



JANUARY 2012

VICE CHANCELLOR CHALLENGES HIT STAFF



Acting Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe addressing members of staff at the 2011 Vice Chancellor's End of Year Luncheon.



Some of the members of staff following proceedings at the 2011 Vice Chancellor's End of Year Luncheon.

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Engineer Q.C Kanhukamwe has reiterated that HIT is a special Institute with a special mandate to stimulate national development through technology incubation, transfer and commercialisation.

Engineer Kanhukamwe said this while addressing the Institute's management and staff at the Vice Chancellor's end of year Luncheon held on 22 December 2011.

While expressing his profound gratitude to everyone for the excellent call to service demonstrated during the whole year, the Vice Chancellor went on to say that the year 2012 should be a year with a difference and the Institute should continue to deliver, guided by its mandate. He urged all staff members not to be mazzled by perceptions as the institute has a special mandate which the Chancellor, His Excellence President R.G Mugabe, the Minister, and Permanent Secretary of Higher and Tertiary Education passionately support.

"It wasn't all rosy throughout the year 2011, but the commitment you demonstrated all year was extraordinary. There has been a remarkable improvement in the first half of the year. I see the passion inculcated in our destiny, core values and calling in all our members of staff", he said.

Engineer Kanhukamwe added that it was his hope that all the programmes introduced this year will continue to brand the HIT name in a positive way. He also highly commended the conduct of all the HIT staff during the year. "Each one of us is not here by mistake. We are as strong as our weakest link. It's team effort and we must complement each other in

our works. The progress that we have achieved to date is tremendous and it is by sacrifice and the kind of input that we put in our processes so that we achieve our goals. We should continue to work together as a team and put our utmost best. Thank you all for putting up that effort and spirit", said Eng Kanhukamwe.

"We are a team which should function together. There is no one of us who is more important than the other. Our desire is for excellence and we must learn to cover for each other. If one section is lagging behind we must rally behind it so that it pulls up and catch up with the rest", he said.

Engineer Kanhukamwe also revealed that the Institute will soon acquire a piece of land which is more than 1000 hectares for development purposes within 30 kilometres of Harare. He also hailed the successful hosting of the Institute's Second Graduation Ceremony held on 15th December adding that the ceremony went on very well and unhindered despite the short notice given prior to the event.

The Acting Vice Chancellor also touched on staff remunerations emphasising that as the leadership, they will continue to fight for improved conditions of service of all the Institute's staff, adding that he hopes for another review in 2012. "We intend to be at par with South Africa and we want to have a stable staff and research teams", he said.

He also said that the Institute is working hard to address the problem of transport bedevilling the institution as it requires buses and other service vehicles to make the Harare Institute of Technology a pleasant environment for everyone.

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INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

COMMITMENT

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

AFRICAN UNION LAUNCHES PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY



Some of the delegates attending the official launch of the Pan African University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. HIT Acting Vice Chancellor Eng Q.C Kanhukamwe (Front row - standing third from right)

The Acting Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Eng Q.C Kanhukamwe together with other Vice Chancellors from local, regional and other African Universities attended the formal launch of the Pan-African University (PAU) by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, on 14 December 2011, at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, in a twin event that also included the 3rd annual award ceremony of the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Outstanding Women in Science.

The African Union has been driving this initiative. The event transformed into reality the dream of creating centres of excellence across Africa to conduct research and train the high-level professionals desperately needed for development. The ceremony was chaired by Jean Ping, president of the African Union Commission.

The ambitious reach of the Pan-African University (PAU), which will focus on research and postgraduate training, will be achieved through five regional centres, each specialising in a key field and comprising an academic and administrative core at a host university and networks of academics and students from elsewhere in Africa working in the same areas.

The Pan-African University has been six years in the making. Selecting the host countries and universities has been a long and difficult process, with countries and universities vying for the prestige of being the regional host. In Central Africa the University of Yaounde 2 in Cameroon was chosen to host an institute of humanities, social sciences and good governance. Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has basic sciences, technology and innovation for East Africa, and in West Africa the University of Ibadan in Nigeria is hosting life and Earth sciences.

