



FEBRUARY 2016

HIT STUDENTS EMERGE CHAMPIONS AT INAUGURAL WORLD BANK WATER & SANITATION HACKATHON



Team E-Council, comprising HIT students from various departments and one participant from SkyHub

Harare Institute of Technology students emerged champions at the inaugural World Bank Water and Sanitation Services Hackathon after coming up with the best viable business solution in the form of a user-friendly application that can be used by residents to interface with City Councils for solving water and sanitation problems.

Code-named Team E-Council, the group was comprised of six HIT students; Edmore Sibanda of the Information Technology Department; Marshall Takudzwa Chabanga, Tamuka Caswell Chikanyairo, Fortune Chidzikwe of the Software Engineering Department; Mazvita Chigariro and Shylina Kamponje from the Electronic Commerce Department.

The team also developed a website for City Councils where customers can report faults that will be classified by Dashboard hits. The application system can also collect demographic data that can be supplied to other NGO's when needed.

Their prize included Free ADSL Fiber installations to each member's residential home with three months subscriptions.

Margret Chipunza and Alan Du Randt who led the panel of judges said the adjudication of the Hackathon was based on creativity, thinking outside the box, originality & versatility, an advanced approach to solving problems, and producing a socially, environmentally sound and sustainable business solution.

The second prize was awarded to Team DARA, who developed a mobile application support system that can be used to provide direct user interface between residents and council authorities, with Team ZIMWASA walking away with

the third prize. Their business solution included an approach to empowering women to take charge of water and sanitation issues.

The event also included the first-of-its kind Dragon's Den format where all finalists present their product or prototype to a group of judges comprising experienced Venture Capitalists. Each finalist had a maximum of 10 minutes to present their product/prototype followed by 5 minutes of questions from the Dragons.

The 48 Marathon began on Friday 26 February to Saturday, 27, when the groups presented their business solutions to a panel of judges comprising Alan Du Randt, the Managing Director of Vita Nova, Margret Chipunza, the Chief Financial Officer of African Century Limited, Geoff Goss the founder of Matamba Anonaka, Medicine Mavhondo the Managing Director of Brainworks Capital, and Nyaradzo Nyimo Mudzamiri, a Consultant with OK Zimbabwe.

The event brought together various stakeholders, including the government, academia & software developers, private sector, financiers, members of the public, civil society, and the media to develop technical solutions that could improve water and sanitation services for Zimbabwean consumers.

As part of its curriculum, HIT promotes the practical application of knowledge by its students through various projects and initiatives. HIT students have, through the years formed formidable innovation hubs which proffers solutions for everyday challenges that communities face. These hubs have also been important in promoting a collaborative network across the disciplines, and have been a source of inspiration and motivation for the students.

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INNOVATION

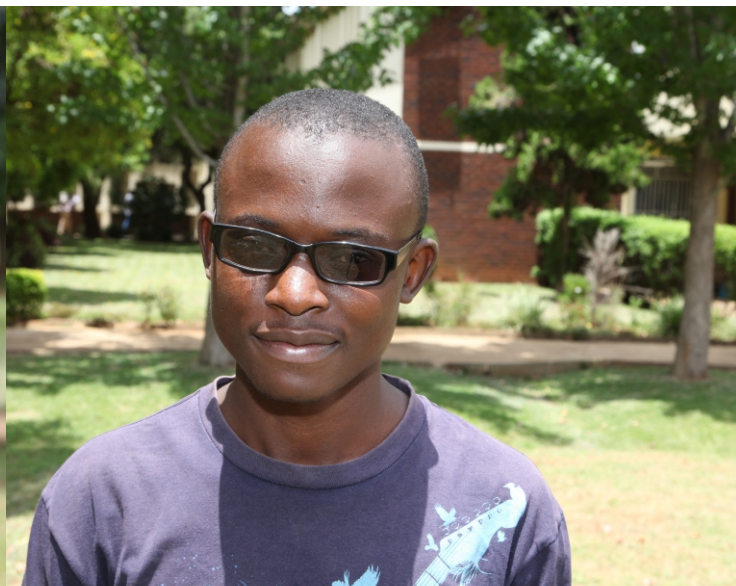
LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

SECOND SEMESTER OF 2015/16 ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS ...



Natasha Chivhunga, a final year student of the E-Commerce Department (left), and Douglas Gwera, an Electronics Engineering student (right).

The Second Semester of the 2015/16 academic year commenced in earnest on Monday, 22 February 2016. It was a hive of activity at the University campus as students went about the formalities of completing registration and settling into their various halls of residence.

