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PRESIDENT APPOINTS ENGINEER QUINTON KANHUKAMWE HIT FIRST VICE CHANCELLOR

His Excellency and Chancellor, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde R. G Mugabe, has appointed Eng. Quinton Kanhukamwe as the inaugural Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology. This follows recommendations of the Institute's Board with the concurrence of the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Hon Dr. Olivia N Muchena.

As the Vice Chancellor, Eng. Kanhukamwe has been charged with contributing to the rapid industrialization of Zimbabwe through promoting the development, incubation, transfer and commercialisation of technology, development of high level technical human capital; the establishment of production centres linked to academic departments and the development of a Science Park; offering education programmes focusing on design, production and maintenance of technology with a technopreneurial and innovative thrust for continued relevance to industry and all other sectors of Zimbabwe's economy amongst other Key Performance Areas.

With well over 40 publications in refereed journals, Eng. Kanhukamwe's career began in 1991 when he was appointed lecturer at the Bulawayo Polytechnic. In 1992, he moved on and was part of the founding team of academics at the National University of Science and Technology. In the subsequent years, he proved his mettle leading to his appointment in 1999 as Chairman Industrial Technology Department and subsequently Dean of the Faculty of Industrial Technology. He also served as Director Designate of the NUST Technopark.

In 2003 he was appointed Chairman of the Transformation Committee of the Harare Institute of Technology by the Permanent Secretary for Higher and Tertiary Education, Dr Washington Mbizvo, which came up with the roadmap for developing HIT into a fully-fledged university. The promulgation of the HIT Act [Chapter 25:26] in 2005 was in part the outcome of the work of the Transformation Committee under his leadership.

From 2005 to 2008, Eng. Kanhukamwe operated as Pro-Vice Chancellor of HIT. He was then mandated to lead HIT as the Acting Vice Chancellor in 2008, a position which he held until this appointment.

During this time Engineer Kanhukamwe managed to set up university structures creating four Schools offering 15 ZIMCHE accredited Bachelor of Technology Honours degree programmes and four Centres that bolster the HIT mandate.



Eng. Quinton Kanhukamwe
HIT Vice Chancellor

For his sterling contribution to development of science and technology in Zimbabwe, Eng. Kanhukamwe has received more than 10 local and regional awards. He has signed more than 21 collaborative agreements with renowned universities and technology related institutions worldwide that have become the platform for curriculum development, staff development, technology transfer and quality assurance.

Eng. Kanhukamwe holds a Msc in Engineering and is a member of the following professional bodies; MIIE-USA, MICME-UK, MZwIE, Pr (ECZ). He is currently studying towards a Doctor of Technology with Tehran University of Iran.

Eng. Kanhukamwe is a board member of the Engineering Council of Zimbabwe, a Senator with the Junior Chamber International JCI, a member of World Technopolis Association (WTA), Southern Africa Regional Universities Association (SARUA), Association of African Universities (AAU), Oxford Club of Rectors, Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers and a proponent of the innovation and technopreneurship philosophy and practice.

Eng. Kanhukamwe is married to Rumbidzai and they are blessed with a daughter, Dadiso.

Contents

	Page
President appoints Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe HIT First Vice Chancellor.....	1
HIT scoops Best Exhibitor's Trophy at RIE-SET WEEK 2014.....	2
HIT exhibit at the Air Zimbabwe Employee Welfare Day.....	2
Personal Transformation Key to Organisational Success.....	3
Microsoft Corporation boss thumbs up HIT brand.....	3
HIT staff development success scores success.....	4
HIT to produce pharmaceutical drugs.....	4



NOTICE OF INSTALLATION OF FIRST VICE CHANCELLOR AND FIFTH GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Installation of the First Vice Chancellor and Fifth Graduation Ceremony will be held on the 23 October 2014, from 0800hrs on campus.

INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

HIT SCOOPS BEST EXHIBITOR'S TROPHY AT RIE-SET WEEK 2014



The RIE- SET WEEK 2014 Best Exhibitors Trophy (Left), Mrs Sharai Muonwa, the HIT Public Relations & Marketing Manager (Middle) holding the trophy at the presentation ceremony and (Left) the HIT Exhibition Team joined by the Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe in celebration.

The Harare Institute of Technology won first prize for the best exhibition amongst all local universities at the Research and Intellectual Expo-Science, Engineering and Technology (RIE - SET WEEK 2014) Exhibition held at the University of Zimbabwe Grounds from 3 to 6 September.

The second prize was awarded to Africa University while the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) took third prize.

HIT was exhibiting a variety of innovative technologies ranging from a Solar Drier, Eggs Incubator/Hatchery, food and beverage products, Herbal medicines, perfumes, oils, Bottle Moulds, a Heavy Weight Lifting Robot, an electricity smart metre and rank marshaling system.

This year's edition of RIE-SET running under the theme: "Engagement, Innovation and Diversity for National Transformation and Development", was the first joint edition of the Research and Intellectual Expo-Science, Engineering and Technology (RIE-SET) Week,- a four-day fair to showcase research activity and output in institutions of higher learning in Zimbabwe.

Director of Communications and International Relations at the Harare Institute of Technology, Tinashe Mutema revealed that the Institute had

put up an exhibition which was in line with the overall theme of the event, and more importantly, an exhibition that would effectively communicate the HIT identity and mandate.

"This Expo provides us with the rare opportunity to showcase our research output and inform the public about our unique programmes and activities within our departments", he said. He added that projects such as the rank marshaling system and the electricity smart metre were timely innovations which addressed pertinent consumer concerns.

Speaking at the Official Opening Ceremony, Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable Joice Mujuru challenged researchers in higher and tertiary institutions to come up with research outputs which are relevant to national development.

In a speech read on her behalf Vice President Mujuru said modern higher and tertiary education institutions can no longer afford to be ivory towers and be seen to be relevant in the national development discourse and agenda.

"At the end of the day, we are concerned with the practical purpose of their research", she said.

She added that research applications in the national development agenda should be guided

by the Zim-Asset national economic blueprint. Dr Muchena concurred and said higher and tertiary education institutions have an important role to play in coming up with innovations that can help the industry retool, enhance the country's competitiveness and stimulate various forms of productivity.

During the event, Dr Muchena officially launched the first two volumes of a scholarly journal: the Journal of Zimbabwe Studies: Science, Technology and Health and the Journal of Zimbabwe Studies: Arts, Humanities and Education.

Professor Christopher Chetsanga, the Chairman of the RIE-SET Week Organising Committee said that school children, college students, the public and the private sector should take advantage of interacting with scientists at the Expo to understand the latest technologies and systems being developed in universities, colleges and independent research institutions.

The inaugural RIE Expo was held in 2011 and subsequent editions have established a reputation as a focal point for new ideas and new practices in research, learning and technological and socio-economic development.

HIT EXHIBITS AT THE AIR ZIMBABWE EMPLOYEE WELFARE DAY

The Communications and International Relations Office co-ordinated HIT's participation at the Air Zimbabwe Employee Welfare Fair which was held from 26-27 September at the Air Zimbabwe Headquarters. Air Zimbabwe Acting Public Relations Manager, Shingai Taruvinga said the fair was held to provide staff with an opportunity to reflect on their health, education, financial status and to also provide staff with exposure to a wide range of services and products, which would inform their decisions.

Director of Communications and International Relations, Tinashe Mutema said the attendance at the event was held to continuously market the Institute and to empower the Air Zimbabwe employees on prospects for career advancement and personal development.

The airline staff were conscientised on HIT's mandate and clients visiting the stand affirmed HIT's lead position in terms of innovation and creativity.



Ms Mashonganyika, Technical Instructor at HIT explains career advancement opportunities to Air Zimbabwe trainees.

