

NATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK CEOS INDABA



An Indaba for the National Research and Education Network (NREN) Chief Executive Officers' Indaba was held on the 4th of May 2023 at Cresta Sango Lodge in Harare.

The Indaba is being attended by the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Hon Prof dr Amon Murwira, Chief Executive Officer for UbuntuNet, Professor Madara Ogot, Represented by the Technical Manager, Joseph Kimali, Board Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Research and Education Network (ZIMREN), Dr Engr Quinton Chamunorwa Kanhukamwe, Chief Executive Officers of the various National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), Director for ZIMREN, Mrs Miriam Chahuruva, delegates from different Government Ministries, as well as staff for UbuntuNet and ZIMREN.

In his welcome address at the NREN CEOs Indaba, the Board Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Research and Education Network (ZIMREN), Dr Engineer Quinton Kanhukamwe, who is also the Chairperson of the

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Zimbabwe Universities Vice-Chancellors Association and Harare Institute of Technology Vice Chancellor, outlined the organisation's objectives as the promotion of national research and education network for Zimbabwe on behalf of Public and Private Universities, Research Institutes, and other appropriate institutions. "ZIMREN was formed to promote and safeguard the interests of its members in furtherance of their objectives as well as to secure communication network services including but not limited to broadband interconnectivity between participating institutions, and other networks in Africa, and globally."

"It also undertakes capacity-building programmes aimed at promoting increased effectiveness in the utilization of information and communication technologies including secure access to new technologies, services, capabilities, and other value-added services as may be developed from time to time," Dr Engineer Kanhukamwe said.

High costs of bandwidth as sourced from commercial network providers, as well as low levels of network availability and reliability, were some of the driving factors that prompted the universities to come together and form ZIMREN. Before its formation, Zimbabwean Universities have a registered association called the Zimbabwe Vice-Chancellors Association (ZUVCA), which meets regularly to discuss common issues impacting universities. The ideas generated in this forum, as well as international and regional experiences, led the universities to register ZIMREN, as a company, set up through an association, in 2013, and limited by guarantee. At the setting up stage, eight universities signed on as members, and other universities have since subscribed as members.

According to Dr Engr Kanhukamwe, ZIMREN was effectively brought to life with the recruitment of a Director in October 2016. "ZUVCA resolved that each university contributes to the startup capital for ZIMREN. The universities are keen to see the establishment of dedicated links between them, as well as access to regional and global resources."

"Acting as a consortium, the universities want to see a reduction in the cost of bandwidth, whilst they also increase the bandwidth to meet the ever-increasing demand arising from more usage by students, faculty, and researchers, as well as the demands arising from the need to access global resources and to collaborate," said the ZIMREN Board Chairperson.

Currently, 15 Universities are connected to ZIMREN via TelOne through the agreement between these two parties and ZIMREN will be getting bandwidth from Unbuntnet in the second phase which should see prices coming down after the initial phase of moving from Telone. Ubuntunet has a point of presence in Harare with a capacity of 2500mbps at affordable prices compared to the local bandwidth prices.

"ZIMREN now needs to acquire Afrinic IP addresses to access UbuntuNet bandwidth access and it is required to make a counterpart payment of EUR20 000.00 to benefit from the AfricaConnect3 Project. In the long term, ZIMREN must secure dark fibre from operators, install its own transmission and routing equipment to connect all the member institutions, and secure international capacity through UbuntuNet Alliance and Commercial ISPs," Dr Engr. Kanhukamwe said

HIT HOSTS LADS DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND SENSITISATION WORKSHOP



The Harare Institute of Technology is hosting the Local Authorities Digital Systems (LADS) Digital Transformation workshop on Campus from the 8th to the 11th of May 2023 for local authorities from eight provinces.

The workshop is being held in two clusters from 8 - 9 May and from 10 – 11 May 2023. Local Authorities from Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Manicaland are attending the first cluster, while Midlands, Masvingo, Matabeleland South and North will attend the second cluster.

According to the LADS Lead Engineer Teererai Maphosa, the workshop will discuss the smart cities concept and digital transformation, change management and process reengineering, the importance of websites in councils, managing information and communication technologies (ICTs), LADS successes and failures, challenges of digitalization in Zimbabwe as well as ICTs and financial management.

Representatives from several local authorities are attending this workshop.

Addressing the delegates at the LADS Digital Transformation and Sensitisation Workshop, the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Public

Works, Honourable Marian Chombo, who is representing Minister July Moyo, commended the Local Authorities Digital Systems as an initiative that facilitates the ease of doing business and will enhance the public financial management that ensures the scarce resources have maximum impact and are deployed where they are needed most in local authorities, as we are creating smart cities and contributing towards the creation of a digital economy.

“We have noted that ICT penetration and usage has been very low in the public sector and local authorities in particular, hence LADS is the potential solution and intervention to that challenge. Therefore, it is no longer an option but a necessity – The Future is Digital. I can also safely say the present is digital!” she said.

Honourable Chombo added that her ministry has embraced and taken the development of LADS seriously and is working with HIT on several ICT interventions.

