

HIT AND TIKA COMMISSION MICROBIOLOGY LAB TO BOOST RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



HIT Microbiology Lab Officially opened by Professor Fanuel Tagwira, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development,

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) have officially commissioned a state-of-the-art Microbiology Laboratory to enhance research and innovation efforts.

The laboratory has advanced scientific equipment, including UV/Vis spectrophotometers, analytical balances, fume cabinets, shaking incubators, refrigerated centrifuges, vortex machines, orbital shakers, and high-resolution optical microscopes. This collaboration marks a significant milestone between HIT and TIKA, building on their longstanding partnership.

Previously, TIKA had donated equipment to support HIT's School of Information Science and Technology, Department of Information Security and Assurance, and Digital Forensic Laboratory. The Microbiology Lab will further upscale HIT's research and Innovation agenda through the five tenets of Education 5.0, including research, teaching, community service, innovation, and industrialization.

The University has already established a research cluster studying Zimbabwe's traditional and non-traditional food-making microbiological processes to improve food security through the heritage bequeathed to the nation. Furthermore, HIT will avail the Microbiology Lab to different industries like food and beverages, including dairy, fruits and vegetables, meat, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics for training and research to improve the competitiveness and value of goods and services that will feed the national economy.

HIT has also, through its Pharmaceutical Technology and Biotechnology Departments, undertaken to contribute to drug discovery and grow the economy by studying and understanding microbiology as well as developing efficacious and safe medications.Continues to page 4

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ZIMCHE PEER REVIEWERS CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION AT HIT



ZIMCHE peer reviewers receiving a briefing from HIT staff member

The Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education's (ZIMCHE) Peer Reviewers conducted a site visit at the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) from 8th to 12th April 2024. The visit involved a comprehensive evaluation of the institution's academic programmes, facilities, and overall operations. The activities during the site visit included a peer team meeting, private meetings, and discussions with the HIT Vice-Chancellor and Senior Management.

The peer team also met with the self-evaluation team and conducted a tour of the physical facilities on campus. Throughout the visit, the Peer Reviewers engaged in meetings with various stakeholders, including heads of departments, deans, chairpersons, guardians, alumni, workers representatives, students, and the Student Representative Council. They also visited academic departments, verified documents for the institutional self-evaluation report, and interacted with teaching and non-teaching staff. The Peer Reviewers had the opportunity to engage in a virtual meeting with the Institute Board members and share their findings with the institution's management and Self-Evaluation Report (SER) team. They also had a private meeting to discuss their observations and feedback.

The site visit concluded with an exit meeting with the HIT Vice-Chancellor, during which the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education Peer Reviewers' overall findings were shared. The Peer Reviewers also took time to fine-tune their draft report before finalising it. Presenting their findings, the Head of the Delegation commented on HIT for the welcoming atmosphere and the colloquial interactions. "It made our work easy because we could access information which we needed without any challenges. This is commendable, it meant our exercise was free and fair in terms of accessing information. "So when it comes to our observations, we will first of all look at the strengths that we have observed in the institution as we were interacting with you. Your mission and your core values are clearly and well articulated and they are displayed in most strategic places," said the Head of Delegation. The delegation also commended the effort to implement the mission, vision and core values, which is evident in most of the Institute's activities which demonstrate the university's mandate or niche.

"Most of the academic staff, are qualified to teach the allocated courses. We also interacted with the Institute Board Members and they showed excitement about being part of this institution they know what is happening as they were able to explain the University's mission which shows that there is teamwork in this institution."

"We also noticed that the University policy documents are in place the programmes that were reviewed are all accredited and they promote the University niche. During our interactions with staff members, we observed that they are aware of the human resource policies, which makes it easier for the institution to operate if everyone is moving in the same way."

The ICT infrastructure is satisfactory and then the presence of the modern biotechnology lab is well noted and that lab is going to assist the students in acquiring the requisite knowledge and skills. That's a good move and it shows the strength of collaboration because the lab was a collaboration between HIT and TIKA. This shows the strength of collaboration with other institutions.

The delegation also commenced HIT for implementing Education 5.0 and the support for staff to execute their duties. "We were told that staff members are getting some monetary and non-monetary incentives to retain them. The University has made a good move by doing that.

There is also transparency in financial resource management, for example the procurement system, where there are some internal controls in the procurement system. "There is also evidence of partnerships with internal and external stakeholders as we came across a lot of MOUs that are signed. This strengthens the operations of the University.

Then there is also a quality assurance system which is a place and a functional structure. The admissions regulations and procedures are very clear and the University uses various platforms for the recruitment of students. This is commendable so that whichever platform the applicant can use, they still be able to apply for admission into this institution. The provision of a work and study programme for disadvantaged students is well noted so that we don't leave behind, those who cannot afford to pay fees.

