

**AABWA CONGRATULATES  
OBIAGELI KATRYN EZEKWESILI  
AS VICE PRESIDENT,  
AFRICA REGION OF THE WORLD BANK**



**Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, announced his pleasure in appointing Obiageli 'Oby' Ezekwesili as Vice President for the Africa Region. A Nigerian national, Oby joins the World Bank from her most recent position as Minister of Education within the Government of Nigeria. Oby has a rich resume with hands-on experience and accomplishments in a unique mix of private sector, civil society and public sector positions**

**O**by began her career as an auditor and management consultant, where she focused on financial planning, SME financing, audit and regulatory compliance. From 1994 to 1999, she served as one of the founding members of Transparency International where she held the position Director, Africa. In 2000, Oby went on to serve as Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on Budget Monitoring, and the Price Intelligence Unit, where she spear-headed institutional reforms through the establishment of due process mechanisms and strategies. In this capacity, Oby achieved previously unheard of success by markedly reducing both procurement costs to the Government and turnaround time for completion of Government projects, while improving transparency.

**O**by subsequently served as Minister of Solid Minerals Development, with emphasis on reforming Nigeria's mining sector to internationally recognized standards, especially in the area of policy transparency, with the purpose of increasing levels of global investment, and investor confidence, in the sector. She provided leadership in the drafting of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, establishing the Nigerian Mining Cadastre Office and opening up Nigeria's mining sector to private participation. Oby has also served as the Chairperson for the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative since 2004 and pioneered the voluntary sign-on of Nigeria to the EITI Principles, as well as the first ever audit of the oil and gas sector.

**S**ince June 2006, Oby has been the Minister of Education where she was tasked with leading the country's on-going comprehensive reform strategy within the education sector. She has restructured and refocused the ministry for the attainment of EFA targets and MDGs, introduced Public Private Partnership models for service delivery, revamped the Federal Inspectorate Service as an improved quality assurance mechanism and introduced transparency and accountability mechanisms for better governance of the budget. The track record attesting to Oby's innovative success in this area culminated with the Nigerian stock exchange launch of 'Adopt-A-Public School Initiative' earlier this year.

**O**by's unique blend of first-hand experiences, especially in the more challenging and complex areas of energy sector reform and education, position her as the ideal candidate to serve as the Vice President for Africa. A critical factor in Oby's leadership style is her ability to achieve client 'buy-in' no matter how extensive the reform strategy presented. Oby's life is a testament to her dedication to Africa as is the high degree of respect in which she is held by the international community. Oby's passion for and commitment to Africa, her high degree of integrity and her optimism will bring invaluable strengths to our organization. Oby holds a Masters in International Law & Diplomacy from University of Lagos, along with a Masters of Public Policy & Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. She is also a chartered accountant.

**H**er appointment will be effective in April 2007 and she will be attending the Spring Meetings.