North and Southern Africa have been particularly problematic. North Africa finally settled on a water, energy and climate change institute in Annaba in Algeria after the withdrawal of Libya, which commission

sources said did not meet all the requirements. A validation meeting is scheduled for next month in Algiers, two months before the institute's official launch in March.

South Africa heads up space sciences on behalf of Southern Africa. Competition between countries and arguments over diplomatic procedures and a host university delayed the choice for more than a year. But some members of the high-level panel that has steered the development of the continental university said arguments in favour of South Africa were that it already had the laboratories, equipment and researchers as well as extensive expertise in space sciences, and it seemed pointless to place the node in a country where it would be necessary to start from scratch.

In regions where host universities were decided earlier this year, Yaoundé 2, Jomo Kenyatta and Ibadan, have made considerable progress in preparing the PAU nodes. Programmes have been decided and local officials appointed to report on progress to Jean Pierre Ezin, the African Union commissioner in charge of human resources, science and technology. He said that what was now needed was to recruit the first cohort of students, with each site aiming for around 100 students to start with. By 2015 it is hoped that there will be some 1,500 students across all disciplines.

Teachers already in place at the university nodes will be reinforced by new recruits from around the continent selected on criteria of excellence. Officials from the host institutions said preparations were well under way.

Core funding for the Pan-African University will be provided by the African Union Commission, and it is expected to earn income from research and tuition fees, as well as voluntary contributions from member states and the private sector. It is also expected that substantial donor funding will be secured to support the university's themes and the training of high-level researchers and professionals.

Five criteria will guide the mobilisation and

use of resources, and they are guarantees of: adequate, sustainable and timely funding; adequate remuneration of staff; sustainable quality of infrastructure and equipment; support for academic mobility; and compliance with high standards of financial management.

The Pan-African University will be managed by three main bodies; its council, rector and board of directors. The council will govern the institution and its activities and will comprise key stakeholders including academics, community leaders, regional economic communities, and commerce and industry. The Association of African Universities and the African Academy of Sciences will also play major roles in the council, which will be responsible for complying with the vision of the African Union, setting policy and ensuring excellence and programme relevance.

The rector will be the university's executive leader responsible for planning, monitoring and coordinating its institutes, and a university president will supervise communication and internal and external cooperation. The university will be required to report regularly to the African Union's conference of ministers of education. The board of directors will have primary responsibility for academic matters and will include among others the heads of the regional institutes and subject centres as well as students. The board will be chaired by the university's president.

The university will be staffed by lecturers and administrators from the host universities, and by academics invited from African countries, the African diaspora and university partners.

The issue of granting qualifications concerned some of the experts at the official launch of the Pan-African University, which has 24 founding documents that form its backbone. Professor Amadou Lamine Ndiaye, president of the high-level panel, said that qualifications awarded by the university would be co-signed by the host institutions in the various regions and would be recognised across Africa.

Another concern is language, as a primary aim of the PAU is to encourage postgraduate student and academic mobility across the continent. Ndiaye said students and staff would need to spend at least six months learning the language of their host institution - but some participants thought this might be insufficient time in which to learn a new language to the level required for effective learning and research.

Getting the Pan-African University to operate effectively across all regions, and to fulfil its ambitious mandate, will be a daunting task. It will also be a test of the African Union's growing role in continental higher education, which also includes a major scholarship programme aimed at encouraging student and academic mobility within Africa, rather than between Africa and the West, and initiatives to harmonise higher education.

HIT IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER DRIVE, VISITS IRAN



The HIT delegation being shown some of the developed technologies at the Exhibition Park in Tehran

Milli Zist Payesh - Bioreactor

The Harare Institute of Technology is initiating cooperation in technology transfer in identified areas and is working towards the establishment of the Iranian Technology Corporation Office (TCO) at HIT.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Harare recently facilitated a visit to the Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation (CITC), in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The visiting delegation comprised Eng. Q. C. Kanhukamwe (Head of Delegation), Dr.T. Padenga (A / Dean - School of Information Sciences & Technology); and Mr. P. Muredzi (Dean - School of Industrial Sciences & Technology).