The University is doing a good job there by providing those disadvantaged learners with some opportunity to continue with their education, said the ZIMCHE delegate. ZIMCHE also appreciated the Institute's staff development policy and the financing of the programme. "We noticed that there are some funds for those who want to progress with their studies. Then there is also support for research activities through local allocations. It is also a good move that the academic staff are supported in their research activities. "However, we noticed some of the areas that need improvement, or which the university needs to attend to, which include the improvement in physical facilities to accommodate People with Disabilities.

There is also a need to improve internet connectivity for students and in sporting facilities to develop a holistic engineer or scientist. The site visit was a thorough and detailed evaluation of HIT's academic programmes, facilities, and operations aimed at ensuring the institution meets the quality standards set by ZIMCHE. The feedback provided by the peer reviewers will be instrumental in the continuous improvement of the institution's academic programmes, facilities, and operations.

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Ms. Berna Kasnakli Versteden
Turkish Ambassador to Zimbabwe



Professor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe
HIT Vice Chancellor

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During the commissioning ceremony, the Turkish Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Ms. Berna Kasnakli Versteden, expressed her delight at the official opening of the HIT Microbiology Laboratory equipped by TIKA. She emphasized the importance of the partnership and highlighted the laboratory's role in advancing studies and research in areas such as food security, value addition on food and beverage, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. "We consider these projects among the strong bridges of friendship between Türkiye and Zimbabwe."

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The more we see demand, the more we continue our development projects and assistance through TIKA and other relevant institutions. I am aware HIT has been challenged by the Chancellor His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Dr E.D Mnangagwa to put real and tangible research innovation outputs that add value through setting up new industries. It is quite a challenge. But I am here to say you are not alone in realizing your vision.

Turkish universities and research institutions are ready to cooperate with you or other Zimbabwean institutions. My Embassy's doors are open to discuss ideas to further our cooperation," the Turkish Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Her Excellency Ms. Berna Kasnakli Versteden said.

The Ambassador also expressed her gratitude to HIT and officials from the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development for their cooperation. "I am looking forward to receiving the news about breakthroughs and products developed with the assistance of the Laboratory we have just commissioned," she said.

In his remarks at the event, HIT Vice Chancellor, Professor Eng. Quinton Chamunorwa Kanhukamwe acknowledged the support from the Turkish Government through TIKA, highlighting the laboratory's significance in contributing to the transformation of the economy through technology and engineering solutions.

He emphasized the University's commitment to partnerships and its alignment with the national development imperatives. "The commissioning of this Microbiology Laboratory represents a significant step in HIT's efforts to enhance research, development, and innovation in various sectors, and it underscores the institution's dedication to contributing to the country's economic development and prosperity," he said. "Allow me to thank the Turkish Government through their development agency, TIKA, for their support and commendable work at our University and for identifying us as a suitable partner and host of this Laboratory. As you have already witnessed, it is being put to good use and will be handled with utmost care and diligence. We are scaling new heights in pharmaceutical biotechnology, fermentation processes, recombinant DNA technology, drug discovery, and development as well as industrial biotechnology."

"This Laboratory is also significant as it is a clear demonstration of the University's faithfulness and eagerness in executing partnerships to the better and spirit of agreements. This dovetails with the Second Republic's unequivocal undertaking and guarantees to deliver a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2028 through the twin pillars of Industrialization and Modernization. The road to that prosperity has found expression in the national economic blueprint – the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1)."

Furthermore, HIT has crafted a strategy that speaks to the national development imperatives, thus contributing to the realization of our collective national aspirations," said the Vice-Chancellor.

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Professor Eng. Kanhukamwe added that HIT is consolidating its signature as the hub of technology development and delivery of quality engineering and technology degrees, increasing research, development, and innovation outputs through offering postgraduate Master of Technology degrees in Food Processing, Industrial Biotechnology, and Pharmaceutical Technology as well as the soon-to-be-launched Drug Discovery Masters program.

"This laboratory is central to all microbiological research, ultimately driving our quest to produce tangible and verifiable outputs". "Through the establishment of this Microbiology Lab, HIT is living Zimbabwe's foreign policy whilst executing its internationalization goal of causing the development, incubation, transfer, and commercialization of technology beyond national boundaries and growing the University into a truly global technological university with global connections, impact, and reach.

This partnership with TIKA will go a long way in laying a solid foundation for the scientific development of our country and delivering development by tackling head-on challenges that afflict our society. We further envisage an increase in HIT's research outputs," Professor Eng. Kanhukamwe said.

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Professor Fanuel Tagwira
Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development.

In a speech read on his behalf by Professor Fanuel Tagwira, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development, the Minister Professor Dr Amon Murwira said the Microbiology Laboratory enhances Heritage-Based Education 5.0. "We have implemented the Education 5.0 doctrine as a central policy to transform our education from a rudimentary state of producing job hunters to the production of wealth creators.

