

VC IN HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION TASKFORCE



Eng. Q.C. Kanhukamwe

Harare Institute of Technology Vice Chancellor, Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe has been appointed to a Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Taskforce to drive industrialisation and modernisation of the society through the Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative.

The taskforce is composed of six members that include Professor Levi Nyagura, Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe who is the Chairperson, Great Zimbabwe

University Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, Africa University Vice Chancellor, Professor Munashe Furusa, Professor Eddy Mwenje of Bindura University of Science Education, Lupane State University Vice Chancellor Professor Pardon Kuipa and Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe, Vice Chancellor of Harare Institute of Technology.

Commenting on his appointment to the taskforce, the Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe said he will give his best shot towards the work of the taskforce.

The taskforce was appointed following a tour of international universities by the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, together with Vice Chancellors and other representatives of the country's tertiary institutions. The main purpose of the mission was to observe, to learn of the experiences that some of the leading universities in these countries have acquired over a period with partner emphasis on STEM.

They visited countries such as Cuba, India, Brazil and Malaysia.



Vice Chancellors and Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development during the tour of international universities at SRM University in India.

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INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

HIT TO PLAY LEAD ROLE IN NEW INDUSTRIALISATION AND MODERNISATION AGENDA



HIT Vice Chancellor, Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe addressing participants and stakeholders at the Third Edition of the Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament at Chapman Golf Club.

Addressing the Institute's stakeholders and participants at the Third Edition of the Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament at Chapman Golf Club on 19 May, the HIT Vice Chancellor, Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe took the opportunity to highlight the new paradigm shift in the higher education terrain.

“As you aware, a team of 10 university Vice Chancellors and the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Professor Honourable Jonathan Moyo were on a study tour around the world to benchmark and learn from the experiences of other institutions, and how they are juxtaposing themselves in terms of national and economic development,” said Eng. Kanhukamwe.

The visit followed the new policy set by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development for universities to take a lead role in the industrialisation and modernisation agenda for Zimbabwe.

The Vice Chancellor, said through vision and

foresight, HIT had invested in the training and re-training of key academics who would lead in the research and teaching efforts towards the realisation of this agenda. “During the world tour, we visited some universities where we have placed our staff development fellows for retraining in India. Most members of our delegation were surprised by the calibre of our staff members studying there. These fellows are performing well; better than the nationals there as they are attaining distinctions in their areas of studies. They are performing at a level that is shocking even the establishments there,” he said.

Eng. Kanhukamwe also highlighted some unique and key aspects of the HIT curricula. “We decided that from the first year right up to the fourth and final year, our students must go through a project management, design and innovation approach which introduced them to research and designing at an early stage. Each and every one of our student who graduates must go through this process and at the end of the day must be able to defend a commercialisable project or a project that proffers a technological solution to the

national needs. And that's how we designed our curriculum to give them the stamina to be able to venture into high-tech enterprises and creating them as well,” he said.

The Vice Chancellor also mentioned that young as HIT is as a university, it is already leading in terms of intellectual property registration among all our local universities; including some of the oldest universities. “We are number one on the production and registration of patents, utility models, industrial designs and copyrights,” he said.

Eng. Kanhukamwe urged everyone to contribute to the new agenda. “There is absolutely nothing that will stop us as Zimbabweans from attaining a world class and developed state. I believe that it is up to us and together we can certainly achieve those efforts. I am sure with this broader and bigger agenda that we have on higher education, we should be able to attain and realise this agenda much faster,” he said.

Eng. Kanhukamwe also called upon all stakeholders to visit institutions of higher education and partner with them. “We are ready to partner. Already Microsoft sent one of its Vice Presidents to come and witness the fertile ground for innovations that is already happening at HIT. When we have such big organisations like Microsoft, Huawei, Google and Samsung doing that, it means that they are seeing something. HIT has the biggest school of Information Sciences and Technology in Sub Saharan Africa in terms of its programmes and diversity. Google and Facebook are also fishing in our midst. Last year, Google sent a ticket and took one of our students, Kudzai Chasinda to San Francisco for their annual Google ISO Summit. His innovation, The Chase Music Player is available on their Google Play Store platform. The same student was also recently shortlisted on the Facebook Messenger Bot Challenge finalists. Thanks to the staff that have gone for the re-training as their results are beginning to show for themselves,” he said.



HIT STAFF DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS IN INDIA COMMEND GOVT'S HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE

Harare Institute of Technology staff development fellows studying in India have commended the Government initiative for universities to incubate industry saying it is key in the transformation of the country's medical tourism initiative and rapid industrialisation.

