

VICE CHANCELLOR RALLIES HIT STAFF



HIT Vice Chancellor Professor Q.C Kanhukamwe addressing HIT Staff

The Vice-Chancellor of Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) Professor Quinton Chamunorwa Kanhukamwe has issued a rallying call to both academic and non-academic staff to align with the University's mandate of developing, incubating, transferring, and commercializing technology for Zimbabwe's rapid industrialization.

In recent interface meetings with the university community, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of innovation and collaboration among staff members. He urged them to utilize the available resources effectively and meet their targets and deliverables.

"The university is dedicated to enhancing the welfare of its staff. Your work, which is a culmination of everyone's input and contribution, is highly valued. We take pride in being the only local university with commercialized startups that have made a nationwide impact. Let's push ourselves further and continue to contribute to the national development agenda," stated the Vice-Chancellor.

Highlighting the pivotal role of universities in driving the development of the country, the Vice-Chancellor called on academic staff to adhere to their annual minimum research publications. He encouraged them to focus on application research with an emphasis on technology transfer and commercialization to support national industrialization efforts.

"We must strive to make a visible impact across all sectors of our nation and actively contribute to national development. I am looking forward to a productive and successful 2024," concluded the Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor's charge underscores HIT's commitment to fostering technological innovation and advancement in Zimbabwe. By engaging both academic and non-academic staff in this common goal, HIT is poised to lead the way in supporting the country's industrialization agenda and driving socio-economic progress.

Contents

<i>Story</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Vice Chancellor Rallies Staff.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Engineer Mavhiya-Bhiza Scoops Tertiary Institutions Board Chairperson Of The Year Award.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>SADC Varsities Collaborate On Indigenous Knowledge to Combat HIV/AIDS.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>AYSRH Training For Peer Educators.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>UNESCO ADG Impact Assessment Visit.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>HIT Scoops PSMA Innovation Award.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>HIT Hosts First Hult Prize Oncampus Competition.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>ZIDA and HIT Forge Partnership For Technology and Economic Development.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Journey to Successful Financial Research and Fund Management.....</i>	<i>9</i>

INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

-  Harare Institute of Technology
-  @HarareInstitute
-  Harare Institute of Technology
-  Harare Institute of Technology



ENGINEER MAVHIYA-BHIZA SCOOPS TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS BOARD CHAIRPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD



Engineer Farai Mavhiya-Bhiza (Middle) receiving the Tertiary Institution Chairperson of the Year Award.

The Harare Institute of Technology's (HIT) Board Chairperson Engineer Farai Mavhiya-Bhiza scooped the Institute of Corporate Directors Zimbabwe Board Chairperson of the Year Award – Tertiary Institutions for exhibiting unparalleled visionary leadership in the engineering field as well as in her stewardship of the University, leading to its ability to execute its mandate of developing, incubating, transferring as well commercialising technology for Zimbabwe's rapid industrialisation.

The HIT Board Chairperson was awarded the prize at the 5th Edition of the prestigious Corporate Directors Excellence Awards Ceremony held under the theme "Embracing Change" on 13 December 2023 at Cresta Lodge in Harare. The event was held to recognise the pinnacle of corporate leadership and celebrate the remarkable achievements and visionary contributions of exceptional directors in Zimbabwe.

Under Engineer Farai Mavhiya-Bhiza's able leadership, HIT continued to strategically align itself to the national development aspirations by robustly pursuing the five missions of University service namely: research, teaching, community service, innovation, and commercialisation (Education 5.0), consequently championing the formation of high-tech enterprises that create employment, thus contributing to the revenue base for the Government through taxes, ultimately, making HIT, a national torch-bearer in the execution of the Education 5.0 doctrine.

As HIT Board Chairperson, Engineer Mavhiya-Bhiza has been instrumental in providing the leadership of the University's Strategic Plan, Vision 2025, Designing the Future where the Vision and Mission are articulated as the Destiny, Cause and Calling. Under her stewardship, the University has been commended by the regulatory authority for the higher and tertiary education sector, the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE) for being the only university that has been able to stick to and deliver on its mandate and has 100% of its academic programmes meeting the fitness-for-purpose requirement.

Her Board also received commendation from the Office of the President and Cabinet's Corporate Governance Unit for being a public institution that exceeded targets in performance management. Engineer Mavhiya-Bhiza has consistently ensured that the University takes cognisance of all the policy imperatives articulated by the Government and incorporates these in the operations of the concerned Units and Departments.

Under her leadership, HIT has an operational Board Charter, Integrity and Ethics Committee, and held its 2023 Annual General Meeting and Compliance Meetings with its Stakeholders. All Board Committee Meetings were held as scheduled.