This has seen a massive shift in mindset amongst our academics as they coalesce around innovation and the commercialization of their research and development outputs through the Innovation Hubs".

"This gesture by the Turkish Government through their development agency, TIKA, is a shot in the arm for our government to quickly realize some of the objectives of the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) program. For example, investigations in microbiology have direct and indirect consequences on food security and nutrition, human capital development, health and well-being, as well as the movement of the economy up the value chain," the Minister said.

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He added that the new equipment goes a long way in addressing Heritage-Based Education 5.0 as impossible experiments will now become possible, thus expanding the scope, accuracy, and speed of our microbiological investigations. “The new tools will without any doubt improve the way classes in microbiology are conducted, giving students real-life and practical hands-on experience in training.

With the other biotech tools that HIT already has, I challenge the University to further leverage this capacity and to grow national capacity in the dimensions of pharmaceutical biotechnology, fermentation processes, recombinant DNA technology, drug discovery and development, as well as industrial biotechnology to improve our competitiveness”. ‘Let me hasten to acknowledge the impact that this Microbiology Laboratory has in our internationalization of higher education bid.



We now expect HIT to leverage this relationship to connect with universities in Turkey and establish research, development, and innovation partnerships. I am sure the Turkish Ambassador to Zimbabwe Ms. Berna Kasnakli Vesteden is more willing to foster these relationships. On behalf of my ministry and all Zimbabweans, let me thank the Turkish Government and its development agency TIKA for identifying HIT as a trustworthy partner in the advancement of science and technology as vehicles of development.



We stand in full support of the project and look expectantly to the realization of its entire set objective,” Prof. Dr Amon Murwira said. The ceremony was attended by officials from the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development, the Turkish Embassy in Zimbabwe, the new HIT Board Chairperson Dr. Grace Taruvinga, other Board Members, HIT Senior Management, some stakeholders, Staff, and Students from the School of Industrial Sciences and Technology.



HIT JOINS THE NATION TO CELEBRATE 44TH ZIM INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

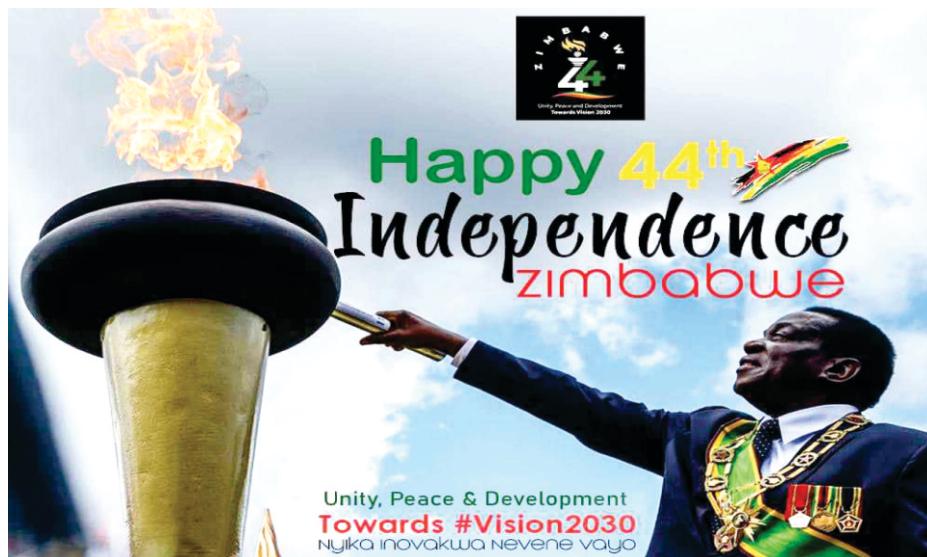


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ZIM @44: INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY



The Chairperson of the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) Board, Dr Grace Taruvinga and the entire Institute Board, Vice Chancellor Professor Engineer Quinton C. Kanhukamwe, Senior Management, Staff, and Students, join His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and HIT Chancellor, Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, and the entire nation in commemorating the 44th Anniversary of Zimbabwe's Independence.

Running under the theme, “Zim@44: Unity, Peace and Development Towards Vision 2030”, this year’s celebrations are a clarion call for increased collective contributions towards the achievement of the national vision of an Empowered Upper Middle-Income society.

We applaud His Excellency, Dr E. D. Mnangagwa for his sterling efforts in consolidating Zimbabwe’s political, economic, and social status through the implementation of robust policies that promote Zimbabwe’s modernisation and industrialisation for enhanced global competitiveness.

May the spirit of self-determination, patriotism and unparalleled commitment that brought about our independence, sovereignty, freedom, peace, and development continue to inspire and spur us as we work for the development of our nation.

On this momentous occasion, HIT family reaffirms its commitment to developing, incubating, transferring, and commercialising technology for rapid industrialisation.