The delegation visited the CITC offices, and viewed the hi tech products exhibition of Iran before proceeding to Tehran University Science & Technology Park. They also visited the Nokhbegan Institute of Technology (VC Co), the Behin Co and the Pardis Technology Park. Later, they had a final meeting with the President of the CITC. The team then completed the visit by visiting Esfahan.

The team observed that Iran had, contrary to other views, gained from the sanctions imposed on the country and had made great strides in the development of novel technologies in nanotechnology, biotechnology, biometrics and materials engineering. Most intriguing were developments in new drugs for cancer, diabetic ulcers and HIV treatment. Also notable were developments in technologies based on biometrics which include fingerprint, iris and face recognition technologies. Also fascinating were developments in new materials

based on nanotechnology developed for application in filtration, bio processing and construction industry. An eye opener was the developed technologies of bioreactors including nano- scale prototypes, which are a first for developing countries.

The visit enabled meetings with senior administrators of the various establishments involved in technology development and enabled the delegation to have first hand information on the status of the establishments, their development profile and current standing.

The delegation was able to engage the administrators regarding possible areas of cooperation, modes of engagement and modalities. As an overall outcome the delegation indicated its areas of interest and proposed activities in cooperation agreements.

The HIT delegation stressed its desire to have the TCO establish an office at the Harare Institute of Technology though initial engagement would be through a letter of intent followed by an MOU and technology transfer in the identified areas of Biotechnology and Information Sciences.

The delegation expressed interest in technology transfer of bioreactors and biometric application technologies. The two were identified as areas of excellence in technology development work by the Tehran University Science & Technology Park and the Behin Co respectively.



NEW MEMBERS OF THE HIT FAMILY- Mauya, Welcome!

In a bid to strengthen its academic, teaching and management staff, the Harare Institute of Technology has recently recruited some highly qualified and experienced personnel to join the HIT family.



Professor Mazuru Gundidza joins the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology's Pharmaceutical Technology Department from the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Professor Gundidza was the first black lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy, University of Zimbabwe, tasked to teach Pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacognocny, physical pharmacy and some aspects of pharmaceutical microbiology. He nurtured the department, recruited staff, established research programmes in natural products. At the University of Fort Hare, he initiated rural development programmes and at UNISA (Florida Campus he initiated and established the AIKS programme in the Faculty of Agriculture. He also established a training programme for Traditional Healers at the University of the Witwatersrand which is currently up and running.

"I intend to assist in the establishment of Herbal Medicine Production Unit at HIT. I will definitely try to assist the university in raising funds for research and initiate other income generating projects. I also intend to publish at least 10 research papers a year in internationally referred journals. This is already underway", said Professor Gandidza.

To this end Professor Gundidza has already outlined his intentions and work plan at HIT, which comprise the establishment of short courses to train Traditional healers, herbalist and complementary medical practitioners, thereby raising income for the Institute as well as other short courses in agro processing for rural communities which shall also help to create employment and improve the livelihoods of rural communities; thus putting HIT on the map and fulfil the Institute's mandate to be the centre for national development.

Professor Gundidza also intends to assist in supervising postgraduates studies in all departments of science so that within 5 years all lectures at HIT will hold Ph D degrees.

Linking the Harare Institute of Technology with other regional and international universities is also one of his major priorities. "I will make efforts to link this university with my former universities in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Germany, Israel, and South Africa", he said.

Professor Gundidza was born on 26th September 1952 in Bikita, and did his primary education at Silveira School before proceeding to Gokomere and Goromonzi High Schools for his Ordinary and Advanced level studies in the early 70's.

In 1977 he completed a Bachelor of Science (Joint Honours) Degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Salford University in the United Kingdom. He later proceeded to do a Masters of Science Degree in Pharmacology (Plant Medicines) at the Strathclyde University (UK) and a PhD degree in Pharmaceutical microbiology at Nottingham university in 1980. Professor Gundidza also obtained other several qualifications from several reputable universities and institutions in the United States and Europe and these include Antiparasitic Testing of Drugs and Plant Materials, Testing Techniques for Irritant and Tumour Promoting Activities of Diterpene Esters, cultivation of crops in Arid and Semi Arid Zones, Agribusiness Planning, Management & entrepreneurship Development of SMMEs, International Training Programme in New crops: Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Developing a Quantitative Research Protocol, Stata and statistica.

