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UNESCO-Nigeria Project for the Revitalisation of Technical and Vocational Education- Phase II

National Board for Technical Education, NBTE, Launches Major Drive for Technical Textbooks and Teaching Material Development for Nigeria

In a major drive to fill the gap of shortage and lack of technical textbooks for students at Polytechnics and Technical Colleges in Nigeria, the National Board for Technical Education, NBTE has embarked on developing teaching materials in cooperation with UNESCO. As part of a capacity building project for the Revitalisation of Technical and vocational Education- Phase II, textbooks and teaching material are being prepared for all disciplines that have updated and revised curricula completed in the first Phase of the Project.

Large teams of 230 national experts, lecturers and senior lectures, from Kaduna Polytechnic have been assigned to commence the writing of the textbooks with the guidance of UNESCO specialist. Work has commenced on preparing the draft of about 270 textbooks for 13 disciplines offered at National Diploma level. The textbooks will be written in digital format with a view for the introduction of e-Learning in the future.

In-house intensive workshops with the participation of UNESCO Lead Consultant were held at NBTE during 22-24 August 2008 to review and evaluate the progress made by the groups in the writing of the material. The groups are following set guidelines for the production of the textbooks. Examples of similar materials produced with UNESCO assistance, in other countries, were provided to all the teams.

The completed drafts for the textbooks will be further reviewed at workshops to be held during November and December this year with the participation of international consultants. When completed, the textbooks will be made available to all Polytechnics for a trial run for one year before further evaluation and revisions are carried out.

It should be noted that technical books are scarce in general and very expensive to buy from abroad and in any case they do not necessarily suit the Nigerian curricula. The professional development of the lecturers and senior lecturers to produce their own teaching material on such a large scale will enhance the national capacity for improving the quality of technical and vocational education and training. It will also provide students and graduates of the Polytechnics and Technical colleges with essential technical resources during their studies and after graduation.

