

## **CITATION ON PROFESSOR CORNELIUS OLUWASADE ORANGUN**

**Engineer Professor Cornelius Oluwasade Orangun was born at Erin-Ijesha near Ilesha in Osun State on June 16, 1932. He attended Ilesha Grammar School from 1947–1951 and began his career as a trainee Engineering Assistant at the Technical Institute, Yaba in 1954–1955. This was followed by a two year stint (1955–1957) at the University of Ibadan from where he proceeded to the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, U.K. After three brilliant years of undergraduate studies (as a Western Nigeria Government Scholar), he graduated with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class honours degree in Civil Engineering. During his undergraduate days at the University of Aberdeen, he won, at various times, the Class Prizes in Heat Engines and Electrical Engineering (in June 1958), Theory of Structures, Civil Engineering, Applied Mechanics and Engineering Mathematics (June 1959). This culminated in his bagging the Civil Engineering Bronze Medal Award for best performance in Civil Engineering Group, in June, 1959.**

**With this outstanding performance, the Western Nigerian Government continued his sponsorship to the post-graduate level at the University of Leeds in England, U.K. where he was awarded a Ph.D. degree in 1963 for his research on the Structural Properties of Lightweight-aggregate (Lytag) in June, 1963. He was also a Commonwealth Scholar in the United Kingdom between 1962 and 1963.**

**While in the U.K. the young Cornelius had engineering work experience as Assistant Engineer with the firms of Sir William Halcrow & Partners, London (July 1960 – January 1961) and W. V. Zinn and Associates, London (August 1963–August, 1964). He returned to**

**Nigeria in September, 1964 as one of the Foundation Lecturers of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Lagos (Unilag), Akoka, Lagos. At the University of Lagos, Cornelius did not only teach but his creative, searching and enquiring mind blossomed, resulting in investigations and star publications in the testing and use of materials for structural elements.**

**As an internationally renowned academic scholar, Cornelius Orangun was appointed a Professor of Structural Engineering at the University of Lagos in April 1976; a position he held until his voluntary retirement in 1987.**

**In his specialized area of structural elements, Prof. Orangun has made significant contributions in the understanding and applications of lightweight-aggregates in engineering structures such as buildings, bridges, flyovers, etc. He was the Team Leader of the Materials Research Group at the University of Lagos in the 1980s. The Research Reports from the Group on the “Working Mixes of Cement/Stabilized Laterite Bricks and Blocks” assisted the Federal Housing Authority in their building constructions in both Lagos and Abuja in the 1980s. The highlight of Professor Orangun’s contribution to national and global development of structural engineering material was his quest for safety in structural elements and the utilization of local materials for lightweight concrete. These developments made landmark contributions to the American Code of Practice for structural elements.**

**Prof. Orangun has served as Consultant on various projects at the international and local levels to a number of organizations. Some of these include:**

- **Secretary, West African Group of Professional Engineers (1969–1970).**
- **UNESCO Expert on the Establishment of an African Network of Scientific and Technological of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI), Nairobi (1978).**
- **Consultant on Research and Planning, Federal Housing Authority (FHA), Lagos (1980).**
- **Civil Engineering Disciplinary Coordinator, African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI), UNESCO–ROSTA, Nairobi, Kenya (1979–1981).**
- **Engineering Project Consultant, Engroconsult (2000-2004).**

**Professor Cornelius Orangun is a COREN Registered Civil Engineer, and he belongs to the apex Professional Bodies in his field as a Fellow of the Academy of Engineering. He was for over ten years the distinguished Honorary Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science.**

**It is for his services in the cause of engineering, his academic and professional contributions in structural engineering, the Education and Training of Engineers as well as the promotion of engineering skills and excellence in the area of research in the use of local materials that Prof. Cornelius Oluwasade Orangun, a quietly efficient scholar, and a very able professional Engineer, is being nominated for the 2007 Nigerian National Merit Award.**