Professor Gundidza boasts of many achievements in the development of the local natural products industry and these include the establishment of an Essential oil Industry in Zimbabwe, for example, export of Teatree oil, Tagetes minuta oil, Eucalyptus oil by Essen Oil (Pvt) LTD, where Zimbabwe was once the largest African exporter of Tea tree oil in Africa. He has also trained other Zimbabweans and many other nationals from SADC countries on the propagation, processing and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plant products, establishment of herbal clinics in Zimbabwe, transfer of technology in agribusiness to rural folk e.g. Preparation of soaps and plant medicines using local plant extract (Jatropha curcas oil and Ricinus communis Oil) and preparation of syrups or jams using local fruits, establishment of courses in Natural Medicine in the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Zimbabwe. He also contributed to the discovery of a very potent anti-fungal drug from Swartzia madagascariensis already patented and currently under clinical studies in the United States.

He also possess many skills ranging from propagation, cultivation, processing, testing, formulation and marketing of medicinal plant products, Biodiesel manufacturing, Research and Development in the chemical and biochemical fields, job creation for rural disadvantaged communities, manufacturing of household and industrial detergents, manufacturing of cosmetics, beekeeping, aquaculture, mushroom cultivation and processing, value addition to agricultural raw materials, paint and ink manufacturing, fibre processing, chemical manufacturing, manufacturing of remedies from natural sources, manufacturing of drugs, cultivation,

processing, formulation and marketing of essential oils, training and technology transfer in agribusiness, models for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, Agro-processing, HIV/AIDS Monitoring, evaluation, prevention and treatment, as well as Event management.



Dr Arnold Nzeru joins the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology's Polymer Technology Department.

Dr Nzeru holds a PhD in Polymer Science from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom (2000), an MSc in Polymer Chemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa (1994), and a BTech (Hons) in Applied Chemistry & Chemical Technology from the University of Zimbabwe (1989).

He has worked in a variety of pivotal roles in Zimbabwe (1990-1995) and the United Kingdom (2000-2011) in Research and Development, Quality Assurance and Production functions as a Process Technologist, Process Chemist, Quality Assurance Chemist, Plant Chemist, Research and Development Chemist in the Polymer, Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Food Manufacturing and Processing Industries, including GSK, Kerry, Pfizer and Trinidad Industries (Pvt) Ltd

Dr Nzeru is joining the Harare Institute of Technology to complement a strong team involved in teaching and research, to facilitate learning to mould and empower graduates with knowledge, skills, expertise and experience in science, technology and engineering ready for their chosen careers in industry and the academia.

"I have extensive experience in the chemical manufacturing industry, coupled with a strong academic background that will be crucial in the execution of my role, as we seek to nurture economic recovery and promote industrialisation by changing and constantly challenging mindsets, work ethics, practices, habits and cultures which will ultimately be beneficial to the graduate entrepreneurs, the Department, the Institute, and the country", he said.

He added that one of the greatest challenges confronting chemistry students is relating to

the abstracts of chemical formulas and physical principles with the applied reality of the chemical industry and consumer products. "In Polymer Technology, we intend to bridge this chasm more tangibly, relating readily chemical structure to physical and mechanical properties, which will facilitate learning, helping students to fully understand the subject, its relevance to industry, and the economy, and its importance in our lives", said Dr Nzeru.

Dr Nzeru also added that over the years, the polymer industry has gained dominance, and Zimbabwe is endowed with many natural resources that will serve as feedstocks in this important industry, and the opportunity to tap into these local resources will be critical in rebuilding our industry, and shaping our recovery and determining our own destiny. "This will have a huge impact on the economy, and HIT, in partnership with other stakeholders, should be heavily involved in such innovative and noble projects", he said.