“Local authorities are already utilizing the Budgeting Module as well as other various modules. In the year 2023, 54 local authorities crafted and submitted their budgets using the LADS format. We envisage the take-up to reach 100% by the 2024 budgeting period. Of Importance is the General Ledger Module which has been rolled out in Bindura and Mazowe.”

“May I also highlight that LADS will soon become a Strategic Business Unit (SBU) in the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, with HIT as the consultant. Funding for further Lads development will be done through a Devolution Operational Grant, hence local authorities will no longer pay annual licences once those funds are directed to HIT. In short, the funding will be drawn from government coffers and HIT will



deploy personnel to support services for the rollout of modules that would have been approved to be operational,” Deputy Minister Chombo added.

She also urged the local councils to make sure that they deploy personnel that is trainable and capable of utilizing ICT systems, as it has been observed that most of the ERPs in councils are not being fully utilized because of human skills inadequacies. “Let me repeat my plea, that let's fully utilize all the current modules of LADS and those to come. This is only possible if councils take affirmative action to deploy the right people where such systems are utilized and prevent those who are sceptical about ICTs from sabotaging LADS.”

“Let me thank you all for tirelessly working for the development of local authorities and guiding operations to improve service delivery. It takes the effort of a council to achieve Vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind. As a Ministry, we will not allow any council to be left behind in this digital transformation drive as digitalization is one of the pillars of the National Development Strategy One (NDS1),” said the Deputy Minister.

In his welcome address, HIT Vice Chancellor Dr Engr. Quinton Kanhukamwe told the delegates that HIT is Zimbabwe's Premier Innovation and Technopreneurial University that provides a foundation for the strategies that allow for the budding of a new model of



technological education, speaking and bearing testimony of our profound strict adherence to our mandate of developing, incubating transferring and commercialising technology for our nation's rapid industrialisation.

“Since its inception, HIT has been operating on a terrain characterised by change and some uncertainty, features that have given us the freedom to shape the future of the University in a way that is both meaningful and appropriate using our disruptive innovation model.”

“The need to develop HIT as a leader in technology based on multidisciplinary research and learning, taking advantage of alliances with the growing technology companies and research institutions in the country and beyond is one of our guiding fundamentals.”

“We are also guided by the need to meet the lifelong learning demand of non-traditional methods and build new configurations of learning through technologies, thus making HIT a laboratory and workshop for delivering a truly global learning experience.

The Vice Chancellor added that HIT is developing into a diverse and complex institution that specialises in Science, Engineering, Technology, Allied Health Sciences, Technopreneurship, Business and Management Sciences, and Professional and Collaborative programmes including technical pedagogy.



"We are committed to positioning HIT as a world-class Institute, in the vanguard of availing new technologies responsive to national strategic areas and capable of developing and delivering programmes flexibly, effectively and efficiently, thus enhancing our status as a technological institution of the highest calibre offering programmes and undertaking research in niche areas, at levels comparable with the best available anywhere."

"In doing so we are guided by our strategic plan, "Designing the Future" - Vision 2025 document. In this roadmap, technology innovation is the touchstone of all our activities as we mould and produce a new generation of technology cadres that are hands-on, competent and proficiency driven, as well as have the



stamina to venture into and set up hi-tech business enterprises.

Dr Engr. Kanhukamwe promised to offer HIT potential students the opportunity to realise their destiny by offering an unparalleled educational experience. "To industry and commerce, we offer a smart partnership platform. To the international community, HIT promises a conducive environment of innovation and creativity where technology and engineering thrive with the ability to make a major global impact through the production of commercialised intellectual property."

"The University is contributing to the transformation of our economy through our signature of Innovation," the Vice Chancellor said.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Harare
Institute of
Technology

success through innovation



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

**Wishing all mothers, a Happy Mother's Day
for inspiring and nurturing a
generation of technovators.**



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EMERGING TRENDS IN 5G DEPLOYMENT

A Public Lecture was hosted at the Harare Institute of Technology in collaboration with United States Embassy in Harare to commemorate World Telecommunication Day on 17 May 2022, under the title “Building a Secure Network: Is 5G the Solution?” Omelas Chief Executive Officer Evanna Hu was the guest speaker for the public lecture which was held physically and virtually.

In her presentation, Evanna Hu classified 5G frequencies into Low-Frequency Cells of 700 Mhz, High-Frequency Cells of 3.4 -3.8Ghz and Millimetre Wave Cells of 26 GHz. Millimeter and High-Frequency Wave Cells are mostly used for large-scale events with thousands of users, vehicle communications, transport infrastructure, environmental monitoring and smart cities, and improving residential connections and smart energy.

In her evaluations, Evanna Hu predicted that by 2025,

5G deployment will be mostly concentrated in North America with an average subscription of 74%, followed by North East Asia and Western Europe at 56 and 55 percent, respectively. Central and Eastern Europe will be at 25%, while the Middle East and Africa will be at 7% mobile 5G subscriptions by 2025.



2022 BEST TERTIARY INSTITUTION FIRST RUNNER-UP AWARD



The [Harare Institute of Technology](#) won the First Runner-Up Prize for the 2022 Best Tertiary Institution in Zimbabwe at the ZNCC 2023 Mashonaland Region Awards and Dinner held in Harare on Friday 19 May 2023.