MICROSOFT BOSS THUMBS UP HIT BRAND



Part of the HIT students and staff who attended the public lecture addressed by the Corporate Vice President of Microsoft Corporation and President for Africa and the Middle East, Ali Faramawy. (Inset)

Corporate Vice President of Microsoft Corporation and President for Africa and the Middle East, Ali Faramawy has paid tribute to the innovative and creative power of the youth, who represent the future of global technological transformation, and in particular, HIT students. The Harare Institute of Technology has the largest faculty of Information Sciences in sub-Saharan Africa, according to disciplines.

Speaking at a Public Lecture at the Harare Institute of Technology held recently, Faramawy spoke on the power and potential of the youth; an asset to any nation if they are given the platform and to excel. "Young people are a blessing to any nation, when they are given opportunities to build, collaborate and innovate," said Faramawy.

In Africa, the youth constitute 65% of the total population, according to the African Union Youth Division.

The Public Lecture, held under the topic – "The Microsoft Strategy" was attended by HIT students and staff and took on an interactive approach with students flooring fundamental questions on the empowerment of African developers, Microsoft versus Open Source Software, the need for

software tailor-made for the African market as well as the integration of Microsoft programmes into higher education syllabi.

Faramawy urged young people in universities to do much more in taking up the opportunities presented by technology which has opened up the boundaries of the world, – especially access to the internet. He added that the exciting thing about technology is that it opens up the boundaries of the world and is the ultimate expression of democracy.

The Microsoft Vice President told the HIT students that there was no limit to possibilities. He said that it was ironical that Microsoft, which was deemed as the crème de la crème of American capitalism, had an Indian Chief Executive; representing the power of possibilities and the recognition of emerging economic powers, markets and growth opportunities.

Faramawy told the audience that Microsoft Corporation was established by Bill Gates at a tender age, and was founded on three principles: bold ideas, empowering everyone and providing devices and services. "Hard work, smart work and teamwork is what we all have to do. Give it a try, do your

best, surround yourself with people who tell you the truth, continue learning, try different things, do your best and we are also going to do our best to get much closer to you as a company", said the Microsoft Vice President.

He also said there was room to utilise some Microsoft curricula at HIT and other higher education institutions and that supervision or collaboration to enable students to get more resources and support through Microsoft's standard education programme in implementing the Microsoft Corporation's 4Africa strategy was possible.

Faramawy added that success would depend on a closer working relationship within the greater matrix. "I think I know what we have to do as a company, – we have to come much closer to young people in universities around Africa. We need to work on those enablement factors that we spoke about – skills, innovation and affordable accessibility factors. We need to have the ability and the skill to support a lot of people at the same time. We must support the communities and let people support each other, that's community power", he said

"PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION KEY TO ORGANISATIONAL SUCCESS"



Zwelibanzi Ndlovu
Business Strategist

Business Strategist Zwelibanzi Ndlovu held a motivational address at the Harare Institute of Technology on the role of personal transformation as a key to organisational success. The lecture was organised by the Dean of the School of Business and Management Sciences, Mr Willard Gwarimbo and was attended by Senior staff members, academics and students.

Ndlovu bemoaned the lack of an Afro-centric perspective in the field of personal transformation; – an imperative to organisational success. He also stressed the need for individuals to possess guiding principles and values which informed their everyday life and decisions, – as the individual was the most important variable in leading organisational transformation.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

HIT TO PRODUCE PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS



HIT Pharmaceutical Technology Technical Instructor, Mr Pomerai Mazuru (left) and Lecturer Mr Joey Chifamba (Right) posing for a photograph at the HIT stand during the RIE SET WEEK 2014.

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) has begun the commercial production of pharmaceutical drugs using indigenous plants in a development that is likely to substitute expensive imports.

The drugs are expected to hit the market in the first quarter of 2015 after the necessary approvals are obtained from the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ).

An outlet that will retail the products will initially be opened at the Institute's premises.

HIT Pharmaceutical Technology Development

Lecturer Mr Joey Chifamba, whose department is spearheading the project, said the institution will manufacture both prescription and over-the-counter products ranging from cosmetics, dermatological applications and other oral medicines.