Most students expressed delight at returning to the University after a long vacation with some looking forward to improving their performances while others are completing their studies this semester.

Douglas Gwera, an Electronics Engineering student is looking forward to having distinctions in all his courses and project. "I would like to work closely together with my lecturers and other students so that we can come up with some innovative technological projects", he said.

Edmore Mugandani of the Information and Security Assurance department expects to improve his technical skills.

"This is my final year and I am feeling very happy and energetic. I am also striving to pass my degree with distinctions, " said Faith Nyakudya.

Natasha Chivhunga, a final year student is looking forward to more workshops and seminars on campus as, "these empower us as students and help in our studies. I am also looking forward to unlimited access to Wi-Fi to help in research activities," she said.



Faith Nyakudya a final year student of the E-Commerce Department.



Edmore Mugandani of the Information and Security Assurance Department



HIT HOSTS FIRST WORLD BANK WATER AND SANITATION HACKATHON



Ms. Camille Nuamah, World Bank Zimbabwe Country Director (left) officially opening the first Hackathon to address challenges in water and sanitation services (WSS) delivery in the country at the Harare Institute of Technology.

The World Bank Zimbabwe Office hosted its first Hackathon to address challenges in water and sanitation services (WSS) delivery in the country at the Harare Institute of Technology. The Hackathon brought together practitioners, community members, and programmers in a 48-hour marathon to develop technical solutions that could improve water and sanitation services for Zimbabwe's consumers.

The objective of this event was to raise awareness and showcase the potential of local developers to craft innovative technical solutions and applications for addressing the challenges of water and sanitation service delivery in Zimbabwe. The event also provides a link for various stakeholders, including the government, academia and software developers, private sector and financiers,

citizens associations and civil society to have a close interaction on these issues. The Hackathon showcased the potential of the knowledge economy as a driver of growth and jobs in Zimbabwe.

Officially opening the event, the World Bank Zimbabwe Country Director Ms. Camille Nuamah outlined that the Water and Sanitation Hackathon will bridge various sectors and connect the government and technology communities around a shared challenge. She added that the Hackathon would encourage a distinct culture of open collaboration and bringing together stakeholders who typically would not have an opportunity to engage within their respective professions.

Deputy Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services,

Honourable Dr Win Mlambo challenged the innovative solution developers taking part in the Hackathon to identify and assess the current interventions and see what is working and what is not working well.

HIT Vice Chancellor, Engineer Q.C. Kanhukamwe expressed deep gratitude to the World Bank for hosting the first ever water and sanitation Hackathon at HIT adding that the university has a mandate for technology development, incubation, transfer and commercialisation. "The 2016 Water Hackathon is the first of its kind, bringing together software developers in Zimbabwe with the aim of not only increasing awareness of water and sanitation challenges that our country is facing but also providing viable solutions to these challenges," he said.



HIT INCREASES SPHERE OF INFLUENCE



Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe with Saith Technologies (Pvt) Ltd (left) and and Turnall Holdings Ltd representatives.

From December 2015 to date, the Institute has entered into various Memoranda of Understanding with like-minded institutions both locally and abroad. In line with its policy of internationalization, these Memoranda of Understanding will broaden the scope and sphere of influence of the HIT.

On 24 February 2016, the Harare Institute of Technology entered into a Memoranda of Understanding with the Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey. Both parties agree to cooperate towards the internationalisation of higher education. The broad areas of cooperation include the development of academic and cultural exchange; focus on the exchange of best practice experiences with regard to knowledge and technology transfer. The MoU will remain in effect for an initial three years; subject to renewal following a positive evaluation by both sides.

