



JULY 2016

SECOND EDITION OF THE TECHNOVATION DAY A HUGE SUCCESS



Ms Rungano Karimanzira (extreme left), the Director of Projects and Technology Transfer in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development visiting some of the departmental exhibition stands at the Technovation Day.

The Harare Institute of Technology successfully held its second edition of the Technovation Day on Friday 22 July 2016 at the university's campus in Belvedere with over 3000 high school students from different parts of the country turning up for the event and over 20 organizations from industry and commerce also attending to witness the technological innovations and projects exhibited by the Institute's Schools and departments.

HIT Technovation Day 2016 This year's Technovation Day was running under the theme – "Disruptive Thinking, Big Ideas", a challenge to Zimbabweans to find innovative solutions to daily problems and create an environment for rapid industrialisation.

The event was broadcast live on StarFM Radio station's Breakfast Programme called the Breeze, and was presented by Yvonne Mangunda on Campus.

In his welcoming remarks, the Vice Chancellor Eng. Quinton Kanhukamwe said the theme challenges the Institute to move out of its comfort zones, reflect on the daily routines to find better and innovative solutions to daily problems.

HIT staff and students from various departments showcased their projects which are all ready for commercialization. Research and development outputs including Intellectual Property were also showcased.

Academics, students, pupils, industry and commerce had an opportunity to interact, share ideas and motivate each other to proffer solutions to the various technological challenges facing our nations as well as creating an environment for rapid industrialization and wealth creation. "This technovation day provides an opportunity for networking and building partnerships with organisations within the same sector as

well as providing a platform for identifying research problems," said Mr Tinashe Mutema, HIT Communications and International Relations Director.

HIT Technovation Day 2016 The Technovation Day also provided a platform for companies and organisations in the science, engineering and technology sector to promote innovation and technopreneurship amongst young people focusing on driving economic revival in the country.

The day also raised technological awareness among students, pupils as well as the industry and commerce. It also advanced and kept alive the advancement of the STEM initiative by showcasing the Careers of the Future to young high school students. The Technovation Day also provided an opportunity for networking and building partnerships with organizations and other technological players from various sectors.

"Specifically relating to high school pupils pursuing science subjects, the day is held to expose them to various innovations and developments within the science, engineering and technology sector with a view to motivate them to be innovators and wealth creators," said Mr Mutema.

Some of the highlights of the Technovation Day exhibits include Clive Nyapokoto's Energy Globe award winning project called Vermicompost - Vermi-Aquaponics (VA) System. The project is designed to introduce a costless modern way of farming crops using aquatic waste without the need of fertilizers and fertile soils.

Tapiwanashe Matangira grabbed the crowd's attention with his D. Rover project where he integrated modern robotics to build a wireless controlled vehicle toy through a well developed mobile app. Tapiwanashe built the robotic toy from the waste card-box material powered by a cellphone battery.

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INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

HIT AND STEWARD BANK LAUNCH UNIVERSITY STUDENT CARDS



HIT Registrar Mrs M. Samupindi, the Institute Librarian Mr. J.L Maenzanise and the officials from Steward Bank at launching the HIT Student cards

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) together with Steward Bank has launched student identity cards with banking functionalities as part of the bank's efforts to enhance financial inclusion.

HIT becomes the second university to launch such a programme with the bank after the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) where an estimated 6 000 students have signed up for the students' cards. The project is expected to spread to other universities and should be complete within the next six months.

The card combines a student's bank account details and conventional student identity card offered by the tertiary institution. It means one card performs all functions of a bankcard including Point Of Sale (POS) transactions with banking details on one side, while the other side contains the normal student identity card information and can be used for all university services such as fees payment, library access and buying food from the Campus Canteen.

Steward Bank's Divisional Head for Banking and Commercial Services Mr Zvichapera Katiyo said the bank would spread to other universities across the country. He added that apart from enhancing financial inclusion, the programme would also remove the cost of producing student identity cards from

universities.

"We have added banking functionalities to the conventional student ID card. Our intention is to cover all universities with this programme," said Mr Katiyo.

"This means students can enjoy convenience of banking anywhere using their student ID cards. They can perform ATM transactions or POS purchases on campus or anywhere. The card is also ZimSwitch enabled," he added.

HIT Communications and International Relations Director Mr Tinashe Mutema said students could pay their tuition fees and other transactions at the university using their cards.

The launch of the HIT Steward Bank Student Cards was held on the sidelines of the second edition of the Technovation Day and was officially graced by HIT Registrar Mrs M. Samupindi, the Institute Librarian Mr. J.L Maenzanise and the Dean of Students Mr J. Chandauka.



HIT CO-HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS



The Zimbabwe Pharmaceutical Students' Association, (ZPSA) jointly hosted the 62nd International Pharmacy Students Federation (IPSF) World Congress in Zimbabwe at the Harare Institute of Technology and the University of Zimbabwe under the theme.

The Harare Institute of Technology hosted the Leaders in Training programme from 26-29 July aiming to groom and develop leaders within the student members. The Leaders in Training programme was officially opened by Mr Perkins Muredzi, the Dean in the School of Industrial Sciences. The HIT Chairperson of the Pharmaceutical Technology Department Professor Gundidza and other members of staff and students also attended the event.