Engineer Farai Mavhiya-Bhiza's achievements include the introduction of new postgraduate degree programmes to consolidate the University's signature as the hub of technology development and delivery of quality technology degrees and increase research, development, and innovation outputs. HIT introduced 24 postgraduate Master of Technology Degree programmes across its schools. The curriculum of these degrees remains infused with a unique aspect of providing students with room to prove their proficiency in translating scientific concepts into tangible outputs which are informed by the philosophical precepts of innovation, technopreneurship, and creativity, and hold the potential for Intellectual Property generation and commercialisation.

Under Engineer Mavhiya-Bhiza's leadership, HIT implemented a robust staff development programme that enables it to underwrite the processes that offer effective learning and teaching as well as delivery of research, development, and innovation outputs. This academic year, HIT had 9 candidates for Doctor of Technology degrees and 16 pursuing Master of Technology degree programmes. These interventions are giving the Institute a strategic and comparative advantage in the delivery of its mandate.

To date, HIT has registered 36 Industrial Designs, 39 Utility Models, one Trademark, and 635 Software Copyrights to reach a total of 693 Intellectual Properties. Some of the industrial designs and utility models registered include Calcium carbide electrode designs, Acetylene production plant, and BM1enzyme-based thermophilic Fertilizer Plant. Lithium carbonate beneficiation plant, Transport ventilator circuit, CPAP device, Biomedical variable pressure relief valve, and Biomedical non-variable pressure relief valve.

Some of the outstanding research, innovation, and commercialisation projects that emanated from HIT schools under the tutelage of Engineer Mavhiya-Bhiza include the enhanced battery-grade lithium phosphate. The university has been successful in developing a lithium phosphate 3.2V, 60Ah battery cell, when coupled in either parallel for more voltage or series for enhanced current, the cells will produce sufficient power to drive passenger vehicles.

SADC VARSITIES COLLABORATE ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS



Some of the delegates attending the SADC-SIPS Breakfast Meeting at Rainbow Towers posing for photographs.

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), University of Eswatini (UNESWA), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development Southern Africa Network for Biosciences - NEPAD SANBio, hosted a stakeholder engagement meeting at Rainbow Towers in Harare, Zimbabwe on January 24th, 2024, several organizations, including on 24 January 2024.

The meeting was centered on a collaborative project named "Application of Indigenous Knowledge for the Development and Production of Remedies to Manage HIV/AIDS in Eswatini and Zimbabwe." This project, funded by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in partnership with the German Development Cooperation, under the Support to Industrialisation and Productive Sectors (SIPS) Programme, aims to create jobs for rural communities by leveraging traditional knowledge to create and produce healthcare treatments for HIV and AIDS.

The project will help manage HIV and AIDS by creating safe, effective, and high-quality treatments based on traditional medicines and indigenous knowledge systems. It will also highlight the potential of traditional medicine to improve livelihoods and ensure the safety and quality of traditional medicines. By demonstrating safety and quality, healers can gain respect and trust in society, making traditional medicines accessible to a wider audience.

Representing the HIT Vice Chancellor Professor Q.C Kanhukamwe, Dr Talon Garikai, the HIT Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Commercialisation said this project is in line with Vision 2030. "This project is also of national significance. It demonstrates 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 industrialisation and modernisation," he said.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Eswatini, Prof. J.M. Thwala, expressed his optimism about the project and said, "This day is a milestone in our regional science cooperation for collective

development. The theme 'African Traditional Medicine and the SADC region's development agenda' captures the spirit of the day. As Africans, we've lived in harmony with nature, benefiting from natural resources for food, medicine, and livelihoods. Let's discuss traditional medicine and leverage our plant-based knowledge for health and regional development," he said.

Dr. Gugu Sibande, Director of EIRMIP from UNESWA, highlighted the lack of regulation and development in traditional medicines in Eswatini, which has prevented them from benefiting from progress in other sectors. She emphasized the potential of the project to improve livelihoods and ensure the safety and quality of traditional medicines.

The CEO and Registrar of National Biotechnology Authority, Dr. Dexter Savadye, applauded SANBio for the progress made within Zimbabwean institutions. He also emphasized that traditional leaders are at the core of this initiative and play a vital role in linking Indigenous knowledge systems to modern-day science and technology. Mr. Franck Porte,

Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Zimbabwe Mr Franck Porte said the principles of the SIPS are similar to those of the EU's developmental policies. "Those principles mirror those of the EU's comprehensive development policies, centred on poverty reduction, sustainable development, and promoting economic growth and employment," he said.



ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH(AYSRH) TRAINING FOR PEER EDUCATORS



HIT Peer Educators, Staff from Student Affairs and their Training Facilitators posing for a photographs after the AYSRH Training Workshop.

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) Student Affairs Division in collaboration with UNESCO 03 Plus and SaywhatT, conducted a Peer Educators Training Workshop on Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (AYSRH) from the 7th to the 9th of February 2024.

