



**DECEMBER 2011**

## WIPO OFFICIAL VISITS HIT

### Promoting Innovation in Africa

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has pledged to facilitate the establishment of a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) at the Harare Institute of Technology next year in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe as a way to promote accessibility of patent information, offering technical and business support to promote innovation in the country, Dr Elangi Batoy Ituku, the project coordinator: innovation and support section of the Geneva based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has revealed.

Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) put developing countries and the least developed countries on a more equal footing with the traditional industrialised property owners in Europe, USA, Japan, Korea, Brazil and India.

"The TISC will help Zimbabwe foster its national capacity to produce inventions or innovations and ultimately to invent in all fields of technology in order to directly respond to its local social, economic and technological needs. Intellectual Property is a tool to help us to develop our countries and we should not be afraid of it and the use of patent information can help Africa to develop and industrialise", said Dr Ituku.

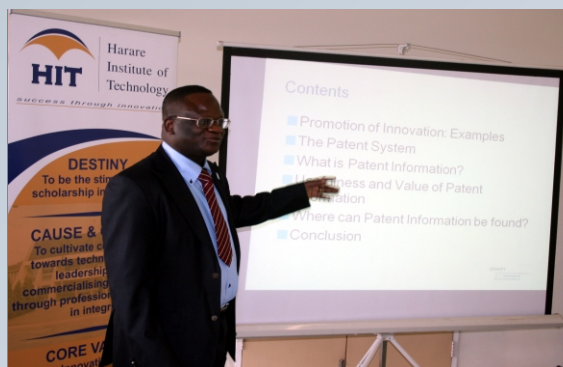
Dr Ituku said this while addressing HIT students, where he also urged young African technologists to access and read patents information as well as other inventions in order to come up with innovations that address their unique needs. He challenged HIT students to build on registered patents because there is information on patents that they can use to make their own innovations.

He revealed that there is almost over 70 million registered and published patents which are not protected in Africa and other developing countries that is available for anyone to use or develop them further to come up with other innovations.

"China and India have used and continue to use unprotected or unregistered patents information in their own countries to come up with their own commercial innovations", said Dr Ituku.

Unprotected patents are published patents but not legally registered in some countries. Dr Ituku added that everyone can learn from published and unprotected patent information anywhere in the world to promote innovation in their respective countries. "Today, you cannot make a breakthrough. Do some research and go through some registered patents, work on them and become innovative", said Dr Ituku.

He also pointed out that most patent holders in the industrialised and developed world do not protect their



**Dr Elangi Batoy Ituku, making his presentation to HIT students**

patents in least developed countries because there is no risk due to low levels of technological advancement, hence it is also expensive to protect their patents information if there is no risk. "Although scientific publications in Africa are very few, you should read widely, think progressively, work on new ideas and be able to register and commercialise your own innovations. Students must publish their own ideas and get assistance to publish their own journals. Use the patent information to promote innovation and industrial development in your country", said the WIPO representative.

The Dean of the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Mr Perkins Muredzi welcomed the idea of establishing a Technology and Innovation Support Centre at HIT as a noble idea that shall spearhead the nation in developing its own innovations.

Intellectual Property refers to creations of the mind: inventions; literary and artistic works, symbols, names and images used in commerce. They are divided into two categories, which are Industrial property (patents for inventions, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications) and Copyright (literary works, artistic works, films, music. Like any other property rights, Intellectual Property Rights allow creators or owners of patents to benefit from their own investment in creation.

Intellectual Property Rights must be promoted and protected because the progress and well being of humanity rest on its capacity to create and invent new works in the area of technology and culture. The legal protection of new creations encourages commitment of additional resources for further innovation.

The promotion and protection of intellectual property spurs economic growth, creates new jobs and industries, and enhances the quality and enjoyment of life.

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**INNOVATION**

**LEADERSHIP**

**COMMITMENT**

**INTEGRITY**

**PROFESSIONALISM**



# HIT TO BENEFIT FROM KOREAN SOLAR PROJECT

The Harare Institute of Technology is set to benefit from the Korean Government's Solar Water Heating System Installation at the Institute's student hostels.

Speaking during a tour and assessment of the campus hostels, Mr Hak Jo Kim, a counsellor from the Korean Embassy in Harare said a technical team from Korea is expected in the country in December to start working on this project which is set to provide warm water for the resident students and the various workshops at the HIT in the face of power shortages being experienced countrywide.

Mr G. Wakatama, a Director in the Ministry of Energy and Power Development said that everything is on course regarding arrangements of transportation and storage of the equipment and materials to be brought into the country from Korea.

"This project will ensure that the University will have enough heating power in the hostels and provide a constant supply of hot water", said Mr Wakatama.

The Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, Mr Muredzi, said he was looking forward to some conclusion to this project since the feasibility study has already been concluded.

"The University is ready to ensure the project is a success", said Mr Muredzi. He also offered his gratitude to the Korean Government and Embassy which is assisting the University through student exchange programmes, scholarships and infrastructural development at the University.



Mr Hak Jo Kim, (centre) a counsellor from the Korean Embassy touring the HIT campus

## BE THE STIMULANTS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH: KASUKUWERE URGES HIT STUDENTS



The Minister of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment Hon Saviour Kasukuwere has said youths studying at Harare Institute of Technology, who are exposed to technology need to embrace with full understanding issues surrounding indigenization and empowerment. He said this during a public lecture at HIT.

The minister said that he was greatly privileged to be given the opportunity to address smart, disciplined and patriotic young Zimbabweans studying at HIT. He noted that it is the young who freed Zimbabwe. "Most of the politicians who participated in the liberation struggle though advanced in age now, were young when they took the burden of the revolution upon their shoulders. Indigenization without industrialization has little meaning. Industrialization without technological advancement is inadequate," he said.

The opportunity to study at HIT exposed one to technology, he said. Therefore students need to embrace with full understanding the issues surrounding the indigenisation programmes.

"With empowerment comes responsibility for determining the future and sweating hard for the establishment of the future we want for our children. We must take on development programs not because they are easy but because they are difficult. If we shy away from the difficult tasks whom do we think is going to come and do them for us? South Korea, Japan and China are what they are today because they chose to walk the difficult path as a people. As an individual I might run fast but as a people we can go far," the minister said.

He advocated for young Zimbabweans from HIT to be sent to South Korea to learn of that country's development cycle. "This is important especially considering that South Korea did not have a lot of natural resources as compared to Zimbabwe. This means Zimbabwe is starting at a better position. We can appreciate what we have when we realize how much less others had when they started on their development programs," He said

However, HIT is already sending students to Korea on an exchange programme. The minister said he was confident of the

leadership of Engineer Kanhukamwe (who is one of the solid resolute leaders in the JCI) and that HIT will act as the stimulant in the redesigning of our economy. "Do not worry about those doing whatever elsewhere HIT students just concentrate on what you know best. It part of natural justice that when you want to make it you have to displace the other. Do not apologise for your ownership of Zimbabwe. When you discover or invent have the invention named in your language. Believe in yourselves for your success," he said.

"When the whites were fighting for Rhodesia they thought that they were fighting for economic power. When they realized after independence that we were content with political power leaving all the economic power to them they regretted ever having fought for Rhodesia because political power was not as big an issue as economic power to them. There is no going back in the redistribution of economic wealth."

The public lecture was organized by the student leadership to demystify indigenization and empowerment.





# HIT COURTS INDUSTRY

The Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe has reiterated the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to national development and encouraged Industry - University linkages at a Computer Society of Zimbabwe symposium dubbed "Towards a Global Information Society".

Engineer Kanhukamwe also added that The Harare Institute of Technology is committed to supporting the exchange of ideas in technology development and he hopes to see more collaborations between the HIT's School of Information Sciences Technology and members of the Computer Society of Zimbabwe. The Institute is ready to embrace and welcome ideas that stretch the institutions imagination and action plans that lead into new directions which embrace innovation.

He also noted that countries that are on the path of information shaping and influencing the technology dynamics have become leaders in the information economy and single-handedly, those countries directly involved in technology transformations using information are now determining the heartbeat of the information society, citing examples such as Facebook, Youtube, Googlewave and some of our own mobile service providers like Econet Wireless.

In his presentation "The Importance of Information Technology and Encouraging Industry - University linkages". Eng Kanhukamwe also touched on a number of other issues related to Information Science and Technology like Information Technology and Management, Taxonomy, Metadata Frameworks, Information systems and organisation, Semantics, the web and knowledge management.

"There is need for appropriate paradigms that help to master and sustain knowledge based wealth creation which depends upon understating information and the capacity to use the insight gained from it in a given context to arrive at the right judgement", said the Vice- Chancellor.



## CHAPLAINCY HOLDS CHRISTMAS THANKS GIVING SERVICE

The annual Ecumenical Christmas Thanks Giving service was held on Friday 19th November 2011 at the Campus and was attended by students and staff members.

Pastor Phineas Dube from the Scripture Union of Zimbabwe preached at this service, encouraging everyone to seek God first and make the right choices. "The sickness of the world today is killing people and most of the people dying are Africans. If you don't move away from darkness to light you are not going anywhere", said Pastor Dube.

He also challenged the young generation to pray to God, live as God's children and always remember the Great Commandment - LOVE THE LORD GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND ALL YOUR MIND.

Pastor Dube reminded everyone to realise that no matter how educated you are, you must always pray and you have to know that you are a child of God. "Life is God's story and we should all live together as children of God", he said.



The HIT Choir and Pastor Dube. Picture by Jeff Makumbe



## STUDENTS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The student services division held an inaugural leadership workshop for all the current student leaders to help them appreciate the HIT mandate and core values. This was meant to empower all incoming student leaders to participate effectively in Institute governance.

The Institute Registrar, Mrs. Samupindi officially opened the workshop and said it provided for a forum where leadership gets to be defined within the HIT context for the betterment of the institution. "A good leader leads by example and must be able to demonstrate commitment to tasks, integrity, and fairness and be principled. The ability to communicate effectively is the hallmark of a good leader. A true leader is capable of empathising with others, be it those who you are leading or to those whom you report to. Being in student leadership means that you have an awesome responsibility to maintain the **HIT** brand unsoiled. Pressure will be brought to bear on you to succumb to activities

that may run contrary to the University **Vision, Destiny and Calling**," the Registrar said

She added that It is up to you to chart the way the entire student body follows and this can only be done by responsible committed and visionary leaders. You are the future of this country but that future has its genesis in the here and now.

Mrs. Samupindi also advised the female leaders to know that they do not lead basing on exposure for admiration but instead they should earn respect through decent dressing which does not market their bodies but leave everything to their intellectual and leadership power.

The workshop, which was facilitated by renowned motivational speaker and writer Pascal Nyasha and Hillary Chindodo of Leadership Clinic, had the following objectives:

- To raise students' awareness of leadership development and the role

it plays in moulding and influencing student culture and value system at HIT.

- To help participants understand and maximize on their unique and individual skills.

It also covered the following topics:

- Effective communication
- Leadership development
- Decision Making
- Conflict resolution
- Team Building



Harare  
Institute of  
Technology

success through innovation

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## PETERHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL TOURS THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

A group of lower sixth pupils from Peterhouse High School in Marondera recently toured the Harare Institute of Technology's Technology Centre to get a broader perspective about the innovation and technopreneurship university.

The Acting Director of the HIT Technology Center, Mr Chirinda advised the young aspiring technologists that the HIT Technology Centre is always ready to assist them and their school on any expertise that they may require in their studies.

"Young people like you are unique because their minds are still fresh and lots of innovative ideas can come from them. You are the best people to bring forth new ideas and solutions that address our needs and problems", said Mr Chirinda, the Acting Director of the Technology Centre.

The pupils visited all the HIT workshops and laboratories with the assistance of Mr Wagoneka, a technical Instructor.





## INSTI-FOODS UNVEILS AMBITIOUS BUSINESS PLAN

Insti-foods, a subsidiary of Insti-Tech Holdings group of companies at the Harare Institute of Technology is geared to be the leading food processing company producing innovative food products of high quality at competitive prices to meet the needs and demands of a technologically advancing Zimbabwean market. Insti-Tech Holdings is a company established to act as a vehicle for the commercializing research outputs at HIT.

In order to achieve this, Instifoods is seeking to harness innovative ideas from staff and students in the Food Processing and Technology department and converting them into tangible, profitable quality food products for commercialization.

Insti-foods will operate within the legal structures and framework stipulated by Government and local authorities to manufacture high quality products that are safe and nutritious.

It shall also seek to be a model food processing company that will be exemplary in using high-tech equipment, running a hygienically designed food processing premise and boasting of a cutting edge Research and Development (R&D) Unit amid a highly compromised Food processing environment prevailing in the country.

The long term business objectives of Insti-foods are summarized are to expand the business aggressively by launching two new products every year, and to become the leading innovative food company with a 5 % market share or greater for all its products.

Insti-foods seeks to pursue a number of key strategies and these are; to accelerate product launches by strengthening its Research and Development team, appointing advisors for intellectual property and finance, raise additional venture capital, strengthen human resources function, seek new market segments, and to obtain accreditation for Quality and Safety of all its products.

The other important strategies to be followed by Instifoods are to expand and build new premises, encourage rigorous participation in trade shows and missions, as well as pursuing strategic alliances with complementary players

The subsidiary company also seeks to achieve sales of over \$ 5 million, report annualized profit in excess of \$500 000.00, secure the water market segment by holding 5% market share, secure the cordials market segment by holding 5% market share as well as securing the soy milk and its products market segment by holding 80% market share.

Insti-foods is governed by a number of corporate values which includes the harnessing of innovative ideas from staff and students in the FPT department and converting them into tangible, profitable quality food products for commercialization. It shall also operate within the legal structures and framework stipulated by Government and local authorities to manufacture high quality products that are safe and nutritious.

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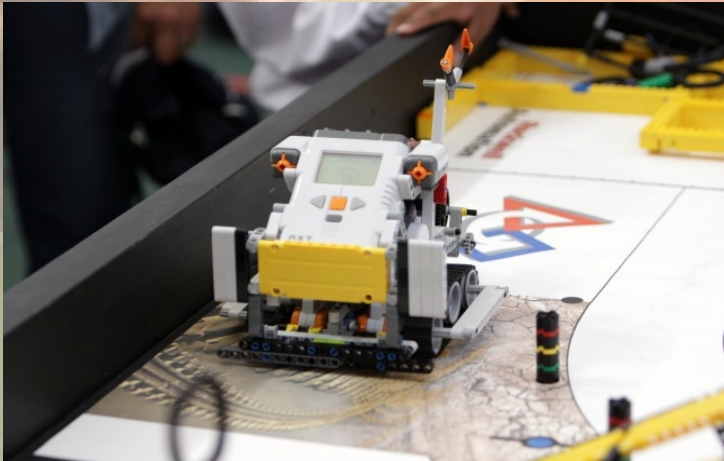
Insti-foods is an existing subsidiary company under the Insti-holdings group of companies. The holding company (registered) is the commercial arm of the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) with a number of subsidiaries such as Insti-tools, Insti-soft, Insti-herbs and Insti-tronics. Each of these subsidiaries is administered by related academic schools or departments within H.I.T. hence Insti-foods is administered by the Department of Food Processing Technology (FPT) in the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology

### Insti-Foods Products





# FLL LEGO 2011 CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS



The First LEGO 2011 Tournament was held on Friday 18th November with the support of the Harare Institute of Technology.

Five Primary School teams battled it out at the Prince Edward High School in the robotics challenge with team Robot X from Tynwald Primary School emerging the winner and Northwood School team getting the runners-up prize.

Mr Kenyon Stamps, a lecturer at the HIT Electronics Department who coordinated the event said that he was impressed with the high level of competition amongst the young aspiring technologists promising more support from HIT for this inspirational science and technology competition which was held for the second time in Zimbabwe. Dr. Timothy Stamps, the former Minister of Health and Child Welfare also graced this event.

The Harare Institute of Technology's Electronic Engineering Department has supported the tournament by opening up its digital systems laboratory for registered teams to come and practice. The Institute's technical staff has always been available to offer any assistance required.

This year's challenge tournament's theme was *Biomedical Engineering*, concentrating on body moves. Biomedical Engineering deals with technology used to keep people healthy and alive.

Each participating team is given a challenge to build and design a fully automated robot. They are given tasks to perform using the automated robots and are not allowed to touch the robots outside the base, which is the starting point. This tournament stimulates the children to think and solve real-world problems, exposing them to science and technology, creating a platform for learning and teamwork as well as providing a fun competition environment.

Each team acquires a LEGO set which comprises the core components of the robot; the programmable controller, sensors and motors. The teams are given the "Challenge Set" for the year which contains a table map (challenge field), a set of LEGO pieces for the challenge and a CD of instructions for the challenge.

The teams then prepare a science research presentation and solve the different challenges on the table by building a robot and designing a software program which will navigate the robot to accomplish each challenge. The best teams win various titles and trophies for the year.

The FIRST LEGO League was started in Zimbabwe in 2009 with the help of FIRST LEGO League South Africa. In 2010, ten teams from nine primary schools took part in the FLL Tournament, with a number of other schools finding interest in the programme as a result.

FIRST is an international programme designed to expose children between the ages of nine and 16 years of age to science, innovation and technology. FIRST stands for: "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology" and has four programs to accommodate persons from early primary school to university level, namely, Junior FIRST LEGO League, FIRST LEGO League, FIRST Vex Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition. LEGO is a block based construction toy designed and manufactured by the LEGO Group. FIRST LEGO League (FLL) involves a science research project and a robot construction project.



**Team Robot X, the winner of the FLL LEGO 2011 Challenge Tournament.**

Picture by Jeff Makumbe