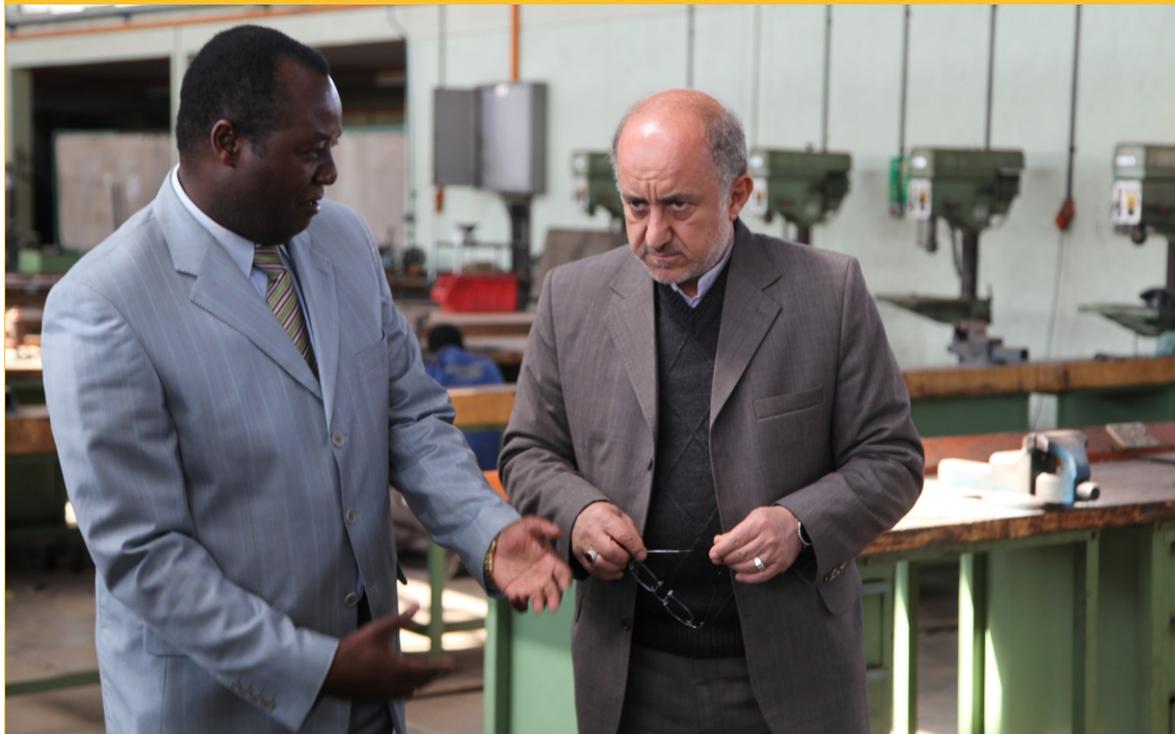




JUNE 2013

NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR PLEDGES TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION



HIT Acting Vice Chancellor Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe emphasises a point to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Mahamad Aminejad during a tour of the Institute Campus.

The new Iranian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, His Excellency, Mr Mohamad Aminejad has pledged to strengthen cooperation between the Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation (CITC), Tehran, and the Harare Institute of Technology.

His Excellency, Mr Mohamad Aminejad recently paid a courtesy call at the Harare Institute of Technology.

In his first meeting with the HIT Senior Management, Ambassador Aminejad expressed his eagerness to work very hard to boost the existing brotherly relations between his country and Zimbabwe. "Let me express my happiness to visit this institution and I have seen a very strong willingness to be successful on your part and I am very touched a lot about that. I know that you will be successful", he said.

Mr Aminejad also added that Iran is undergoing some technological transformations and there are a lot

of changes that are going on in terms of producing tangible results in biotechnology, nuclear energy and nanotechnologies.

"I am very happy that you targeted the Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation (CITC), Tehran, for cooperation in technology research, transfer and commercialisation", said Mr Aminejad.

The Ambassador said he was also impressed with the HIT Strategic Plan - Vision 2015 which was presented by the Acting Vice Chancellor, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe, which shows that the Institute is planning to exist for more than 200 years to come, thereby planning for the next generations. "And I am assured that with this kind of planning and vision you are going to achieve your goals", he said.

He also pledged the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance to the Zimbabwean government, its people and institutions, emphasising close ties and

cooperation in order to get more results.

"I am here representing the Islamic republic of Iran and the Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation (CITC), Tehran, and I pledge to help you achieve your goals in development, incubation, transfer and commercialisation of technology as well as the production of human capital for rapid industrialisation. I also hope that our cooperation is going to produce mutual benefits and achieve our goals. We are here to work and help each other and we will work together to find solutions to the problems affecting our people", he said.

Mr Aminejad reiterated his willingness to work very hard to strengthen the cooperation between Iran and Zimbabwe in all fields. "The Islamic Republic of Iran can share with you a lot of technologies in many aspects, and I am very optimistic that you are going to be successful in all your research and technological

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INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING OPEN DAY OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED...



The HIT Registrar Mrs Mary Samupindi addressing the participants at the Women in Engineering open day 2013

In view of the Harare Institute of Technology's destiny, which is to be the stimulant of scholarship in innovation, the HIT Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering officially launched the Women in Engineering Open Day on Thursday 20th June 2013.

Over ten girls and boys high school students from in and around Harare attended the event that had key speakers from women representatives in the local engineering sector as well as some leadership, entrepreneurship and motivational speakers.

For much of its history, the field of science, engineering and technology has been male dominated yet women make up half of the global workforce. Hence some questions remain unanswered. Is engineering a no go field for women and why are there few women engineers?

In a speech read on his behalf by the HIT Registrar, Mrs. Mary Samupindi, the Acting Vice Chancellor Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe said that it is his sincere hope and desire that this WOMEN IN ENGINEERING OPEN DAY will open eyes to the unlimited possibilities and potential that one can have in life after choosing a career in engineering.

"I strongly believe that at the end of this day all of you will have a clear idea of what your future will hold for you and that of generations come through your hands", said the Vice Chancellor.

He went further to encourage the young girls and boys in attendance to aim to take up careers in the field of engineering in order to propel rapid national industrialisation and development as women are the key drivers since they make up more than half of the global population and workforce.

"This Women in Engineering Open Day is a platform that showcases innovative engineering practices and also affords networking with colleagues in business, academia, industry and government Women engineers can add value to the engineering field in many ways while also effectively working in their traditional roles at their homes", he said.

The Women in Engineering Open Day programme emphasizes the technical aspects of engineering and social opportunities, which exist in engineering as well as taking such opportunities to become successful managers and entrepreneurs.

Other keynote speakers were Mrs. L. Chitemere, an engineer, entrepreneur and lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe whose presentation touched on the promotion of strategic leadership for women in engineering.

Ms. M Masiyazi, a Lecturer in the HIT Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, gave an in-depth post graduation analysis of female engineering graduates looking at the main obstacles they face as young girls from school up to colleges and universities, the trends that are there regarding the uptake of science, engineering and technology subjects by female students, and how our local female engineering graduates are fairing in the engineering industry.

Mr. W. Banda from the Zimbabwe Institute of Engineers gave a presentation on the professional development of graduate engineers leading to the professional level, while the Chief Executive Officer of Veritec, Engineer T. Jaya also gave a presentation on the role of the professional engineer in

nurturing the next generation.

Mr. J. Mungoshi, an entrepreneur, and successful motivational speaker presented on the role of coaching and mentoring in the progressive transformation of the engineering sector with a woman centred approach.

