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## TECHIES TO TECHNOPRENEURS



The HIT Techies who completed the three-month Business Incubation Process posing with Dr Chanakira (extreme right) at the National Art Gallery of Zimbabwe.

Ten techies from the Harare Institute of Technology have completed a three-month business incubation process aimed at transforming their technical prototypes into commercially and socially viable ventures.

At an event to unveil the techies held at the National Art Gallery, under the theme “Techies to Technopreneurs”, the Director of the HIT Technopreneurship Development Centre, Dr Maxwell Chanakira said that the business incubation process was very tough and demanding, but at the end of the process, they came up with sound business plans based on theory and fact and attractive to investors.

“The market is there for these products by these young techies. We worked in partnership with Sandown, which offered mentoring and coaching, business plan refinement, market survey instruments and investor readiness. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) brought technical and advisory support coordination, seed funding and overall direction to the project”, said Dr Chanakira.

Speaking at the same event, HIT Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe gave a thumbs-up for the project, adding that it was inspired by the HIT Mandate with dual aims of creating innovation and stimulating employment creation. “ In three months these partners have imparted valuable business knowledge and skills to the graduates in the Information and Communications technologies sector.

Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe said that this is a meaningful collaborative partnership that gives hope to the young techies, imparting skills that they will cherish for the rest of their lives. “The Institute looks forward to strengthening this cooperation in future with all our partners”, he said.

In November 2014, the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), Sandown Corporate Limited and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Zimbabwe jointly launched their first Business incubation Programme. The programme was housed at HIT and through a three months incubation

process sought to support the young techies to transform their technical prototypes into commercially and socially viable ventures.

UNDP country representative, Verity Nyagah said the collaboration is an essential strategic partnership in advancing a key national development agenda. “This programme will not have been achieved if it wasn’t for the collaboration and commitment by the partnership of HIT, Sandown Corporate, and UNDP. Through this collaboration, the young techies have been granted access to additional technical and mentoring skills. This is evidence of the high quality of the business plans they developed, and I am pleased to advise that the process of capital sourcing and investor engagement is now underway”, she said.

Below is a listing of the ten prototypes:

1. **Liliosa Mushonga** – Energy Demand Prediction System
2. **Emmanuel Isheunesu Madzokere** – Electronic Shopping Cart: Case of Instifoods
3. **Gresham Muradzikwa** – An Android Mobile Based Payment System Using Quick Response (QR) Codes
4. **Chenaimwoyo Nhema** – Web Based Market Linkage System For Smallholder Farmers
5. **Tendai Nyamugudza** – Primary and Secondary Education Information Management System
6. **Kudzai Shamba** - Integrated System For Efficient Payment of Education Tuition Fees in Zimbabwe
7. **Rumbidzai Jani** – A Web Based Electronic Archiving System For Local Authorities
8. **Kudakwashe Chifamba** – Smart Home Automation System
9. **Tinovimbanashe Maduku** – A Supply Chain Management System For Retail Pharmacies
10. **Edward Zengeni** – Enterprise Application Integration Platform

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**SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS**  
 The 2014/2015 Academic Year  
 Second Semester began on 16  
 February 2015.



# HIT CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



The celebrations will be held under the theme: "HIT @10: Celebrating Innovation, Championing Technopreneurship."

An organising committee for the celebrations is already in place, chaired by the Dean in the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Mr Perkins Muredzi.

The celebrations will be held under various banners and celebratory activities which seek to recall and celebrate the history, heritage, traditions, mandate and future of the Harare Institute of Technology.

Mr Muredzi revealed that the scope of the anniversary celebrations was diverse covering symposia, conferences, public lecture series, workshops, Olympiads or competitions and technology exhibitions.

He added that over the past 10 years, the Harare Institute of Technology has grown into one of the region's finest training grounds for future engineers and a wellspring of leading edge technology.

"The Institute has seen dramatic increases not only in its size and scope of degree offerings, but also in the

quality and impact of its educational and research programmes. In just a decade, it has risen to become a national leader in experiential engineering education, technology development, technopreneurship, technical pedagogy and in research fields as diverse as financial engineering, pharmaceutical technology and information security." This, he said, has resulted in record levels of student applications, research funding and philanthropic support.