He said the programme was inspired by the need to commercialise indigenous knowledge systems through formulating products from locally available and known medicinal plants.

"Our thrust is to equip students with hands-on knowledge on manufacturing and contribute to Zimbabwe's GDP by value adding on what we already have in

Zimbabwe

"Most drugs are imported yet we can come up with alternatives," he said.

The project would be driven through partnerships with Industry and the promotion of sustainable development within communities.

Chifamba added that herbal remedies are gradually gaining a significant share on the international market as they are believed to be much safer than other synthetic chemicals.

HIT is also working on a programme to analyse all indigenous herbs in order to develop methods on how best they can be used and packed commercially.

Already, a project is underway where indigenous trees such as baobab, marula, aloe, trichilia (muchichiri) and kigelia African (mubve), which is believed to have anti-skin cancer components, are being used to make herbal soaps, ointments, sanitisers and capsules under the brand name Insti Herbs.

For the products to be approved for the retail market, the Institute is expected to meet World Health Organisation (WHO) standards that are enforced by MCAZ.

These standards include suitable premises and laboratories, registered pharmacists and approved methods and processes in the manufacture of such drugs.

The Zimbabwe pharmaceutical sector is believed to be second in terms of size and development to South Africa in the SADC region. It produces more than 65 percent of the essential drugs list of Zimbabwe.

According to a ZimTrade report that was released by the pharmaceuticals sector in 2012, the local industry contributed about 15 percent to the country's GDP supporting downstream and upstream industries.

The SundayMail/HIT

<http://www.sundaymail.co.zw/1-business-news-14-september-2014/>

HIT STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SCORES SUCCESS

Twenty four HIT staff development fellows have recently returned home following the successful completion of their study programmes at two Universities in India.

The fellows were based at the Delhi Technological University and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University where they undertook Master of Technology degree programmes ranging from Software Engineering, Microwave and Optical Communication, Thermal Engineering, Information Technology, Computer Science and Engineering, Nano Technology, Neural Networks, Chemical Engineering, Real Time Systems, among others. The fellows were derived from various departments within the Institute, such as Software Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Information Technology, CPSE, Computer Sciences and Bio technology.

Kumbirai Nyachionjeka, who successfully completed a Master of Technology degree in Microwave and Optical Communication, said the two year programme was intensive and highly competitive. "India has one of the best information technology infrastructures in the world and in as much as they are an emerging economy, they are developing at an exponential rate," he said. Nyachionjeka added that he was grateful to the HIT leadership for the opportunity and felt empowered by the graduate programme he undertook. "I hope to impart the invaluable knowledge, exposure and experience to students and colleagues," he said.

Nyachionjeka revealed that the curriculum at the Delhi Technological University was heavily practical –oriented and students underwent

vigorous practical sessions. "The huge emphasis on practicals is also important because the University forges a lot of strategic alliances with Industry. Students are exposed to the world of work through internships and mentorship programmes and it is quite possible for a student to secure employment prior to graduation, through demonstrable display of strong aptitudinal skills and technical competencies.

Nyachionjeka also added that the University received extensive funding from the Indian government, which became a significant enabler for the acquisition of teaching and learning materials as well as research funding.

Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe revealed that staff exchange programmes were beneficial in getting staff to appreciate the proficiency and competency schedules in curriculum offered by institutions with a similar mandate to HIT, adding that this was crucial in achieving the institutional mandate, – resultantly leading to rapid industrialisation.

The Harare Institute of Technology has purposively undertaken a well-orchestrated staff development programme, aimed at exposing staff to institutions which have excelled in modelling their curriculum similar to HIT.

23 other scholars are expected to return to HIT in October this year, upon successful completion of their degree programmes in India. 10 other staff development fellows are located in other universities in Russia, Belgium, Indonesia, South Africa, China and South Korea.



Kumbirai Nyachionjeka, a Lecturer in the Electronic Engineering Department, successfully completed a Master of Technology degree in Microwave and Optical Communication at the Delhi Technological University in India.