In a speech read on her behalf, the permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development applauded the Harare Institute of Technology for organizing the Women in Engineering Open Day saying her ministry is greatly honoured to be part of this future changing event. "This is a great day that is aimed not at only consolidating and celebrating achievements made by our country, the Zimbabwe Institute of Engineers, and HIT, but where the future is paved by providing an opportunity for prospective engineers amongst our children to learn that the field of engineering is not an exclusive domain of men", she said

She also added that this day is also a day where our children learn that engineering provides vast opportunities for one to control his/her own destiny and contribute meaningful to the nation.

"I particularly draw joy and comfort in realizing that our tertiary institutions are taking the lead in government's gender mainstreaming efforts on coming up with this day where the girl child get a chance to know more about the opportunities in the engineering field", said the Permanent Secretary.

Hope Masike, a renowned Mbira musician provided entertainment to the participants.



High school students interacting with some of the engineers at the Open Day, while Mbira musician Hope Masike provides entertainment

ZAMBIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT HIT



The Zambian Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Education, Science and Technology posing for a photograph with part of the HIT Senior Management Staff.

A Zambian Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Education, science and technology recently paid a courtesy call at the Harare Institute of Technology on a fact-finding mission.

Honourable Dr. Christopher Kalila, the chairperson of the Zambian Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Education, Science and Technology who was leading the delegation said that their visit was a study tour to find out how Zimbabwe is dealing with the issues of education, science and technology. The committee is responsible for giving oversight on higher education, science and technology to the Zambian government.

“We are very interested to learn how Zimbabwe have been expanding its higher education sector in terms of the infrastructure development, resource mobilization and how its institutions of higher education, science and technology are being funded, and off course any challenges that these local institutions like HIT are facing”,

said Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila.

He added that they are very much aware of the critical role that education plays and matters of education, science and technology are very critical particularly here in Africa where we are in a hurry to develop for our continent to move forward. “We are very happy to visit an institution like HIT, that is solely dedicated to the development of science education and technology”, he said.

The Harare Institute of Technology Acting Vice chancellor, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe presented a brief history about the establishment of HIT as a fully-fledged state university, its mandate and what it offers to students and the local industry, its vision, funding as well its stakeholders and partners.

In his closing remarks Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila said his delegation was very impressed with the model that is in use at HIT, as it appears to be very practical and focused towards boosting and giving a kick start to

technology development, and as well the technology and skills that are required to create employment rapid national industrialisation. “We can only commend you and off course the government of Zimbabwe as well as your management and staff. We have definitely learnt so many things here and we will also present all our findings to our colleagues back in Zambia. We also hope to keep this interstate interactions”, he said.

Hon. Dr Kalila added that we could only solve African problems ourselves and therefore we should work out our own models in education, science and technology as trying other foreign models usually does not work and judging by what you are doing here at HIT, it shows that we Africans can solve our own problems. He urged the Zimbabwean government, through the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education as well as HIT to remain focused.

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The ambassador was also taken on a tour of the Institute campus, workshops and laboratories

In his message to the Ambassador, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe commended the tremendous efforts made by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in facilitating links between HIT and technology institutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

“HIT recognises the outstanding contribution of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ambassador to Zimbabwe, His Excellency, Dr Mohammad Pournajaf in facilitating cooperation between the Harare Institute of Technology and the Centre for Innovation and Technical Cooperation office of the Presidency of the Islamic Republic of Iran”, said Vice Chancellor Kanhukamwe.

Vice Chancellor Kanhukamwe also added that the Harare Institute of Technology greatly appreciates the cordial diplomatic relations between the Government of Zimbabwe and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian Consulate in Harare, in conjunction with the Vice Chancellor’s Office of the, Harare Institute of Technology, recently facilitated some visits to the Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation (CITC), Tehran, and Islamic Republic of Iran. The recent visit comprised a delegation of three; Dr.T. Padenga (A / Dean - School of Information Sciences & Technology); and Mr. P. Muredzi (Dean - School of Industrial Sciences & Technology), and Professor M. Gundidza (Pharmaceutical Department).

