotourism and Geoheritage Awareness Campaign:** Initiate a campaign to promote geotourism and geoheritage conservation in Nigeria, aligning with global trends and positioning young professionals as champions of geological heritage preservation.
 - **Africa Geoscience–Computer Science Forum (Pan-African Initiative):** Following a recommendation by Professor Mike Stephenson, GeoGPT Chief Geoscientist and Director of DDE European/Mid-East/Africa Affairs, the NMGS-YP proposes the establishment of an Africa Geoscience–Computer Science Forum. This initiative recognizes a critical gap: many young geoscientists lack exposure to modern computational tools and techniques, while computer scientists often do not fully understand how their technologies can be applied to solve real-world geoscience challenges. The Forum will operate as a series of webinars and, where feasible, in-person meetings, featuring short presentations from computer scientists describing their technologies alongside geoscientists presenting challenges or opportunities that could benefit from computational approaches. The initiative will draw from the email list of participants at the DDE/GeoGPT AI workshop held at the 61st AICE and the NMGS-YP membership database. Professor Stephenson has offered to support the initiative by co-hosting online sessions. Importantly, the Forum is envisioned as a Pan-African initiative originating from the NMGS-YP, extending its reach across the continent and establishing the NMGS-YP as a regional leader in bridging the geoscience–computer science divides. This initiative directly addresses the skills gap identified in the Technology and Innovation breakout group, creating a structured pathway for young African geoscientists to engage with cutting-edge computational research.
 - **NMGS Journal x GeoGPT Integration Project (NMGS–Zhejiang Lab Collaboration):** A groundbreaking collaboration is being developed between the NMGS Journal and Zhejiang Lab (the developers of GeoGPT) to ingest the NMGS Journal’s publications into the GeoGPT platform. This pilot project, which is set to commence in the near term, carries significant strategic value for Nigerian geoscience. The key benefits include:
 - a. **Global Visibility**, as Nigerian research becomes discoverable by any user querying GeoGPT about relevant geoscience topics such as Younger Granites, Benue Trough geology, and Jos Plateau mineralogy.
 - b. **Citation Uplift**, through proper attribution in AI-generated responses driving citations back to Nigerian authors.
 - c. **Capacity Building**, as young geoscientists gain AI-assisted access to foundational Nigerian geological literature, lowering barriers to literature review and knowledge discovery.
 - d. **Institutional Prestige**, with the NMGS becoming the first Nigerian geoscience body to integrate its publications into a global AI platform.



The NMGS-YP proposes that its members and student members be actively involved in the building process. Volunteers will be mobilized for tasks including manual OCR processing of faded or low-quality PDF scans of older journal issues, metadata tagging and quality assurance, and other technical contributions from members with relevant skills or those willing to learn. This participatory approach will provide project volunteers with firsthand experience in building large language models (LLMs), understanding data pipelines, and contributing to AI systems. It is expected that this exposure will motivate participants to plan and contribute to building smarter and more sustainable AI-driven systems of their own in the future. The project represents a learning and building opportunity for all involved, aligning perfectly with the NMGS-YP's mandate to equip young professionals with future-ready skills.

6. Conclusion

The 61st AICE in Uyo was a landmark event for the NMGS-YP. The NMGS-YP wishes to thank Madam President, Ms. Rose C. Ndong for the generous approval of the sum of four hundred and twenty-one thousand (421,000) naira for YPs to conduct its activities during the conference. The record attendance at the NMGS-YP Connect, the quality of technical and mentorship sessions, the generous donations received, and the smooth conduct of the AGM and elections all point to a group that is growing in relevance, credibility, and organizational maturity. The forward-looking initiatives outlined in this report, particularly the Africa Geoscience–Computer Science Forum and the NMGS Journal x GeoGPT Integration Project, represent a bold and strategic vision that positions the NMGS-YP not only as a national leader in young professional development but as a continental pioneer in bridging geoscience and technology. We would be glad to hear your feedback, inquiries, support and recommendations on activities to carry out. The NMGS-YP remains committed to its mandate of empowering early-career geoscientists and mining engineers and looks forward to an even more impactful year ahead.

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President, NMGS-YP

1st April 2026



NIGERIAN MINING AND GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY - YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (NMGS-YP)

