



Celebrating Innovation: championing Technopreneurship

March 2015

MICROSOFT ESTABLISHES BASE AT HIT



Euas Taifour, one of experts from the Microsoft Virtual Academy.

Microsoft has established base at HIT through its Virtual Academy, which is running a series of courses, which began with the cloud-computing platform (Azure) to promote skills development and access to affordable technologies in local contextualized innovations.

A team from the Microsoft Virtual Academy held a four-day seminar with students from the School of Information Science and Technology to introduce them to the new cloud-computing technology, Azure.

Students had the opportunity to familiarize with Azure; learning the different services that it offers. Students were also invited to explore Azure by observing how other students from across Africa are benefiting from the use of the new technology.

Microsoft Azure is a cloud computing platform and infrastructure, created by Microsoft, for building, deploying and managing applications and services through a global network of Microsoft-managed data centres. It provides both Platform as a Service (Paas) and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) services and supports many different programming languages, tools and frameworks, including both Microsoft-specific and third-party software and systems. Azure was released on 1 February 2010.

Cloud computing is a computing term or metaphor that evolved late 2000, based on utility and consumption of computer resources. Cloud computing involves deploying groups of remote servers and software networks that allow centralized data storage and online access to computer services or resources. Clouds can be classified as public, private or hybrid

Students were given Azure one-month passwords, which will allow them access to this platform where they can use services to gain more knowledge on the platform.

Ryno Rijnsburger, a facilitator at the event, expressed gratitude to HIT for affording them the opportunity to introduce and interact with HIT students "This shows HIT's commitment in terms of up-scaling and enhancing the academic experience of its students", he said.

Martin Mudhuva, a Part Four student from the Information Security and Assurance Department said he has learnt a lot from the seminar regarding cloud computing; a new technology that is evolving.

"I really appreciate Microsoft's effort in imparting this knowledge to us as students. I now have a clear overview and a good appreciation on cloud computing technology and their AZURE platforms.", he said.

The Microsoft Azure Platform provides an API built on REST, HTTP, and XML that allows a developer to interact with the services provided by Microsoft Azure.

Microsoft also provides a client-side managed class library, which captures the functions of interacting with the services. It also integrates with Microsoft Visual Studio, Git and Eclipse.

Cloud computing relies on sharing of resources to achieve coherence and economies of scale, similar to a utility (like the electricity grid) over a network. At the foundation of cloud computing is the broader concept of converged infrastructure and shared services.

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HEALTH EXPO KICK STARTS 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Students and staff took time to get information on various health services at the Health Expo.

The Health Expo, held from 25-27 March kick started the HIT 10th Anniversary celebrations. Held under the theme: "Celebrating 10th Anniversary through a healthy lifestyle," the Health Expo was hosted by the HIT Health Club under the Student Affairs Division.

Sister Mashoko of the Student Affairs Division said the Health Expo was aimed at promoting and encouraging a healthy lifestyle amongst students and staff.

"We wanted to promote health awareness on non-communicable diseases like obesity, diabetes, cancer, and hypertension," she said. She further added that the promotion of a good healthy diet and nutrition was another aspect of the Expo.

CORPORATE 24, a medical aid service provider for HIT students supported the Health Expo as

well as Population Services International (PSI), the Diabetic Association and SayWhat.

The Health Expo provided health services such as blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, exercise tolerance checks, information on sexual health, nutritional information, social health, and body water checks.

"It was quite successful as we managed to get a large turn out from students and members of staff. We are currently getting some feedback, but from our assessment, people welcomed the idea. We are witnessing some reform in people's eating habits as some have already changed their diets and are taking up exercise to keep their bodies healthy and fit", said Sister Mashoko.

The Health Expo was the first in the series of events to be held under the banner of the 10th Anniversary celebrations. Several other activities

are lined up throughout the year which includes conferences, symposia and an open day, among others. The anniversary celebrations are being held under the theme: "Celebrating innovation, Championing Technopreneurship."



HIT ACADEMIC APPOINTED TO REGIONAL BODY



Dr A. Phiri, the Director of HIT's EMRECCRC and member of SARUA.

HIT academic, Dr Anthony Phiri has been appointed to the Curriculum Innovation Working Group of the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA).