The primary objective of the workshop was to provide accurate Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information to students and emphasize the importance of peer education. It was also intended to establish a network of knowledgeable student advocates who can promote SRH, address misconceptions, and support their peers. Training was provided by facilitators from the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ) and the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC).

Students from various backgrounds attended the workshop to improve their leadership skills, foster effective communication, and initiate positive change within the HIT Campus community. The training included several interactive sessions, hands-on activities, and insightful discussions led by expert facilitators and guest speakers.

The workshop began with an inspiring keynote address by Ms. S. Mudavanhu, the Dean of Students at HIT, emphasizing the significance of peer education in creating a culture of empowerment and resilience among university students. She highlighted the need to invest in peer education on campus and acknowledged the power of peer influence in promoting informed decision-making, breaking stigmas, and providing access to SRH services.

Throughout the workshop, participants honed their skills in active listening, empathy, and effective communication through interactive group activities and role-playing exercises. They explored a range of topics, including sexual and reproductive health, AYSRH laws, policies, and rights, drug and sexual abuse, mental health, gender equality, mainstreaming disability, and social

media usage. They engaged in lively debates, shared personal experiences, and brainstormed innovative solutions to address pressing social issues.

Among the participants were Munashe Moyo, a final-year Information Technology student and the Student Representative Council (SRC) Minister of Clubs and Entertainment, and Tatenda Kufandimbwa, a first-year Financial Engineering student with a keen interest in mental health advocacy. They expressed their belief that the workshop would benefit HIT students and improve campus life.

As the workshop concluded, the participants left with a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment. They were committed to being agents of change in a world that craves hope and transformation. They had gained valuable skills and insights and established lasting friendships and a shared commitment to creating a better future for themselves and their communities.



HIT Dean of Students Ms Sarafina Mudavanhu addressing Campus Peer Educators at the AYSRH Training Workshop.

UNESCO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL VISITS HIT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROJECTS



(UNESCO) Assistant Director General in charge of Education, Ms Stefania Giannini interacting with HIT Staff and Students during her visit.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Assistant Director General in charge of Education, Ms Stefania Giannini, visited the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) on Tuesday, 27 February 2024, to assess the impact of the organization's support of the University's projects.

The HIT Vice Chancellor, Professor Quinton Chamunorwa Kanhukamwe, gave a detailed report on UNESCO's projects, which include the 03 Plus and the Engineering for Sustainability programs.

The 03 Plus project at HIT aims to support innovation in access to life skills-based sexual education and reproductive health services for students while advocating for policy and practice changes on campus to create a safe and inclusive learning environment. The project has institutionalized health and well-being programs for students and engaged University leadership for long-term commitment and sustainability.

"Under the 03 Plus project, various initiatives have been implemented, including training mentors on life skills and student health, reviewing sexual harassment policies, training peer educators on reproductive health, and conducting gender-based violence awareness on campus. The project has also renovated the HIT Campus Health Center and established a mobile

application called Future Plus for online counselling and resources on relevant issues affecting adolescents," said the Vice-Chancellor.

In addition to the 03 Plus project, HIT is also running the Engineering for Sustainability program in collaboration with UNESCO. This program encourages staff members to embrace sustainable development and integrate it into their curriculum. The project aims to create synergies between institutions of higher education, industry, and the community to address sustainability issues through engineering projects.

Ms Giannini expressed her satisfaction with the presentations and outputs of HIT's interdisciplinary research. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and encouraged the University to continue seeking new ideas and developing innovative research outputs.

Overall, the visit by Ms Stefania Giannini to the Harare Institute of Technology highlighted the significant impact of UNESCO's support on various projects at the University, promoting a safe and inclusive learning environment and fostering sustainability through engineering initiatives.

HIT SCOOPS PSMA INNOVATION AWARD



HIT Staff receiving the PSMA Innovation Award.

Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) received the Innovation Award at the 2023 Public Sector Management Awards (PSMA) held on Friday 19 January 2024 at the Monomutapa Hotel in Harare.

The award was a recognition of HIT's many innovations in 2023. "HIT demonstrated an exceptional ability to contribute to Zimbabwe's rapid industrialisation and modernisation through remarkable research, development and innovation outputs", read the citation by the organisers of the awards Stallone Consultancy.

HIT HOSTS FIRST HULT PRIZE ONCAMPUS COMPETITION



The first ever Hult Prize OnCampus competition was held at the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) on the 23rd of February 2024 under the theme "Unlimited," challenging participating teams to come up with innovative ideas related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

Out of the eight teams that initially registered to participate in the competition, only five teams were able to make it to the event. Team Accolade, comprising Tanatswa Guyo, Augreat Chiyangwa, and Lessing Chinhondo, emerged victorious and took home the first prize. Team Mpowerslink, consisting of Tinotenda Makanha, Ishemaita Bvumisani, Kudzai Chiriseri, and Tadiwanashe Makamure, secured the second position.