**Long Live Zimbabwe!
Congratulations, Makorokoto, Amhlope!!**

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HIT AND RUDN LAUNCH TRAINING PROGRAMME ON INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



HIT and RUDN representatives

The Russian University of Friendship (RUDN) and the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) have taken a significant step towards promoting sustainable development in the region through a training programme on Integrated Waste Management.

The 5-day training programme, held from April 15 to 19, 2024, was led by two experts from RUDN's School of Ecology and Nature Conservation. The programme aimed to equip students and lecturers with modern waste management approaches, including environmentally friendly and low-waste technologies.

The training covered topics such as industrial and engineering ecology concepts, classifications of modern pollution, air and gas emission cleaning processes, wastewater treatment, recycling, and solid waste neutralization.

The attendees received RUDN certificates of attendance. The programme is part of the HIT-RUDN University MOU at the centre level, which aims to technologically equip students and lecturers on issues of the environment and climate change.

The framework training is designed to enable students to incorporate the sustainability concept into their learning activities. In addition to the training programme, an Olympiad was held to select students for scholarship opportunities in 2025 at RUDN.

The students who emerge as winners will have the opportunity to pursue their studies at three different academic levels: Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate, for durations of 4, 2, and 3 years respectively.

The scholarship programme will enable students to pursue studies in fields such as Ecology and Nature Management, Energy and Resources saving technologies in Chemical Technology, Petrochemistry and Biotechnology, and other fields deemed necessary by HIT. Dr. Phiri, Director of the Environmental Management, Renewable Energy and Climate Change (EMRECC) Centre, praised his counterparts for a job well done in operationalizing the RUDN/HIT MOU.

He also highlighted other opportunities in line with the MOU, including sabbatical opportunities for staff and student exchange. Dr. Phiri, a former Russian student, has been involved in various initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development.

He recently co-organized a conference in Russia on "Relevant Issues of Ecology and Environmental Management" and presented a paper on "The Health Impacts of Mining in Zimbabwe. The success of the training programme is a testament to the strong partnership between RUDN and HIT. The two institutions are committed to promoting sustainable development through education and research.



HIT 20TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

Submissions are invited from interested Students, Staff and Alumni for the design of the Harare Institute of Technology logo for the 20th Anniversary celebrations.

HIT is having a competition to design a 20th Anniversary logo. This logo will be used on HIT letterheads, business cards, fliers, banners, social media platforms and any other information material in 2025. We are looking for a logo that showcases the innovation and technopreneurial excellence that HIT is now associated with

The winning logo will be registered as an HIT trademark and used for HIT branding.

A token of appreciation will be paid to winning entry which may be modified to suit branding modalities.

Kindly note:

1. The logo must be submitted in scalable vector graphic format. Colours must be CMYK colour model.
2. The logo must be easy to use, handle, resize and manipulate for all reproduction purposes, it should also be visually appealing on both small and large scales.
3. For sharing purposes, each contestant must include vector file, PDF, JPG and PNG (with transparent background)
4. Together with the logo proposal, each entry must send a short description of the logo and the idea behind it.

Deadline for submission of logo designs is Friday 29 March 2024

Physical submission: CIR Office W1

Email: communications@hit.ac.zw

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HIT STEALS THE SHOW AT ZITF 2024 WITH CUTTING-EDGE EXHIBITS



HIT 2024 ZITF Stand

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) made a significant impression at the 2024 edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Hall Number 3, showcasing its extensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, as well as its latest research and development outputs and projects.

The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development, Professor Amon Murwira, paid a special visit to the HIT stand to get an in-depth look at the Institute's exhibits and innovations. The Minister's visit was a testament to the importance of HIT's contributions to the country's development.

The HIT stand attracted a significant number of visitors who were eager to learn more about the Institute's academic programmes, research, innovations, and development outputs. The exhibits showcased the Institute's commitment to providing high-quality hands-on practical education and training that meets the needs of industry and society. Some of the notable exhibits included cutting-edge research projects in areas such as artificial intelligence, smart cities, materials engineering and technology, industrial tools, renewable energy, and biotechnology.

Visitors were also impressed by the innovative projects being developed by HIT students, including prototypes for sustainable agriculture and urban planning. The participation of HIT at ZITF 2024 underscores the Institute's commitment to promoting innovation, technology development, incubation, transfer and commercialisation in Zimbabwe.

The event provided a platform for HIT to engage with industry stakeholders, academia, and government officials to discuss potential collaborations and partnerships. HIT's presence at ZITF 2024 was a resounding success, demonstrating the Institute's ability to showcase its expertise and contribute to the country's economic development.



HIT Vice Chancellor Professor Q.C Kanhukamwe talking to HIT staff at the HIT stand



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ZITF 2024 IN PICTURES

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