The main congress was held at the University of Zimbabwe from 29 July to 8 August under the theme, "Navigating through a changing healthcare landscape: Quest for pharmaceutical excellence". Several speakers were lined up for the event, which also included professional development activities such as the Clinical Skills Event and the Patient Counselling Event. The final part of the programme was a five-day Post Congress Tour to provide an opportunity to the guests from different parts of the world to explore the beauty of Zimbabwe and its natural wonders.

The Zimbabwe Pharmaceutical Students' Association (ZPSA) represents Zimbabwe's pharmacy students at the University of Zimbabwe and the Harare

Institute of Technology. The Zimbabwe Pharmaceutical Students' Association is affiliated with the Pharmaceutical Society of Zimbabwe which acts as its mother body. It is a full member of the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), an association which represents around 350 000 pharmacy students and recent graduates in 70 countries worldwide.

The International Pharmacy Students Federation (IPSF) is the leading international advocacy organization of pharmacy students that promotes improved public health through provision of information, education, networking, and a range of publication and professional activities.

The IPSF World Congress 2016 availed a lifetime opportunity for local and international students to learn about pharmacy practice on a global scale and provides the platform to interact, participate in cultural exchange and network.



PROF. GREYLING'S LECTURE PRESENTATION ON APPLICATION OF NANOTECHNOLOGY IN POLYMER TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING



Professor Corinne Greyling during her lecture presentation on nanotechnology, polymeric materials, their properties and applications in engineering, biotechnology, pharmaceutical technology as well as wastewater treatment.

Professor Corinne Greyling, a polymerscientist, researcher, consultant and external examiner from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town, South Africa recently conducted an eye-opening lecture presentation on nanotechnology to the department of Polymer Technology & Engineering including industrialists.

Professor Corinne Greyling presentation zeroed in on nanotechnology with emphasis on polymeric materials, their properties and applications in engineering, biotechnology, pharmaceutical technology as well as wastewater treatment.

She is a renowned polymer scientist with industrial and academic experience in polymers and their applications. She has done a lot of work on nanotechnology particularly degradation of dissolved organic dyes in textile wastewater using nanophotocatalysts. Some of her work includes electrospinning of polymeric fibres to nano level polymers in engineering, polymer composites and their applications.

Staff and students from Polymer Technology & Engineering, Chemical and Process Systems Engineering, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical Technology, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering departments as well as Harare Polytechnic attended this lecture on nanotechnology organised by HIT's Polymer Technology and Engineering department.

More than ten representatives from industrialists who were keen on understanding the scope behind nanotechnology also attended the lecture presentation.

Mr Chongore, the Production Supervisor from Schweppes Packaging Division said industry must now focus on emerging technologies as this will solve a lot of their processes and materials related problems that they face in industry. "It is not often that we hear people talk about nanotechnology in our industry, I am so privileged to have been invited", he said.

The Production Manager of Phoenix Brushware, Mr

Mapaya reiterated the need to closely keep ties with Harare Institute of Technology in terms of research and product development as HIT is in the forefront of technology development and innovation.

Mr Masona, the Production Manager of Vari-Plastics a packaging division of VariChem commended the department for inviting industrialists to such an eye opening and cutting edge technology presentation as industry is considering using nano materials to solve some of the problems of colour dispersion in products which would require UV screening as they manufacture packaging for light-sensitive drugs.

Another industrialist, Mrs Nchenche, a manager with SHEQ of Versapak felt that the coming in of nanomaterials might usher a material at nano level that might be capable of making their Expanded Polystyrene (popularly known as Kaylite) biodegradable as they are in constant threats of a ban of their material due to its non-biodegradability in the environment.

During the question and answer session staff from the HIT Chemical and Process Systems Engineering department were so keen on nanotechnology enquiring about the toxicity of nanoparticles whilst others wanted to know if funding was readily available to sustain researches in nanotechnology as the technology demanded a lot of sophisticated characterisation and analytical equipment.

HIT's Polymer Technology and Engineering department students who attended the lecture presentation were excited about the possibilities of undertaking their HIT300 and HIT 400 projects based on nanotechnology.

Professor L. Tagwirei, the Chairperson of the Department of Polymer Technology & Engineering commended Eng. Chikurunhe, a lecturer in the department for coordinating the lecture presentation as well the industrialists who showed their support for taking up HIT's Polymer Technology & Engineering students for both placements and employment when opportunities present themselves at their various

companies.

Professor Greyling provisionally loaned her High Voltage generator to the Department for electrospinning of polymer nanofibres in order to enhance meaningful practicals.

"This will make a huge difference to the quality of practicals for our students as well as in some of the researches being undertaken by the department", said Eng. Chikurunhe while appreciating the support from their External Examiner and promised to make the most of the piece of equipment loaned to them.

Taking advantage of the presence of the industrialists, the department convened a stakeholders meeting after the presentation. The meeting zeroed in on the need to establish a two-year degree programme that will upgrade the qualifications of industrialists and Polytechnic lecturers who are holders of Higher National Diploma in Plastics Technology.

Both the industry and Polytechnics felt the need for a shorter part-time programme so that they equally advance their professional skills while accommodating the new breed of Polymer Engineers who will be joining their companies soon.

The Polymer Technology and Engineering Department promised to use the proper structures and procedures to ensure that the recommendations from stakeholders received necessary attention for a harmonised working relationship.



SECOND EDITION OF THE TECHNOVATION DAYS IN PICTURES