ZIDA AND HIT FORGE PARTNERSHIP FOR TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) recently welcomed a high-level delegation from the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) in a bid to explore potential collaboration opportunities and promote the university's research outputs, innovations, and startups.

Led by the Vice Chairperson of the ZIDA Board, Dr. Sylvia Utete-Masango, the delegation consisting of senior executives from the Agency engaged in discussions with HIT Vice-Chancellor Professor Q.C Kanhukamwe and members of his Senior Management team. The meeting aimed to establish a framework for collaboration and explore ways to promote HIT projects on a larger scale.

During the meeting, both parties expressed their commitment to working together to consolidate efforts and develop an engagement framework that would facilitate collaboration and promotion of HIT projects and startups. Additionally, there were discussions on packaging and promoting HIT projects to attract more investment and support for the university's initiatives.

In a joint agreement, HIT and ZIDA agreed to establish a team tasked with finalizing the framework document, which will outline the specific areas of collaboration, promotion strategies, and the implementation plan for joint initiatives.

The judges at the OnCampus competition, Ms Dundu, Mr Vhudzijena, and Mrs Dzapasi, had the challenging task of evaluating the innovative ideas presented by the participating teams. Team Accolade's outstanding performance earned them the opportunity to represent the HIT at the next stage of the competition, the Summits.

The Hult Prize Foundation aims to inspire and support social entrepreneurship among young people worldwide by providing platforms for them to showcase their innovative solutions to global challenges. The success of Team Accolade at the OnCampus competition highlights the talent and creativity of HIT students in setting a high standard for future competitions in the region.

The visit by the ZIDA delegation signifies a significant step towards enhancing HIT's role in contributing to national development and fostering tech-driven innovations in Zimbabwe. The collaboration between HIT and ZIDA is expected to create synergies that will propel the university's research and technopreneurial endeavours to new heights, ultimately benefiting the country's industrialization efforts. By leveraging the expertise and resources of both parties, HIT is poised to further enhance its research capabilities, drive innovation, and contribute to the country's economic development.

ZIDA, with its focus on promoting investment, facilitating investor entry and plans, establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZ), reviewing and recommending Public Private Partnerships (PPP), as well as providing aftercare and monitoring services to investors, presents a valuable opportunity for HIT to expand its reach and impact.

As both institutions work towards finalizing the engagement framework, the prospects for a fruitful partnership are high, signaling a promising future for the advancement of technology and industrialisation of Zimbabwe.

JOURNEY TO SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL RESEARCH AND FUND MANAGEMENT



Tafara Mtutu, a Stockbroker with Morgan & Co. and Mr Chengetai Zvobgo, the Head of Equity Investments at Old Mutual addressing HIT Financial Engineering Students during the Public Lecture.



The Financial Engineering Department hosted a public lecture featuring presentations by industry experts on topics ranging from successful financial research to the qualities of a good fund manager on 28 February 2024,

Tafara Mtutu, a Stockbroker with Morgan & Co., kicked off the event with his presentation titled "Journey To Successful Financial Research." Mtutu emphasized the importance of research in finance, highlighting its role in providing investment advice, increasing brand visibility, and equipping individuals to be good investors of personal funds. He also pointed out that quality research can save investors money and earn them returns when done properly.

During his presentation, Mtutu outlined key steps in conducting financial research, including utilizing various sources of information, industry and financial analysis, and employing valuation methods. He stressed the significance of timely, comprehensive research that covers all aspects and scenarios while making reasonable assumptions. Additionally, Mtutu addressed challenges facing financial researchers in Zimbabwe, such as limited access to market data and tools like Bloomberg.

Chengetai Zvobgo, the head of Equity Investments at Old Mutual, followed with a presentation on the qualities of a good fund

manager. Zvobgo discussed the investment process spectrum, which includes research, asset allocation, security selection, portfolio construction, and performance measurement. He underscored the importance of strong analytical skills, financial acumen, risk management abilities, and discipline in adhering to investment strategies.

Zvobgo also touched on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on investment management, noting its role in improving analysis, research, and decision-making. The importance of continuous learning, adaptability, communication skills, and staying informed about market trends were also highlighted as essential traits for fund managers.

Chairperson of the Financial Engineering Department, Dingizulu Nkomo, emphasized the significance of these public lectures in exposing students to industry professionals and current practices. He stressed the importance of communication and networking skills for students entering the industry, underscoring the value of learning from experienced professionals.

Overall, the public lecture served as a valuable opportunity for students and industry professionals to exchange knowledge and insights about successful financial research and fund management practices.



INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

 Harare Institute of Technology

 @HarareInstitute

 Harare Institute of Technology

 Harare Institute of Technology