Muredzi highlighted that the Celebrations' emphasis on HIT as a Model of a world class Institute of Technology will showcase HIT's commitment to excellence, access, and unmatched dedication to higher education.

"Participation and enthusiasm from the entire community will ensure success," he concluded.

HIT Director of Communications and International Relations, Mr Tinashe Mutema revealed that the commemorations serve as an opportune moment to once again tell the HIT story and reinforce the HIT brand to a multiplicity of stakeholders.

The Harare Institute of Technology will host its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations this year, (2015); commemorating the establishment of the Institute in 2005 by the Government of Zimbabwe through the HIT Act, Chapter [25:26].

## VICE CHANCELLOR CALLS FOR TECHNICAL CONVERGENCE



Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe addressing Technology Centre staff.

The Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe has called on all HIT technicians to embrace unity of purpose in the discharge of their duties at the Institute and to give greater impetus to the realization of the HIT mandate.

"Sectional interests and uncoordinated activities will defer the productivity and effectiveness of the Institute's technical arm", he said.

The technicians were urged to embrace a multi-disciplinary approach to the discharge of their duties and yield to the demands of Institute-wide projects.

"All technicians are being called to deliver and contribute and work on Institute-wide projects. They must move beyond the call of duty and put the mandate of the Institute first, ahead of departmental appointments and boundaries," said Engineer Kanhukamwe.

It is envisioned that all technicians, in their various areas of specialty and uniqueness will collectively contribute to the development and realization of the Technology Centre's mandate and ultimately, the HIT mandate.

The Technology Centre, a Centre of Excellence at HIT, is a strategic unit of the Institute set up to promote the development of manufacturing activities from across the various academic units of the Institute.

The Technology Centre also attends to production orders from industry and commerce in line with the HIT commercialisation drive. It is also mandated to give competence development training in technical and management courses to industry, commerce as well as to the Small Scale and Medium Enterprises sector. It also promotes school wide inter-departmental convergence that leads to the establishment of various research groups in inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches.



## TOP 20 OUTSTANDING ORGANISATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2014

On 18 December 2014, the Institute was voted among Zimbabwe's TOP 20 OUTSTANDING ORGANISATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2014 by Mega fest.

The awards night was held at the Rainbow Towers Hotel in Harare in recognition of the year's top performers in various sectors. The event was held under the theme: "Fostering Economic Growth through Innovation."



Dean Padenga (far right) and Mr T. Mutema (second from left) receiving the 2014 Megafest Award.



# COMPUTER NUMERICAL CONTROL MACHINES (CNC) DELIVERED...



**LATHE MACHINE**



**GEAR HOBBLING MACHINE**

## HIT STAR CONTINUES TO SHINE

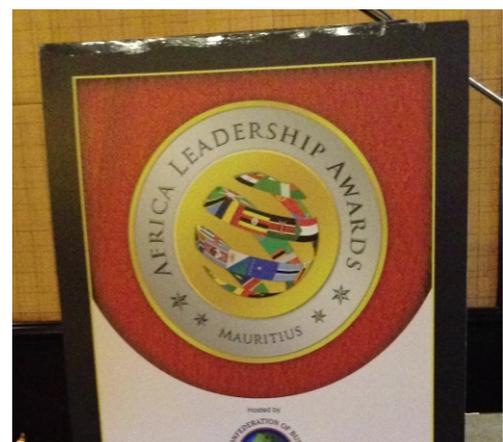


Dean Perkins Muredzi (right) receiving the "Africa Leadership Award (Education) for Outstanding Contribution to Education in the Field of Science" in Mauritius.

As 2014 came to a close, the Harare Institute of Technology was once again recognised for its sterling work and contributions in the higher education sector.

On 10 December, the Institute's Vice Chancellor, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe was presented with the Africa Leadership Award (Education) for Outstanding Contribution to Education in the Field of Science.

The awards ceremony was held in Mauritius and Dean in the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Mr Perkins Muredzi and the Director of Communications and International Relations, Mr Tinashé Mutema received the award on his behalf.