The 10 HIT staff development fellows studying for their MTech degrees at the SRM University said they were looking forward to the revolution in the country's tertiary education their exposure at the institution had shown gaps in the country's tertiary curriculum.

Sharing their experience at SRM University with Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Minister Professor Jonathan Moyo and Vice Chancellors from the country's 10 universities in April, the students said there was a need to synchronise industry and university curricula.

Miss Hamunyare Ndweba who is pursuing a Masters degree in Pharmaceutical Analysis said India has really made it when it comes to educational facilities; they are very resourceful and practical. Back at home we

wait to go for industrial attachment to get the experience but here institutions have centres where students spend their third or fourth year say, in a hospital getting the best expertise," said Miss Ndweba.

She said industrial experience was crucial in influencing research and innovation. Miss Ndweba commended Prof Moyo for taking an initiative to revolutionise tertiary education in line with the global shift to industry-oriented learning.

Mr Tatenda Musenda who is pursuing a Masters in Pharmacognosy said he had learnt that hands-on experience was very important to cultivate research and innovation.

"Students here have a connection with industry for example drug manufacturing starts at tertiary level, students work on solving problems such that by the time they are done with tertiary education they would have already been integrated into industry," said Mr Musenda.

He said there was a need for co-relation of courses back home so that they feed into each other to get better experience.

Prof Moyo challenged the students to work hard and be part of history makers through research and innovation that will contribute to the country's economy.

The 10 HIT staff development fellows and are part of the institution's robust capacity staff development, student exchange programmes and research collaborations.

The students are pursuing Master of Technology Degrees in Pharmaceutical Technology, Electronic Engineering, Bio Medical Engineering, Pharmacy Practice, Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy, and Computer Intergrated Manufacturing.

They are on a two-year programme sponsored by HIT and are expected to pursue doctorates thereafter.

HIT Vice Chancellor, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe, said the institution's thrust was to lay the right foundation that will become the future ground for innovation.

Adapted from the Chronicle

HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PARTNERS HIT IN THE ZIMBABWE SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMME



Huawei Technologies has offered three internship placements to HIT students in the School of Information Science and Technology at its headquarters in Beijing, China under the Zimbabwe Seeds for the Future 2017 programme.

The students are expected to be in Beijing from 9 to 25 June.

Managing Director of Huawei Technologies Zimbabwe, Mr Albert Yang said this is the third year of the programmes' implementation in Zimbabwe. He commended HIT students who have participated in past programmes for their knowledge and aptitude. "For the past two

years, some students from HIT who have joined this programme have demonstrated great capabilities. So this year, Huawei would like to offer 3 places to HIT to set up our partnership for the development of ICTs through this programme," he said.

To date, two HIT graduates, - Walter Mutembwa and Justin Manyerere from the Computer Science Department have participated in the Huawei Technologies "Zimbabwe Seeds for the Future Programme."