The appointment is effective 1 March with tenure of 2 years. During his term of office, Dr Phiri is expected to contribute towards research and the development of a climate change and sustainable development curriculum for regional universities.

Dr Phiri is the Director of the Harare Institute of Technology's Environmental Management, Renewable Energy and Climate Change Research Centre (EMRECCRC). He also lectures in the Department of Chemical and Process Systems Engineering and has experience in climate change and sustainable development, acquired whilst working for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, (CSIR) in South Africa.

"Working under SARUA is an honour and a reflection of personal growth in the academic fraternity. I am sure I will do my best contributing towards the establishment of a sound climate change curriculum", said Dr Phiri.

Dean in the School of Engineering and Technology, Mr Perkins Muredzi said Dr Phiri's appointment to the Southern African Regional Universities Association's Curriculum Innovation Working Group is a monumental and commendable feat.

"He is the pioneer director of our recently established Environmental Management, Renewable Energy and Climate Change Research Centre (EMRECCRC). With his appointment, the Schools are confident that he will ensure that the Institute provides technopreneurial solutions and adaption strategies to unpredictable climate change, environmental pollution and energy resource dwindling challenges facing Zimbabwe and the world at large. We are confident that he will remain cognisant of the salient thrust of technology development, commercialisation and transfer that the techno-savvy members of the HIT academia are seized with," said Dean Muredzi.

HIT SCHOLAR LAUNCHED



HIT Vice Chancellor Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe, the HIT Librarian Mr J.L Maenzanise and Professor Mashingaidze, Director of the Centre for Invasive Species Research and Management of the Chinhoyi University of Technology during the official launch of the HIT Scholar.

The Harare Institute of Technology Institutional Repository was officially launched on Friday 27 April on campus.

Speaking at the launch, the HIT Librarian, Mr Jasper Lee Maenzanise highlighted that the Institutional Repository was an integral aspect of the research processes at HIT and would aid in the advancement and creation of new knowledge, aligned to the institutional mandate. He added that the institutional repository would promote research and scholarly output, while disseminating research as widely as possible.

The event was attended by academic and senior administrative staff of the Institute.

Two guest speakers also attended the event, and

provided useful insights and experiences on institutional repositories.

Professor Mashingaidze, Director of the Centre for Invasive Species Research and Management of the Chinhoyi University of Technology outlined the benefits and limitations of institutional repositories, contending that repositories were useful for any university interested in academic excellence.

Mr E. Madziwo, Acting Manager for the Library and Information Services of the Zimbabwe Open University, also gave his reflections on the benefits of institutional repositories from a client and provider perspective.

In his message, Vice Chancellor Engineer

Quinton Kanhukamwe congratulated the HIT Library on this achievement, which comes at an opportune moment as the Institution is commemorating its 10th Anniversary. The launch was a remarkable achievement and the repository has gone over the 100th mark and was set to continue to grow.

The Vice Chancellor added that as enunciated in the HIT Act, the institution was created to design, develop, incubate, commercialise and transfer technology for the nation's rapid industrialization. In line with this mandate, there was need therefore for a concomitant generation of scholarly output from the specific scientific, engineering and technology innovations.



HIT ENTERS INTO MOU WITH ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY

The Harare Institute of Technology has entered into an MOU with the Anglia Ruskin University based in the United Kingdom.

The partnership will run for three years.

The agreement is based on the pursuit of academic excellence as well as the enhancement of international goodwill and understanding.

The partnership seeks to promote opportunities for doctoral studies for HIT staff,

provide a framework for academic cooperation, and to seek opportunities for joint research and publications.

HIT has entered into various memoranda of understanding with institutions of higher learning in Asia and Europe. In line with its policy of internationalization, the thrust for international linkages will assist the Institute in realizing its mandate through partnership with like-minded institutions.



Anglia Ruskin
University

“EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY FOR CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT”- HIT STUDENTS URGED



Mr W. Gwarimbo, Dean of the School of Business and Management Sciences addressing the seminar.,



Capital market experts have challenged HIT students to develop technologies that advance and promote rapid capital market development in Zimbabwe.

At a seminar organized by the School of Business Management Sciences held on 31 March, several experts from the local capital and stock market industry concurred on the need for a stronger working partnership between academia and industry.

The seminar was held under the theme, “Embracing Technology for Capital Market Development”, and was held as part of the Institute’s 10th Anniversary Celebrations.

Several representatives from the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), Securities and Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe (SECZ) and the Central Depository Services (CDS) were lined up as key speakers in various issues pertaining to the local and global capital market.

In his opening remarks, Dean in the School of Business and Management Sciences, Mr W. Gwarimbo, called for partnerships between

industry and commerce, and those in academia.

Mr Gwarimbo challenged industry and commerce to interact and communicate with academia towards the country’s development. “Our students projects here at HIT must give solutions to challenges facing industry and commerce here in Zimbabwe. So, any challenges that you are facing, any problems that you are experiencing and any area that you want researched upon, all these students are there to do that for you”, he told the panel.

Mr Anymore Taruvinga of the Zimbabwe stock Exchange called on Zimbabweans to produce textbooks about our own local financial markets that will be used in our local educational institutions. He gave a well-detailed presentation on the role of the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange and ongoing technological developments at the local bourse.

Mr B. Ngara of the Chengetadzayi Depository Company, the first Central Securities Depository (CSD) Company in Zimbabwe, presented an illuminating paper on the role of the Central

Securities Depository.

From the Securities Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe’s perspective, Mr Norman Mahombera dealt with how technology can be embraced in Capital Markets.

“There is scope for all forms of technologies that you as students can think of as you do your studies that can be implemented in the capital market. The Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) and the Central Securities depository have changed the capital market platform and the way the market is going to be regulated in the future”, said Mr Mahombera.

The seminar was attended by students from the School of Business and Management Science and academics.



Mr Norman Mahombera
Securities Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe

WATERSHED SCHOOL VISIT



About 40 students from Watershed College recently visited the Institute’s Technology Centre to get a practical experience in their Design and Technology studies.

The Ordinary and Advanced Level students are all studying Design and Technology courses at the school, which includes concepts on design and the use of Computer Aided Machines (CAM), computer Aided Designs (CAD) and Computer Numerated Machines (CNC) in the manufacturing industry.

Speaking during the tour, Mr F. Saungweme, a Design and Technology teacher at the school said that the purpose of the tour was to provide an opportunity for their students with the practical experience in some of the processes that form part of their course, helping students to excel in their final examinations.

The students were very impressed by some Capstone design projects by HIT students as well as other technical and mechanical operations and processes in the Department of Industrial Manufacturing Engineering, Chemical and Process Systems Engineering as well as the Electronics Department.

Watershed College is located on the outskirts of Marondera and offers Ordinary and Advanced level studies.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT SCIENCES IN COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT WITH MUSTARDSEED



Dean Gwarimbo of the School of Business and Management Sciences and a representative of Mustard Seed Consulting signing the MoU.

The School of Business and Management Sciences has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Mustard Seed Consulting, a development finance consulting firm which provides consulting services to financial institutions.

The agreement which runs for five years seeks to design curriculum for certificate and diploma courses, the teaching, supervision and certification of qualifications, engage in collaborative research projects, lectures, symposia, seminars, workshops, the exchange of academic information and materials, among others.

MILITARY APPLAUDS HIT MANDATE



Colonel J. Muzvidziwa, (Second from left) the Chief Instructor of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Staff College and students of the Joint Command and Staff Course Number 55 viewing some of the HIT technologies, projects and products.

The military has hailed the Harare Institute of Technology for enhancing national security through innovations in various technologies.

In a recent visit to the Institute, Colonel J. Muzvidziwa, the Chief Instructor of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Staff College students for the Joint Command and Staff Course Number 55 said their visit had seriousness of purpose and was a follow up to the much publicized technological innovations taking place at HIT.

“There is a lot that is happening here that we need to nurture, so that as a people, we find pride in what we develop as a nation”, said Colonel J. Muzvidziwa.

Major S. Nkomo, who was part of the visiting students, also echoed the same sentiments, saying that the Defence Forces are now appreciating HIT’s overall contribution to national security through the various technological innovations and advancement that the institution is making headway into.

“From the presentation and the guided tour that we have had, we have learnt that this Institute is providing and enhancing national security in various aspects like

e-registration –controlling migration and the movement of people, food processing – food security, and information security”, he said.

The Zimbabwe Defence Forces and their allied counterparts from the SADC region toured HIT, which is the country’s lead institution specialising in the research, development, transfer and commercialisation of technology. The visit was part of efforts to broaden their knowledge on the impact of science, engineering and technology on the economic development of a country.

The Harare Institute of Technology has become the ideal Institute for showcasing what the country’s tertiary institutions are capable of offering in terms of research in science, engineering and technology.

The delegation from the Zimbabwe Staff College was also shown some of the various capstone design Projects by HIT students and graduates.

Over 40 officers drawn from SADC region are attending the Junior Command and Staff Course Number 55 at the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Staff College in Harare.



Dean P. Muredzi explaining the HIT Mandate to the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Staff College Joint Command and Staff Course Number 55 .



SOFTWARE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HOSTS 'CAMPUS INVASION' CAMPAIGN



Students and staff from the Software Engineering Department attending the Twenty Third Century Systems Campus Invasions Drive.

A team from the Twenty Third Century Systems visited the Harare Institute of Technology on 24 March as part of the organisations' 'Campus Invasions' drive.

The campus invasions are a career guidance campaign co-ordinated by Twenty Third Century Systems which are currently running in tertiary institutions across Zimbabwe. HIT is the first University to be host to the 'Campus Invasion,' programme.

The Campus Invasions are designed to:

- Bring awareness to third and fourth year students on SAP career prospects in Twenty Third Century Systems (TTCS) under the ttcs.uni graduate programme

- Give SAP related career guidance to students
- Assist students in signing up for the ttcs.uni Student Community, where they can get more information and resources on SAP careers.

The Campus Invasions programme took on an interactive approach, and included presentations, Q&A sessions, as well as one-on-one consultations.

The ttcs.uni Graduate Trainee Programme was introduced by Twenty Third Century Systems (TTCS) in 2011 as an incubation programme for SAP skills and consultancy training. Two team members of the TTCS delegation, who are products of the Graduate Trainee Programme,

gave inspiring testimonials on their experiences. They both highlighted the need to embrace team work and the ability to interact with people from diverse backgrounds and races.

HIT graduates already on the TTCS programme include Liliosa Mushonga and Prestige Maronde.

In her vote of thanks, Chairperson in the Software Engineering Department, Ms Kadebu registered appreciation to the TTCS for choosing HIT as the venue for the launch of the ttcs.uni campus invasions 2015. She went on to acknowledge TTCS for continuously supporting the School of Information Science and Technology through providing graduation prizes, internship opportunities and recruitment of graduates.

HIT ROTARACT CLUB OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

The HIT Chapter of the Rotaract Club was officially chartered on 14 March on campus.

The ceremony saw the HIT Chapter becoming a nationally and internationally recognised entity of the Rotaract Club International.

The event was facilitated by the Harare CBD Rotary Club and was attended by fellow Rotarians from the Chinhoyi University of Technology, University of Zimbabwe and exchange students from Germany.

President of the HIT Chapter, Arthur Bobo and Vice President Grace Guvava were presented with the Charter certificate by CBD Rotary Club President, Claudius Chikundura.

Chikundura urged the HIT Chapter to value service and the less privileged in all their endeavours. He further added that as Rotarians, they should aim to bring about positive change to the communities that surround them through feasible projects.

In his speech, HIT Chapter President Bobo emphasised the need to increase membership so as to engage the majority of the students union into the club. He encouraged members to continue with the spirit of

service and to work hard towards upcoming projects namely; visiting the Leprosy Centre in Mutoko and the painting of the Parirenyatwa Children's ward.

The Club's Projects Coordinator, Praise Sinamwari expressed the club's vision, "Service above Self," as captured in the 'the Four Way Test,'

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

HIT Rotaract Club Leadership:

President—Arthur Bobo

Vice President—Grace Guvava

Secretary—Georgina Walker

Treasurer—Jamakanga Jonathan

Professional and International Services Director—Timothy Chamburuka

Community Services Director—Santana Makuyana

Club Services Director—Praise Sinamwari



HIT Chapter of the Rotaract Club engage in community service projects on campus.