## HIT ENTERS INTO MOU WITH AMITY UNIVERSITY, GURGAON



**T**he Harare Institute of Technology has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Amity University, Gurgaon, India effective from 15 January 2015.

The MoU will run for five years.

The agreement is focused on staff development (pursuance of Master of Technology degrees and doctoral studies), exploring possibilities of joint twinning in degree programmes, joint programmes in research and development

including publications, patents, utility models, and trademarks, and the creation of centres of excellence in specialized fields of mutual interest in science, technology, Engineering and mathematics.

Under staff development, the MoU will see the admission of HIT staff at the Amity University, Gurgaon, in Master of Technology degrees and doctoral studies.

Over the past years, the Harare Institute of

Technology has entered into various memoranda of understanding with institutions of great repute from India, Iran, and South Korea among others.

The agreements seek to further strengthen the HIT brand and consolidate the institutions' international standing and reputation within the global community of universities.



# NEW DEPARTMENTAL CHAIRPERSONS

According to the Departmental Governance Ordinance 17:2005, the Vice Chancellor, Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe appointed the following Departmental Chairpersons;



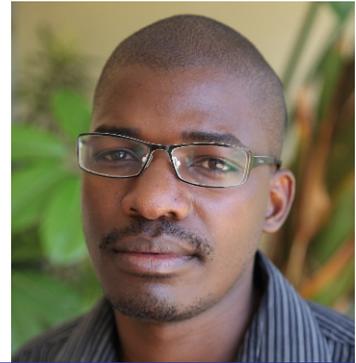
**T. Zimucha**  
Electronic Commerce



**Eng. R. Masike**  
Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering



**D.J Nkomo**  
Financial Engineering



**Innocent Mapanga**  
Computer Science



**Prof. L. Tichagwa**  
Polymer Engineering & Technology



**Prof. M. Gundidza**  
Pharmaceutical Technology



**J. Kutyauro**  
Biotechnology



**N. Karekwaivenane**  
Information Technology



**D. Moyo**  
Food Processing Technology



**C. Kanyunga**  
Electronics Engineering



**P. Kadebu**  
Software Engineering



**D. Sibanda**  
Information Security & Assurance

# NEW REFURBISHED HOSTEL OPENED....



# COLLECTIVE ACTION VITAL FOR PROGRESS



Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe addressing members of staff during the 2014 End of Year Luncheon

**T**he Harare Institute of Technology Vice Chancellor, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe has urged the Institute staff to uphold unity of purpose and collective action in the discharge of the HIT mandate.

Engineer Kanhukamwe was speaking at the End of Year Luncheon hosted for staff and held on Thursday 11 December at the Institute campus.

Basing his end of year message on scripture, (Proverbs 15 verse 22, and Proverbs 20 verse 18 and 1 Corinthians 14 verse 40) the Vice Chancellor said wise counsel and constructive consultations should be the hallmark of all encounters at HIT.

Engineer Kanhukamwe urged staff to remain focused and to ensure that decency and sound moral values guided their actions. He added that HIT had been chosen to lead Zimbabwe's technological revolution and therefore collective action, commitment to the HIT founding values would lead HIT to that destiny.

The Vice Chancellor expressed his appreciation to staff for their varied accomplishments which had raised the profile of the Institute.

Important developments in the year included the acceptance of the HIT Master Plan by the Institute Board, the refurbishment of buildings on campus,

improvements in landscaping and the commissioning of the rewinding equipment which was set for year end.

Another milestone was the installation of Engineer Kanhukamwe as the first Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology. At his inauguration, the Vice Chancellor unveiled the HIT ten point plan which was derived from the strategic plan to guide the Institute's operations.

In her Vote of Thanks, the University Registrar, Mrs Mary Samupindi expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for his leadership and to the staff for their work, dedication and commitment to the Institute throughout the year, and for their support for the Vice Chancellor's Installation ceremony. She urged staff to embrace the New Year with focus and optimism.



Mrs M. Samupindi  
HIT Registrar



## HIT FARMING ACTIVITIES