His area of specialisation covers a wide range of aspects in Polymer Science with special interests in polymer chemistry, polymer materials, processing and applications. "I have research interests in polymers from local renewable resources, water soluble, green, biodegradable and environmentally friendly polymers with consumer and industrial applications", he said. Dr Nzeru was at the forefront of innovative research projects to develop novel, cost effective and import substitution products from local renewable resources with applications as plastics, adhesives, paints and coatings, and water soluble cutting oils. He intends to continue with this research work, which will undoubtedly add academic and commercial value to Polymer Technology, and Harare Institute of Technology.

One of the beauties of polymers is their inertness and durability, but this important quality, paradoxically, becomes a nemesis to the environment when the products come to the end of their lifecycle, and are carelessly dumped to litter and pollute our environment", said Dr Nzeru. With this in mind, he revealed his keen interest in polymer recycling, and will be working on research projects that will mitigate pollution and preserve our environment for future generations.

Commenting on his future at the Harare Institute of Technology, Dr Nzeru outlined his

vision that within five years of his tenure in Polymer Technology, we should witness the establishment of a fully fledged Polymer Technology Centre offering all the facilities requisite for excellent teaching and research. In the short term, he is looking forward to launch the InstiPolymers brand under the Insti-Holdings ambit in line with the objectives of the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology, and the Institute.

"InstiPolymers will be the vehicle that will ensure that research and development projects carried out in Polymer Technology do not just end up as bench scale laboratory curiosities, but will bear direct relation to innovative and real products with commercial value and significance in Zimbabwe, which will inevitably empower graduates with 'hands on' experience and invaluable expertise", he said.

Dr Nzeru is tasked to carry out preparatory groundwork to pioneer and oversee the successful launch and ongoing sustenance of this unique and extraordinary programme in Polymer Science and Engineering at HIT, designed to produce 'all in one' highly skilled scientists, technologists and engineers

Dr Nzeru completed his high school education at Chaplin High School in Gweru (1985) before enrolling for his undergraduate studies with the University of Zimbabwe (1986). He hails from Murewa in Mashonaland East, and is married, and has two children.



Mr Emmanuel Nyandoro joins the security department, as the new Security Officer, from the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

Mr Nyandoro has held various senior positions in the ZRP Support Unit division, Criminal Investigations Department, Public Crime Prosecution, Police Disciplinary Management, Police Tutor, Member in Charge Crime and Acting Officer In Charge ZRP Luveve in Bulawayo.

Mr Nyandoro was born on 11th December 1977 in Bulawayo, and did his primary school education at 11 Infantry Battalion Primary School in Bulawayo and later preceded to Dewure and Bikita High Schools in Masvingo for his ordinary and advanced level studies.

In 1997, Mr Nyandoro started his training as a Police Officer and later joined the ZRP Support Unit specialising in weapon handling and use, combat training, anti poaching, border patrols, VVIP protection, armed escorts of cash and dangerous criminals, armed patrols, crowd/rioters control management and administrative duties.

Mr Nyandoro also obtained a Certificate in Public Prosecution from the Police Staff College in 2004 and practised as Public Prosecutor at Tredgold Magistrate Court specialising in Police disciplinary issues.

He later enrolled for the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree in Police and Security Studies from 2005 to 2007.

Mr Nyandoro became the Member In Charge Crime at ZRP Luveve in Bulawayo specialising in docket management, crime management, serious crime investigations and later became the Acting Officer In Charge at the same police post.

From 2009 to 2011, Mr Nyandoro operated as the Bulawayo Crime Coordinator and provincial police tutor as well as managing all crime records in the city of Bulawayo.

The new HIT Security Officer's role shall be mainly security, risk and loss management at the Institute. He revealed that he has joined this institution to experience new challenges associated with private policing and also have to have an input and contribute to the destiny and core values of HIT. "This institution is going to benefit more from the vast experience I have from the police force. We wish to have vibrant and well motivated security personnel at HIT. While working in liaison with the ICT and all the other departments we shall build and install security models that will be the envy of other institutions and security partners", said Mr Nyandoro.

NEW STUDENT ID REGULATIONS

The Harare Institute of Technology Registrar's Office has announced new Student Identification Card Regulations which require all returning students to acquire new student identification cards for each semester beginning this year.

As from January 2012, all returning students are required to get a new identification card at the start of each semester.

According to the Registrar, Mrs S. Samupindi,

all students are required and encouraged to carry their student identification cards in person at all times while on campus.

Failure to get or produce a valid student identification card will result in the student not able to access vital services such as canteen, library and attending lectures.

Harare Institute of Technology
ADVANCE THROUGH INNOVATION

This newsletter is published by the Communications and International Relations office of the Harare Institute of Technology

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TECHNOLOGY CENTRE TRAINS INDUSTRY

The Technology Centre, a strategic unit of HIT is attracting industry in offering intensive short term training services and facilities in various technical and operational courses.

The Acting Director of the Technology Centre, Mr Chirinda has revealed that the centre is already offering a training programme to some engineers and technologists from several reputable manufacturing and industrial firms at the Institute's workshops.

The training programmes usually runs for a period of between three days per week, accommodating about five to twenty trainees per course and involve lectures and practical hands on training. The training is provided at HIT or, by arrangement with the customer, at the customer's own site in the case that the company has acquired the new machines and need training in operational and production procedures.

The technical intensive short term courses on offer are Computer Numerated Control Simulation and machining, Master CAM (2D & 3D Drawing), Master CAM (Machining), Master CAM (Direct Numerical Control), AutoCAD (2D modeling), Advanced AutoCAD (3D modeling), Applied Hydraulics and Pneumatics, Programmable Logic Controllers (Siemens PLC), and Printed Circuit Board Manufacturing,

In the operational courses category the Technology Centre is offering Transport Logistics & Fleet Management, Overview on Manufacturing Systems, (For non technical consultants), Total Productive Maintenance, (Plus CMMS software interface), Reliability Centered Maintenance (Plus RCM software interface) as well as Projects and Contract Management.

Some of the industrial companies that engaged the Technology Centre for training facilities and services are Delta Engineering, ZIMCAST, J Mann Engineering, A.C Controls whilst some other manufacturing companies are still making enquiries and have expressed interest in partnering HIT in its quest to stimulate national development through technology incubation, transfer and commercialisation.



THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

The Technology Centre, a Strategic Unit of Harare Institute of Technology, is offering the following intensive short-term courses for competence development to interested corporate organisations, entrepreneurs and professionals. You are awarded a proficiency related certificate at the end of training based on merit.

FIELD	COURSE PROGRAMME	Fees (US\$) Teas & Lunches	Duration	Maximum No. of students
TECHNICAL	CNC Programming, Simulation & Machining	300	10 Days	10
	Master CAM (2D & 3D Drawing)	150	5 Days	20
	Master CAM (Machining)	200	5 Days	5
	Master CAM (Direct Numerical Control)	150	3 Days	5
	Basic AutoCAD (2D modeling)	150	5 Days	20
	Advanced AutoCAD (3D modeling)	160	5 Days	20
	Applied Hydraulics and Pneumatics	250	5 Days	10
	Programmable Logic Controllers (Siemens PLC)	300	5 Days	10
	Printed Circuit Board Manufacturing	200	5 Days	10
	OPERATIONS	Transport Logistics & Fleet Management	200	5 Days
Overview on Manufacturing Systems (For non technical consultants)		200	3 Days	20
Total Productive Maintenance (Plus CMMS software interface)		200	5 Days	20
Reliability Centered Maintenance (Plus RCM software interface)		200	5 Days	20
Projects & Contract Management (Plus PM software interface)		300	5 Days	20

Conventional training sessions are scheduled as follows. Weekend, Evening and Outreach sessions are also open as per request. For further details contact: Reception on 04 741 434, 741 427/8 or 0733 320 881

2012 Training Calendar

- Session 1: 30 January - 10 February 2012
- Session 2: 02 April - 13 April 2012
- Session 3: 04 June - 15 June 2012
- Session 4: 30 July - 10 August 2012
- Session 5: 29 October - 09 November 2012

NB: Customised courses can be developed as per customer request and new courses may be introduced elsewhere across the spread of the training calendar