The delegation visited the CITC offices, and viewed the Hi - Tech products exhibition of Iran mounted by CITC before proceeding to visit Tehran University Science & Technology Park. They also visited the Nokhbegan Institute of Technology (VC Co), the Behin Co and the Pardis Technology Park, and later had a final meeting with CITC together with the President of the CITC. The team then completed the visit by visiting Esfahan.

The visit enabled meetings with senior administrators of the various establishments involved in technology development and

enabled the delegation to have first hand information on the status of the establishments, their development profile and current standing. The delegation was able to engage the administrators regarding possible areas of cooperation, modes of engagement and modalities. As an overall outcome the delegation indicated its areas of interest and proposed activities in cooperation agreements.

The delegation stressed its desire to have the TCO establish an office at the Harare Institute of Technology though initial engagement would be through a letter of intent followed by an MOU and technology transfer in the identified areas of Biotechnology and Information Sciences. The delegation expressed interest in technology transfer of bioreactors and biometric application technologies. The two were identified as areas of excellence in technology development work by the Tehran University Science & Technology Park and the Behin Co respectively.

ADVANCING CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH FOR WORLD CLASS PROFESSIONALS



Part of the participants attending the Research Writing Seminar at HIT and the Meikles Hotel

The Harare Institute of Technology's School of Business and Management Sciences in collaboration with the British Council and the African Centre For Real and Land Economics (ACRELE) hosted a Research Writing Seminar under the theme - Advancing Cutting Edge Research For World Class Professionals.

The two-day Seminar, which was held on Campus and at the Meikles Hotel, was attended by local researchers from tertiary institutions, government and non-governmental organisations. The British Council sponsored the Management Express Seminar held at the Meikles Hotel

In his keynote address on the opening of the seminar, the Dean of the HIT School of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Dr. Perkins Muredzi said that his wish is for the seminar is that academic staff in the School of Business and Management Sciences as well as other invited stakeholders will understand vividly the process of writing a Doctoral research thesis and articles for publication.

"It can be appreciated that the attainment of Doctoral degrees has become a priority at the institutional level and higher education level in general for all academic staff and the time for action has arrived. At the same time, the publication of research articles is critical to the institution and nation in general because it is from research that nation-building ideas are generated, then incubated

and developed into real products which will help the country to rapidly industrialize and eradicate poverty at the end of the day", he said

Dr Muredzi expressed his appreciation to the sponsors for their generous support of this seminar. "The first is the British Council Zimbabwe Office. The British Council is the UK's international organisation for education and cultural relations. They connect people in Zimbabwe with people in the UK and beyond. I would like to express my sincere respect and appreciation for the activities of the Council", he said.

"As HIT we are mandated to commercialise technology through professionalism rooted in integrity. Having said that, words cannot sufficiently emphasize the importance of this Research Seminar for it is from research and development that we can achieve this audacious vision", said Dr. Muredzi.

The objectives of the Research Writing Seminar are to impact best practices in developing a Doctoral Research Thesis, Doctoral Thesis Proposal writing, Chapter Development within The Research, Research in a Dynamic World where Technology is Occupying the Center Stage, New Techniques In Data Mining and Analysis, Overcoming Possible Challenges and Pitfalls in Research, and Research and Publications.

The fulfillment of the objectives of this seminar should trigger the HIT staff and other stakeholders to embark on their research proposals in the near future.

Professor Mazuru Gundidza, Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology here at the Harare Institute of Technology was the keynote facilitator and he gave a comprehensive presentation on the research process, doctoral proposal writing, overcoming challenges and pitfalls in research as well as proposal writing to seek funding at the Business express Seminar at the Meikles Hotel.

Dr. P. Muredzi, the Dean of the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology and Chairman of the HIT Research Board was also part of the facilitators and his presentations were on Publication of research articles and Data mining trends and research frontiers.



Dr. P. Muredzi, the Dean of the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology and Chairman of the HIT Research Board giving a presentation on publication of research articles.



The Research Writing Seminar provided a productive discussion among all of the participants including both the facilitators and the audience.



Professor Mazuru Gundidza, Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology was the keynote facilitator of the seminar.