

# Certification *Profile*



**Dr. Ona Ekhomu, CPP**, says several factors motivated him to pursue his Certified Protection Professional (CPP) credential from ASIS Inter-

national. Certainly, the usual reasons applied—wanting to enhance his knowledge of the security profession, measuring his own knowledge against that of his peers, and wanting to lead by example, as at the time he was chairman of the ASIS Nigeria Chapter. Ultimately, however, it was nationalism that moved him to do it.

“Nigeria needed its first CPP. A country of 150 million people with no CPPs was a letdown, so getting the CPP became a matter of national pride,” Ekhomu says. “Getting the CPP would also give me the title of first Nigerian CPP, an honor which would endure a lifetime.” He passed the examination in September 2000. (Today Nigeria has 12 CPPs.)

“This certification sets me apart from other security vendors as a chartered professional, in fact, I’m described and known as Nigeria’s first chartered security professional,” he says. “The CPP opens doors and closes deals.”

Ekhomu began his career in 1974 training Nigerian policemen in martial arts in Benin City, Nigeria. He came to the United

States to earn his bachelor’s degree from Voorhees College, and his master’s from Iowa State University before founding a company in Pennsylvania that sold security equipment. He has since gone on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, and also holds the Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) credential.

With more than 30 years’ experience behind him now, Ekhomu is sure he chose the right career.

“Working in security is doing God’s work as far as I’m concerned,” he says. “Security work is an opportunity to serve fellow men.... There is nothing greater than saving lives.”

Today, Ekhomu is chair and CEO of Trans-World Security Systems, Ltd., an international asset protection and loss prevention firm headquartered in Nigeria. The firm employs more than 1,000 workers, including two additional CPPs—the managing director, who also happens to be Ekhomu’s wife, Victoria, as well as the company’s secretary.

In-country testing took place for the first time in Nigeria in November. Twenty individuals sat for that test, and many more have expressed interest in taking the CPP exam. ■

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*Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager*