

HIT PARTNERS HOMELINK IN 2ND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING



Delegates, facilitators and participants at the Women Entrepreneurship Development (WEDT) Training programme in Gwanda.

A Women Entrepreneurship Development Training (WEDT) programme was conducted by Homelink Finance Services in partnership with the Harare Institute of Technology's Technopreneurship Development Centre (TDC) in Gwanda from 19-23 March 2018 in Gwanda under the theme 'Entrepreneurship Mindset For Sustainable Businesses'.

Over 100 women from Gwanda and the surrounding areas were trained and awarded entrepreneurship certificates after completing the one-week entrepreneurship training programme. The initiative is designed to help women start business and build their capacity as future business leaders.

In her opening remarks, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Deputy Governor, Dr Jesimeni Chipika said the Homelink and Harare Institute of Technology's Women Entrepreneurship Development Training (WEDT) programme is critical in capacitating women entrepreneurs in the country. "I am convinced that women entrepreneurs can drive economic growth. It is therefore imperative for stakeholders including Government, civil society and capacity building organisations to consolidate their efforts to improve women's opportunities and outcomes in global value chains and this is what this workshop is about," she said.

The Deputy Governor also commended the two institutions for working together in conducting this programme that will empower women, equipping them for the development of the country.

Homelink Financial Services Sales Manager,

Ms Sibusisiwe Mashoko, said WEDT was being extended countrywide to capacitate women entrepreneurs in the fight against poverty and enhancing economic growth. "Investments in women are now widely recognized as crucial to achieving sustainable development. Economic analysts say low levels of education and training, poor health and nutritional status and limited access to resources not only adversely affect women's quality of life, but limits productivity and hinder economic efficiency and growth," she said.

Mashoko added that the Women Entrepreneurship Development Training (WEDT) programme will soon be rolled out to every province and district in the country targeting women with a strong desire to venture into business.

HIT Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Maxwell Chanakira said the weeklong workshop was driven by the need for economic growth through women. "Women are the cornerstone of African economic development and strengthening women's role in finance and business management is one of the keys to boosting economic growth. Many women own small and medium business but fail to access financial institutions or are unable to receive financial services on adequate terms to meet their needs", he said.

After the completion of the Women Entrepreneurship Development Training (WEDT) programme, participants are expected to submit viable business project proposals, which will be funded by Homelink and RBZ. **To page 4.....**

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INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

VICE CHANCELLOR HONOURED AT MEGAFEST 2017 NATIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS



Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe (second from left) and some members of the HIT Senior Management team at the Megafest 2017 National Business Awards Ceremony

The Harare Institute of Technology Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe was awarded the Vice Chancellor of the year runners-up prize at the MegaFest 2017 National Business Awards with Africa University Vice Chancellor Professor Munashe Furusa scooping the ultimate prize.

The Megafest 2017 National Business Awards were held at the Rainbow Hotel in Harare on held on 28 March 2018 under the theme 'Disruptive Business Thinking'.

This prestigious award is a milestone achievement for both Vice Chancellor Eng. Kanhukamwe and the Institute as this accolade has carved his name and that of the Institute in the history of ZIMBABWE books among the movers and shakers of our time.

Megafest recognise individual captains of industries, corporates and Zimbabwe's most influential dealmakers, owners, investors, executives, senior corporate managers, general managers, Chief Executive Officers and other functional executives for their excellence.

The awards are held annually as a way of developing and promoting professional business acumen at all business levels.

Several well-known business people, managers and corporates in Zimbabwe have been recipients of the Awards.

Vice Chancellor Eng. Quinton Kanhukamwe was installed as the First Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology on the occasion of the Fifth Graduation Ceremony on 23 October 2014 at the University campus in Belvedere, Harare.

On his installation as the HIT First Vice Chancellor, he pledged his commitment to transforming the Harare Institute of Technology into a vibrant, energetic, and responsive University to both the needs of government and the country.



HIT CELEBRATES WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY



Delegates, presenters and participants at the Women in Technology (WITECH 2018) Event

The first edition of the Women in Technology Event (WITECH 2018) was successfully held at HIT on 8 March 2018 under the theme 'Women in Technology: Working towards Progress for All', as part of the commemorations to mark the International Women's Day.

The event was facilitated by the Technology Transfer, Commercialisation & Licensing Centre (TTCLC) in conjunction with the Department of Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering (IME) and sought to reflect on the progress made by women in technology and advocate increased participation and retention of women and girls in technology based areas, such as Science, Technology, ICT, Engineering and Mathematics (STIEM). The event also provided career guidance to high school students; career propositions to professionals wishing to develop themselves in the STIEM fields, - while also contributing to the promotion of the HIT brand.

Several organisations partnered in the event, such as the Forum for African

Women in Education (FAWEZI), Techwomen Zimbabwe, African Women in Science & Engineering (AWSE), Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers (ZIE) - Women in Engineering, Michelle Boit Mentorship (Kenya), GEMProjects Network (Southern Africa), and Talbless Automation, amongst others.

Over 200 delegates comprising high school students from across Harare attended the event and were addressed by 15 speakers. Other participants were engineering and technology students from various local higher education and tertiary institutions, engineering professionals from government ministries, law firms, industry and commerce, local startups, technology hubs, NGOs, companies and professional bodies.

Speakers at the event emphasised the need to equip young women in school and professionals with critical STIEM skills in areas such as leadership, sustainable technology innovation, mentorship, intellectual property, digital skills and design thinking, among others.

In his opening remarks, Eng. P. Muredzi, Dean of the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology and Engineering and Technology spoke on the undisputed need for gender diversity in technology, and indicated that there were reports of the presence of few women leaders in technology. "The Harare Institute of Technology envisages that event participants will explore new business opportunities that underscore how technology is powering change. The University no longer expends much energy on galvanizing women to take up technology positions, that we have successfully done, - but we now consider the need for women to tackle technology related challenges in their research and development work and we now await outputs and breakthroughs," he said.

The Dean recommended the need for mentorship programmes and networking opportunities, flexible working hours to aid a good work-life-balance and more opportunities for personal development of young women.



TENDAI GUKUTA APPOINTED SANBIO STUDENT AMBASSADOR FOR ZIMBABWE



Tendai Gukuta, the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) Student Ambassador for Zimbabwe.

Tendai Gukuta, a third year HIT student studying for a Bachelor of Technology Honours Degree in Biotechnology has been appointed the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) Student Ambassador for Zimbabwe.

Gukuta is currently on attachment at the Tobacco Research Board and was appointed the new SANBio Student Ambassador for

Zimbabwe on 26 February in Pretoria at the SANBio Annual event where she also attended a summer school from 25-26 February 2018.

“I am pleased to be appointed the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) Student Ambassador for Zimbabwe. I have since started working with the National Biotechnology Authority who are the

Zimbabwe Partners with SANBio and we have come up with various programmes and competitions to promote students in biosciences, health and nutrition. I will work very hard to spread the message of biological sciences and to be a good ambassador for Zimbabwe and HIT. I would like to thank HIT for building me up as a biotechnology student and an outstanding individual,” said Tendai.

In his congratulatory message, HIT Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe said, “Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the HIT Board, Senior Management, the members of staff and students and on my own behalf to congratulate you on this great achievement and appointment as SANBio student Ambassador for Zimbabwe. We wish you the very best during your tenure and are confident that you will discharge your role in a dignified and professional manner,” said said.

Southern African Network of Biosciences, SANBio, is an African Union-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NEPAD) collaborative research, development and innovation platform aimed at addressing Southern Africa's challenges in health and nutrition. Membership within the SANBio network provides opportunities for research and development through collaborative networking. It also aligns stakeholders to streams of funding opportunities through various grant opportunities.

Gukuta becomes the second HIT student from the Department of Biotechnology to be appointed to this post.

HOMELINK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

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Most of the participants paid tribute to HIT and Homelink for facilitating the workshop, which covered a range of topics such as basic management, pitching a successful business proposal, marketing, finance and business communications. Ms Evelyn Rugava, a young woman entrepreneur said this initiative came at the right time and is teaching women how to manage their small scale businesses especially when it comes to financial management. “In future we will be able to manage our finances properly, which will keep our businesses running,” she said.

Ms Gugulethu Mnkandla, a University graduate said the programme gave her skills to create employment for others. “Through the training I have acquired and the funding I hope to receive, I aim aiming to open up a business and employ other graduates,” she

said.

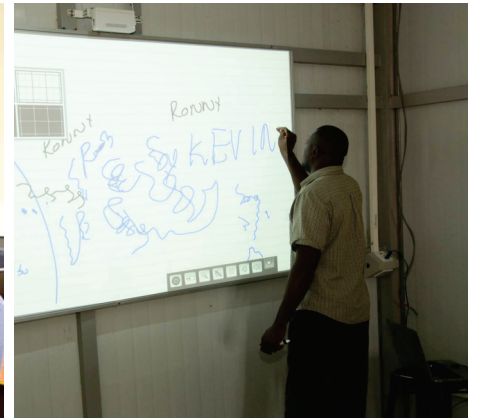
Another participant Ms Zanele Nyathi said the programme was a timely intervention for women. “It was very educative and important such that women in Gwanda who attended the workshop benefitted a lot.”

The Gwanda programme follows the success of the first WEDT workshop held at HIT in September 2017.

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UNDP VISITS HIT DESIGN THINKING LAB



UNDP Country Director Mr Georges van Montfort and HIT Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe and Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr M. Chanakira inspecting progress on the installation of ICT equipment at the HIT Innovation and Design Thinking Laboratory.



HIT SDF HONOURED AT INDIAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



HIT Staff Development Fellow, Mr Godfrey Tigere at the SRM University Second International Conference on Advanced Mechanical Engineering (ICAME) 2018

HIT Staff Development Fellow in India, Mr Godfrey Tigere won the Best Paper Award at the SRM University Second International Conference on Advanced Mechanical Engineering (ICAME) 2018, held from 22-24 March 2018 in Chennai, India.

Mr Tigere presented a paper entitled 'Comparative study of different coolants in End Milling of OHNS using Minimum Quantity Lubrication technique' in the Machining category.

A total of 246 papers were presented at the Second International Conference on

Advanced Mechanical Engineering (ICAME) 2018 on 15 disciplines.

Mr Tigere is studying for an M.Tech Computer Integrated Manufacturing degree at SRM University.

The Second International Conference on Advanced Mechanical Engineering (ICAME) 2018 focused on a range of issues related to applied mechanics, bioengineering, computer aided engineering and information technology processing, design and analysis, energy systems. The purpose of the conference is to bring together the multi-

disciplinary community of engineers, scientists, and academics to discuss recent trends and future developments in Mechanical Engineering.

Presentations at the Second International Conference on Advanced Mechanical Engineering (ICAME) 2018 covered topics such as applied mechanics, computational mechanics, finite element analysis, dynamics of structures and systems, elasticity, plasticity, experimental mechanics, fluid mechanics, fracture and failure mechanics, instability in solids and structures and composite mechanics.



MINISTER EMPHASISES HERITAGE INNOVATIONS

Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Professor Amon Murwira has called on educational institutions to focus on heritage based innovation in solving the country's problems. Speaking at the Great Dyke Career Fair held at Gresham grounds in Zvishavane on 23 March 2018, Prof. Murwira said education should play a transformative role in uplifting and empowering the people.

"We want a Zimbabwe that's proud and which uses knowledge for the gain of its people. I am. Looking forward to a new generation of Zimbabweans who will take this country to prosperity. Let's learn and learn. We are the masters of our own future," said the Minister

Over 2000 high school students were gathered at Gresham school grounds, Mandava for the fair, representing over twenty schools

At the same event, the Zvishavane community has applauded HIT Alumni Zairo Manzungu for installing the town's first traffic lights. Manzungu graduated in 2012 with a degree in Electronic Engineering from HIT and is currently engaged with Ya FM, a Zvishavane based community radio station as the Chief Engineer. He said he started working on his robotics project during his part two studies at HIT.



Zairo Manzungu (right), HIT graduating class of 2012 with Takesure Matsveru, VTC graduating class of 1994 at the Great Dyke Career Fair 2018.

HIT PARTICIPATES AT FREDA REBECCA CSR PROGRAMME



As part of its outreach efforts, the Communications and International Relations department attended a Career Fair organised by ASA Resource Group, (Freda Rebecca Gold Mine and Trojan Mine). The event was held on Wednesday 21 March,

and was attended by over 20 exhibitors from the higher and tertiary education sector, as well as industry and commerce.

Over 500 students from 22 schools within Mashonaland Central province attended the

career fair with a view to get information on university programmes, entry requirements and career prospects.