The awards are a build-up to the National Awards to be held on the 29th of June in Victoria Falls where businesses and organisations from other regions such as Midlands, Matabeleland, Manicaland and Masvingo

will vie to be the overall winners for the top businesses Awards.

The Awards saw businesses receiving accolades in categories such as Most Improved Exporter in Mining, Tobacco, Agriculture, Horticulture and Manufacturing, Innovation, Young Entrepreneurs, Best-emerging Business, Businessman and Businesswoman of the Year among other categories.

Officiating at the ceremony Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon Raj Modi congratulated the top-performing businesses, organisations and individuals, and commended all finalists on reaching the final stages of the competition.

The ZNCC President Mike Kamungeremu noted that despite the harsh environment it was pleasing to note that businesses had success stories to tell, and encouraged the private sector to continue moving and innovating.

ZAMBIA NATIONAL SERVICE VISITS HIT



The Zambia National Service (ZNS), a wing of the Zambia Defense Forces visited the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) for a familiarization tour on the 17th of May 2023.

The Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation Science and Technology Development facilitated the Zambian delegation's visit.

Engineer Bvumai Mangaliso, the Acting Manager of the Technology Centre, took them through the Technology Centre workshop and the short courses

offered. The delegates toured the Technology Centre and were impressed with the state-of-the-art equipment, workshops and engineering programmes offered at HIT.

The Zambian Head of delegation applauded the equipment in the Technology Centre workshops as well as the diverse short courses that are offered and alluded to the fact that the tour was the beginning of a bigger collaboration. He promised that his Ministry would be in touch for more such engagements and collaborations.



ZIMAMBASSADOR TO CUBA VISITS HIT



Zimbabwe's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cuba, Mr. Paul Chikawa paid a courtesy call to the HIT Vice Chancellor on Monday the 22nd of May 2023, to be apprised of the engineering and technological developments at the Harare Institute of Technology ahead of his departure for Cuba.

Ambassador Chikawa was recently appointed by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr E.D. Mnangagwa to represent the nation and promote Zimbabwe's interests in Cuba.

The Ambassador said he had heard great commendations on HIT's research, development and innovation outputs, and therefore he needed to appreciate how the University was contributing to national development through this important pillar so that he could craft strategies for enhancing cooperation with Cuba. He also informed the Vice Chancellor that he had been informed that HIT has embarked on the manufacturing of medical devices.

HIT Vice Chancellor Dr Eng. Quinton Kanhukamwe then took the opportunity to explain the HIT evolution, destiny, cause, and calling as well as the University's



FREE ULTRASOUND SERVICES FOR NORTON COMMUNITY



As a gesture of goodwill, the [Harare Institute of Technology](#)'s (HIT) Department of Radiography offered a one-day Free Ultrasound Service for the pelvis, prostate and antenatal at Norton Hospital on Wednesday 24 May 2023.



HIT PARTICIPATES IN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) participated in the National Culture Festival that was celebrated at the Midlands State University (MSU) on Sunday the 14th of May 2023.

The Culture Festival was officiated by the First Lady, Her Excellency Dr Auxillia Mnangagwa.

HIT's Student Affairs Division made sterling performances in poetry and skits, which entertained audiences at the event.

The University also exhibited the preservation of the nutritional value of Zimbabwean indigenous foods as well as the research on Indigenous foods by the Food



Processing Technology Department following its mandate of incubating, transferring and commercialising the technology.



CELEBRATING AFRICA DAY



25 MAY Happy
Africa
DAY 2023



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AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS' PUBLIC LECTURE



AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS

PUBLIC LECTURE



Guest Speaker:
Rev Professor John Frank Eshun
Vice Chancellor,
Takoradi Technical University
Topic: "The Academia and the Pan Africanism: The Kwame Nkrumah Factor."



Date: 29 May 2023

Time: 10:00am

Venue: Innovation Hub

Dress Code: African Attire

Join the virtual lecture using the link below:
<https://meet.google.com/yek-zrdy-ymf?hs=122&authuser=0>

Host:
Dr Eng Quinton Chamunorwa Kanhukamwe
Vice Chancellor,
Harare Institute of Technology
Topic: "Designing the Future of Africa: Smart Technologies and Artificial Intelligence"

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A Public Lecture to celebrate Africa Day was held on campus under the theme “The Academia and the Pan Africanism: The Kwame Nkrumah Factor on the 29th of May 2023.

The visiting Vice Chancellor of Takoradi Technical University, Rev Professor John Frank Eshun from Ghana was the Guest Speaker.

HIT Vice Chancellor Dr Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe also presented on “Designing the Future of Africa: Smart Technologies and Artificial Intelligence”.

All the delegates and attendees were dressed in African attire.

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS' PUBLIC LECTURE IN PICTURES..



SMEDCO CEO VISITS HIT

The Chief Executive Officer of SMEDCO, Mr Obert Ngwenya paid a courtesy call to HIT today to deepen relations between the two institutions.