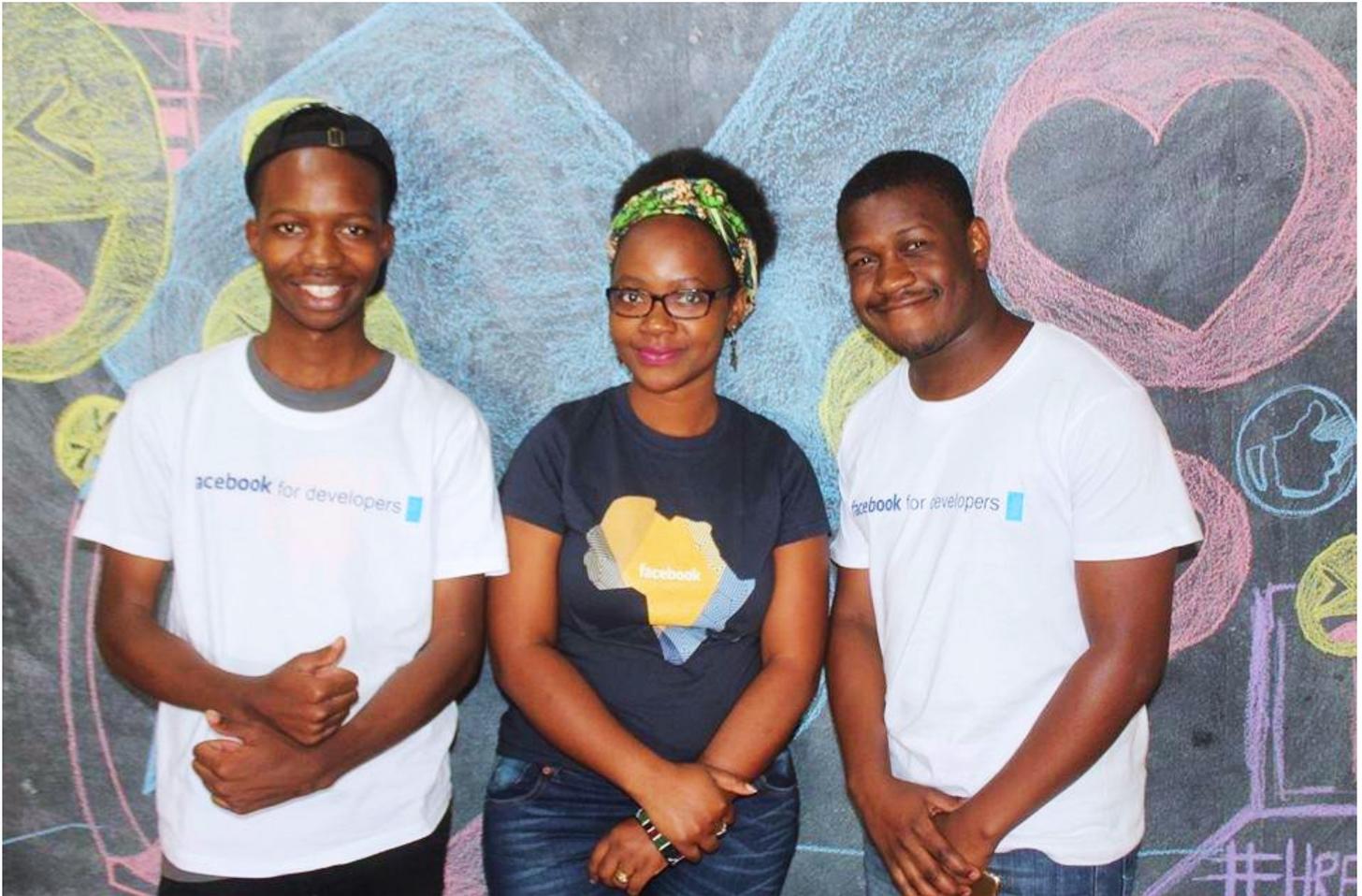
Speaking on Zimbabwe's participation in the Huawei's Seeds for the Future Programme, Mr Yang said His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde Robert Mugabe initiated the programme in Beijing during a state visit in August 2014. "And in 2015 and 2016 respectively, 10 ICT students from different universities across Zimbabwe have been selected by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development to join this programme, travelling to China, getting the experience of the ICT advanced technologies in Huawei's science laboratories at our Shenzhen

Headquarters as well the cultural exchange experience," he said.

"Seeds for the Future" is a Huawei global flagship programme seeking to develop local Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) talent, enhance knowledge transfers and improve people's understanding of and interest in the ICT industry. The Programme offers first-hand learning opportunities through interactions with Huawei experts and visits to Huawei laboratories. Programme participants will gain hands-on practice, witness live demonstrations of the latest ICT technologies, and attend workshops where they can meet Huawei senior executive and experts. They will also have work placements in Huawei's different business departments to gain exposure to the company's global business operations and cross-cultural management practices.

To date, Huawei's Seeds for the Future Programme has been implemented in more than 60 countries across five continents; benefiting over 15 000 students from more than 150 universities.

FACEBOOK SHORTLISTS KUDZAI CHASINDA ON MESSENGER BOTS CHALLENGE FINALISTS



Kudzai A Chasinda (left) and two other local Facebook Messenger Bots Challenge participants.

Kudzai Chasinda, a 3rd year Software Engineering student has been shortlisted on the Facebook Messenger Bots Challenge Finalists.

The 60 finalists were selected from over 1000 entries from across 64 countries in Sub Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Egypt took the roost with the most number of finalists.

Teams of up to three people were invited to participate in the Challenge. Zimbabwe had two individual teams that came up as finalists namely: Kudzai Chasinda from HIT and Kuzivakwashe Muvezwa from Impact Hub.

Chasinda's Messenger Bot, PopTime Bot- a Movie Companion and Kuzivakwashe Muvezwa's Sphinx- The Game, made it to the final 60 Bot Makers from Middle East and Africa in the Bots for Messenger Challenge. PopTime Bot – Movie Companion – and Sphinx- The Game are a movie recommendation application and a game respectively.

The Bots for Messenger Challenge is a contest to recognize and reward developers who create the most innovative new Bots on

Messenger, and was held under three categories: Gaming and Entertainment, Productivity and Utility well as Social Good. It was launched in February 2017.