On 10 February 2016, the Institute entered into

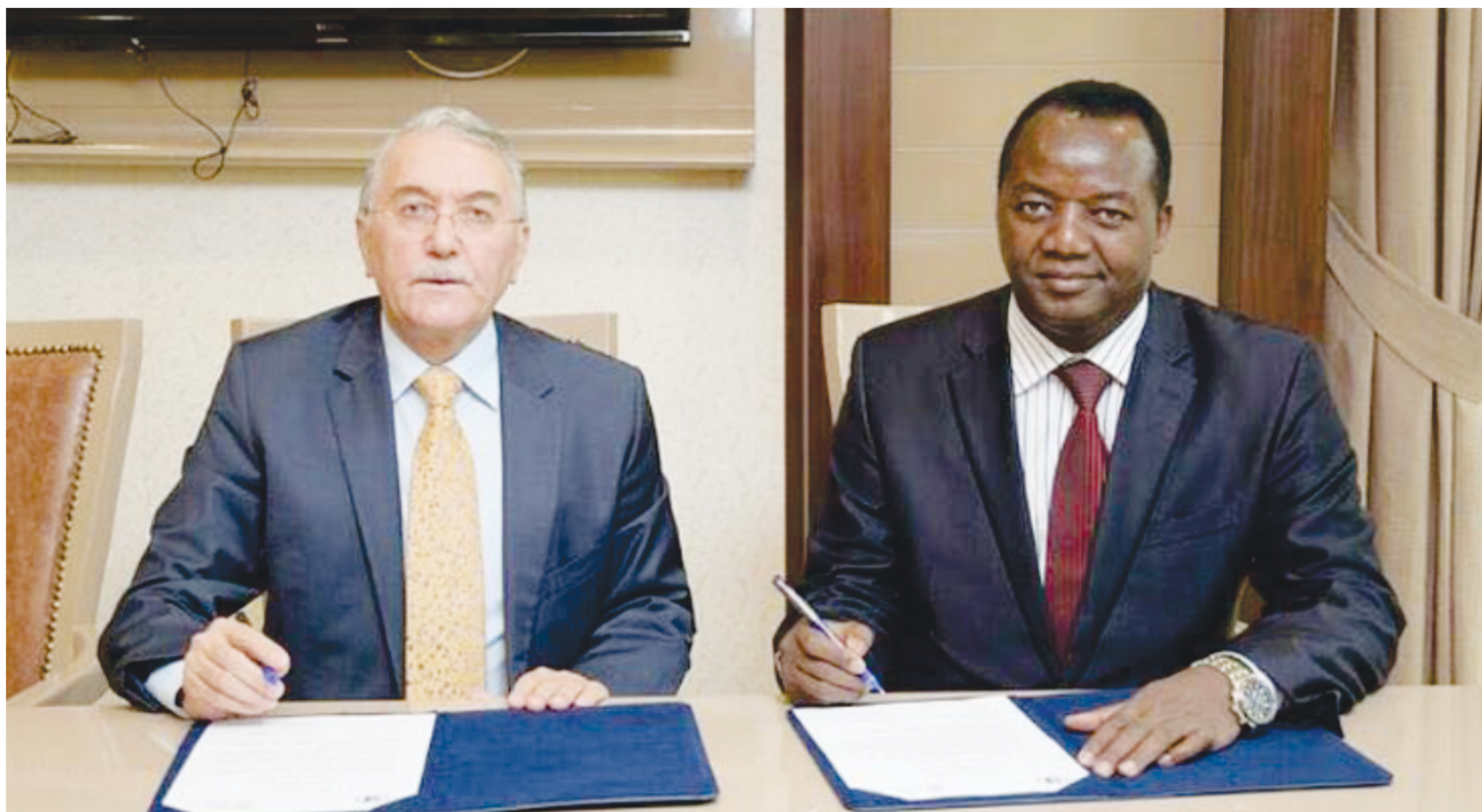
a Memorandum of Understanding with Saith Technologies (Pvt) Ltd. Saith Technologies is a private company which specializes with commercialising technologies and has inventions in the areas of energy efficiency, security surveillance, Wi-Fi technologies, drones, among others. The agreed areas of cooperation include, among others: - partnership in the promotion of technology development, to jointly promote the development of a Technopark, the pilot testing of inventions from Saith Technologies. The agreement is established for a period of five years.

On 9 February 2016, HIT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Turnall Holdings Ltd. Turnall Holdings is a dominant manufacturer and distributor of construction materials. The areas of co-operation will include: road construction materials, low cost housing, technical skills and manpower development,

and any other areas of mutual interest. The duration of the agreement is for a period of five years.

24 December 2015 marked the commencement of formal relations between the Harare Institute of Technology and Earth Energy Private Ltd. Earth Energy is a company registered in Zimbabwe, with its objectives being the development and exploitation of renewable energy sources including geothermal energy. The principal objectives of the MoU are to investigate and evaluate the efficacy of geothermal energy sources.

On 11 December 2015, the Institute entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. The MoU is focused on staff development at HIT and the pursuance of graduate and doctoral studies by HIT staff, as well as collaborative research. The MoU is for duration of five years.



HIT Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe signing a Memoranda of Understanding with Prof Hassan Gonen, Rector of Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey