

### FRESHMEN URGED TO CONFORM TO NEW HIGHER EDUCATION DISPENSATION



Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe (right) addressing first year students.

In his annual address to first year students held on 8 September 2017, HIT Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe urged freshmen to conform to the new dispensation in higher education; which now requires students to use their education to come up with solutions to real-life challenges.

“You are joining HIT at an important juncture in our development; as we embrace the policy on the Transformation of Higher Education for Industrialization and Modernization. Universities across Zimbabwe have now been given a new mandate to implement this policy which will see universities playing a central role in the development of our nation through training and research in Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics. This new role instructs us to embrace STEM in its totality, as well as to respond to national challenges through the application of productive research which is solution-based. Whereas in the past, learning may have been isolated from real –world problems, this new policy thrust dictates that we come up with meaningful challenges to our problems as we further develop our nation.

Another critical factor in this new dispensation is the need to transform the mindset of all our stakeholders; and this includes you. Your arrival here is the beginning of that mindset change. You are not here to just earn a degree, but you are here to make a lasting footprint in the distinct area of study you have chosen. You will be empowered to be a visionary; to see beyond the obvious and envision a technologically advanced Zimbabwe. You will be equipped to start your own enterprises which will lead to our nations' development,” Eng. Kanhukamwe said.

The Vice Chancellor added that this new policy position places great importance on the determinant role that STEM plays in national development. “You are the agents of STEM and we have high expectations of you and the work that you will produce to transform Zimbabwe. Throughout your studies, you will be expected to come up with projects that speak to our challenges. Remember, Zimbabwe is counting on you and you have that responsibility to make a contribution towards our industrialisation and modernisation.

The Harare Institute of Technology enrolled over 400 first year students in various programmes across its four Schools for the 2017/2018 Academic Year.

The Vice Chancellor challenged the freshmen to forge ahead, and not to give up; adding that any pathway that changes the course of history for the better will always have obstacles. The new students, he said, needed the resolve to confront challenges and attain excellence.

The Vice Chancellor emphasised the uniqueness of the HIT brand and the students' role in upholding it. “You are being enrolled into a growing institution which has embossed a unique footprint into the Zimbabwean and global higher education arena. As you have learnt throughout your orientation; the mandate given to HIT is the Development, Incubation, Transfer and Commercialisation of Technology for Zimbabwe's rapid industrialisation. This is encapsulated in our destiny, cause and calling statement. As you are aware, HIT has become a brand to contend with in Zimbabwe and beyond.

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**INNOVATION**

**LEADERSHIP**

**INTEGRITY**

**COMMITMENT**

**PROFESSIONALISM**



## WOMEN IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING



Pro Vice Chancellor Dr M. Chanakira addressing participants at the Women Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme.

The Harare Institute of Technology, in partnership with Homelink, (a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe) successfully hosted the first edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Development Training programme. The programme was held from 25-29 September, at the Institute campus in Belvedere, under the theme: "Entrepreneurship Mindset for Sustainable Businesses".

The programme was facilitated by the Technopreneurship Development Centre of HIT.

Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Eng. Quinton Kanhukamwe hailed the partnership with Homelink Finance, which seeks to promote the status of women; while reinforcing their role in economic development. Managing Director of Homelink Finance, Mr Desmond Ali also underscored the importance of entrepreneurship; adding that women were uniquely positioned to establish their own enterprises and play a meaningful role in the country's development.

The Women Entrepreneurship Development Training (WEDT) is a programme designed to help women in building their capacity as future business leaders in Zimbabwe. The programme included over seventy women, from diverse backgrounds; and captured emerging and aspiring entrepreneurs, college and university graduates, bankers, corporates, academics, youth and women's cooperatives.

The programme is a week-long, short term, intensive entrepreneurship training programme that offers a wide range of courses including entrepreneurial mind set, business plan writing,

strategic planning, marketing, entrepreneurial finance, business communication and more. The programme is also designed to empower women to become leading entrepreneurs and contributing to the economic development of Zimbabwe. It also provides participants with the opportunity to network with others for potential multinational ventures in the future.

The main objective of WEDT is to inculcate an entrepreneurial mindset amongst women so that, instead of searching for employment, they create it themselves, by utilizing available resources and opportunities.

The participants were equipped with requisite skills which will facilitate a mind-set change; enabling them to become global entrepreneurs, capable of starting their own hi-tech enterprises. As part of the objectives, the WEDT event created business connections, knowledge-sharing and peer-learning, networking opportunities and dialogue for all delegates and attendees.

Participants were addressed by keynote speakers who greatly enriched the audience with their presentations. These included Mr Desmond Ali, the Managing Director of Homelink Finance, Dr Maxwell Chanakira, the Pro Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Ms Nonhlanhla Chiromo, the Chief Inspector for Banks from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and Mrs Salome Mutsinze, the Chief Executive Officer of Mother Touch Group of Schools.

The WEDT programme consisted of both practicals; with team building and project design sessions as well as an informative part delivered by

a dynamic team of experts from industry, highly qualified academics and practitioners from HIT. The seminar's main goal was the exchange of experiences, best practices and development of entrepreneurship-related projects. Group exercises and team development activities were used to foster group cohesion, negotiation and presentation strategies. Presentations, practical workshops and exercises provided background information, and assessment through group dynamics to implement the crosscutting focus on entrepreneurship. The programme was divided into full day lectures and practical groups and presentations.

The Harare Institute of Technology has in the past successfully hosted regional entrepreneurship training programmes. Over the past two years, the University has successfully hosted the Global Entrepreneurship Training programme which seeks to uplift and empower ordinary citizens through the inculcation of an entrepreneurial mind-set. These training programmes provide a critical mind-set change; an important pre-requisite if we are to empower ourselves to deliver on the ideals of development and self-determination; - and the attendant establishment of high-tech enterprises.





## HOKONYA ON US EXCHANGE VISIT



Sibongile Hokonya

Sibongile Hokonya, a third year Financial Engineering student is on an exchange programme placement at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, in the United States of America under the Global Undergraduate Exchange (UGRAD) programme for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Sibongile will be there until December 2017, when the fall semester concludes.

“The experience so far has been wonderful although the first two weeks were quite overwhelming. The education system is not very different from HIT, so I did not have a

hard time adapting. The system highly values the ability to think, analyse and synthesize information critically, giving utmost importance to academic integrity; the same way that the HIT academic system works. Lectures here last for an hour and a half or less meaning there are a lot of individual assignments and projects assigned to students”, she said.

She also mentions that volunteerism is an important aspect of her placement; as well as participation in campus clubs and unions. Sibongile has also had an opportunity to talk about Zimbabwe to students and faculty from across the globe who are part of the college.

Sibongile was selected with two other students from the National University of Science and Technology, and together they are representing Zimbabwe in the United States.

The Global Undergraduate Exchange (UGRAD) programme is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the US Department of State. The programme is aimed at enriching the education and experience of participants who exhibit the potential to contributing to the betterment of their countries. Undergraduate level students from over 55 countries worldwide are granted scholarships and placed at colleges and universities across the United States, where they participate in one semester of undergraduate non-degree study. Candidates apply on-line and are selected based on the leadership, flexibility, and motivation presented in the applications and interviews.

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We are not in the business of producing graduates, but tools for the realisation of the Institute mandate and national aspirations. You can recall that technological advancements have become so critical in the survival of nation-states; determining winners and losers, and therefore, at HIT, we pay special attention to the tools that we use- you the students by inculcating certain attributes that make you winners in the technological field. The refinement of these skills is part of the greater national strategy, aimed at achieving Zimbabwe's technological revolution,” the Vice Chancellorsaid.

Eng. Kanhukamwe also highlighted that the Harare Institute of Technology is very clear about its mandate and as His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chancellor of HIT Cde R. G Mugabe

continuously highlights and emphasizes;- we must continue to empower ourselves for posterity. “This is embodied in the national economic blue print, ZIMASSET, and will enable us to become masters of our own destiny.





## WORKSHOP ON COST DRIVERS IN CHEMICAL AND PROCESS INDUSTRY IN ZIMBABWE



Participants follow proceedings at the workshop.

The Chemical and Process Systems Engineering Department held a one-day workshop on effective strategies for reducing production costs in the chemical and process industry on 26 September 2017.

Participants discussed and identified new ways in which they can improve their operations by reducing excess costs and increasing profitability as well financial accounting. Representatives from Zimtrade, Kadoma Paper Mills (KPM), Zimbabwe Fertilizer Company (ZFC),

Zimbabwe Phosphate Company (Zimphos), African Distillers (AFDIS) and Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers (ZIE), attended the workshop.

Mr J. Govha, a lecturer in the Chemical and Process Systems Engineering Department delivered the presentation on costs of production in the chemical and process industry. Dr. R. Dafana, Managing Director of ZFC Limited also talked on the importance of collaboration between academia and industry, while Mr A.

Majuru, the Director of Zimtrade made a presentation on Client Service Delivery and the role of ZimTrade in facilitating export of chemical and process industry products.

Other presenters were Eng. Fortunate Farirai from the ZIE and SIRDC who also talked about energy utilities in the local chemical process industries while Dr. Joey Chifamba, an Industrial Chemist and Nanotechnologist led the discussion on the Chemical Process Industry's Innovation and the Emerging Technologies.