The 60 finalist teams each won a Gear VR and mobile phone, one hour of Facebook mentorship, and tools and services from FbStart(<https://Developers.Facebook.com/fbstart>)- a Facebook programme designed to help early stage mobile start-ups build and grow their bots. All student teams who made it to the finals won an additional \$2,000.

Commenting on his latest achievement, Kudzai Chasinda said he is driven by his ambition and passion. "I love what I do, and I hope to see myself making a difference in society someday. I also hope to see myself becoming a world-class software engineer in the future competing with those from first world countries," he said.

Kudzai is currently working on a blog series focused on Bots and Android and is looking forward to sharpening his skills and evangelizing the latest technology trends on and off campus.

"HIT has one of the best cultures in

Zimbabwean Universities, which is the spirit of entrepreneurship. The culture of having to come up with a project idea, developing it and defending it in front of a panel is also very important in trying to promote something. This pushed me to get into the final 60 and I am looking forward to winning the challenge," said Chasinda.

Chasinda is familiar with the global computing arena and is a part of the Google developer ecosystem. As recognition of his involvement in one of Google's various communities, he was invited to attend the Google I/O 2016 Conference hosted at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in San Francisco, United States.

Kudzai developed a music platform called Chase Music Player. The music application is downloadable on Google Play for free, and is designed to offer free music to android devices running on Android 4.0 or higher. The application is user friendly and can be used by all age groups and is uniquely crafted to enhance playlists.

ZIMPAPERS TEAM CLINCHES FIRST POSITION IN ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY



Mr Kaviya, Mr Kamwendo, and Mr Madyambudzi of the Zimbabwe Newspapers Group team, the overall winners of the Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament 2017 Edition.

The Zimbabwe Newspapers Group team comprising Mr D. Kamwendo, Mr I Madyambudzi, Mr Kaviya and Mr M Haatendi emerged the overall winners of the annual Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament held on 19 May at the Chapman Golf Club in Harare.

The Zimpapers team emerged winners with 120 points, while the AMG Global Chartered Accountants team came second. The overall winners were awarded a trophy, 4 medals and 4 Powertel Internet modems; while the runners up were awarded a trophy, 4 medals and 4 cases of mineral water donated by Schweppes.

Mr M. Haatendi of the Zimbabwe Newspapers Group had the longest drive to the eighteenth hole, while Mr H.Z Maesera of CBZ had the nearest shot to the pinhole at the third hole. Mr Chibaya of Powertel walked away the most golfer award.

Over 50 participants drawn from the Institute's



stakeholders, senior management and staff took part in the Four Ball-Better Ball Alliance tournament that was held to raise funds for the Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund. Income generated through the Tournament is channeled towards financing intelligent but financially challenged students; Capstone Design Projects with the potential for commercialisation, as well as procuring equipment for workshops and laboratories.



Douglas Gweera, a part three electronic engineering student and beneficiary of the Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund

Addressing participants at the prize giving ceremony, Douglas Gweera, a Part Three Electronic Engineering student who is a beneficiary, said the Fund has enabled him to realise and fulfill his childhood dream of becoming an electronic engineer. "Being born in a less privileged family robbed me of my confidence. However, with the intervention of the HIT Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund, I am assured of fulfilling my hopes and childhood dreams as well as helping my community", he said.

Gweera attained 20 points at 'A' level and had

lost hope of ever attaining a University education. He expressed his appreciation to the University and its stakeholders for coming up with a noble initiative to assist less privileged but academically gifted students.

Speaking during the prize giving ceremony, HIT Vice Chancellor, Eng. Q.C. Kanhukamwe extended his appreciation to all the stakeholders for their invaluable support over the years and for making it possible to host this event every year since its establishment in 2015. "Your presence here tonight is an affirmation of the faith that you have in the HIT brand as well as an endorsement of the path that we are taking", he said.

"This year, we set a fundraising target of \$25 000 which will be channeled towards funding fees for our exceptional and disadvantaged students. I believe that the testimonial we have heard from Douglas, who stands out and represents numerous such other students in similar circumstances will motivate us to introspect more deeply on the cause for this fund. We want to thank you for your contributions, they will indeed go long way in making sure that we can change this country's fortunes through a technological revolution", said Vice Chancellor Kanhukamwe.

Engineer Kanhukamwe informed stakeholders of the current developments in the higher education sector in Zimbabwe; adding that HIT was strategically positioned to take a lead role in the modernisation and industrialisation agenda for Zimbabwe.

The HIT Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament is held as a fundraising project and platform to interact and network with stakeholders.

Last year, more than \$10,000 was raised at the second edition, - with a participation of over twenty companies and organisations.

The inaugural Vice Chancellor's Innovation and Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was held in Harare on 29 May 2015.

