Chinhoyi University of Technology curved an indelible mark in the Information Communication Technology Engineering history by becoming the inaugural winners of # Hack4Smart Sustainable Cities initiative, a brainchild of telecom regulator- Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). The three day Competition event held in Kadoma on Friday February 7, 2020 saw developers drawn from nine local universities coming together in a marathon aimed at encouraging the use of digital technologies to provide smart solutions to societal challenges through the use of digital tools. CUT tore the form books when it scooped the first price, walking away with a whooping ZWL$1 million. University Zimbabwe came second while Harare Institute of Technology scooped the third price with both pocketing $750000 and $500 000 respectively.

Speaking during the event, the Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services who was also the guest of honour, Dr Jenfan Muswere said the competition all goes well with the government’s mission to drive the country into a knowledge-based smart society. “As the country moves towards becoming an upper middle society by end of 2030 as enunciated by his Excellency the President ED Mnangagwa, the Ministry of ICT Postal and Courier Services has accelerated the exploitation of ICTs for socio-economic development,” he said.

**WORKPLANS REVIEW WORKSHOP HELD**

Deans, Heads of Departments and Sections held a one day 2018 Review and 2020 Workplan Workshop at Chiororodziva Conference Centre, CUT Hotel on Tuesday February 11, 2020. The Workplan presentations took the whole day as members tried to show how they intended to sync the current University degree programs to Heritage based Education 5.0 philosophy being championed by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development. The Vice Chancellor started the ball rolling by reiterating the need for all plans to integrate Heritage based Education 5.0 of producing goods and services.

“We are collaborating in planning, so let’s engage in every avenue as we play the gate-keeping role in the execution of our duties. We should be clear on what we need and let’s continue to engage each other, particularly where there is a need to share the few financial resources that we have in the University. Let’s all crowd around the small cake and by prioritising what is important,” Prof Simbi advised.
The daylong workshop saw School by School, Department by Department and Section by Section presenting on how they fared in 2019 and how they intended to navigate the unknown waters of 2020. Of note was the need to have the water crisis that seems to have held the University in apprehension to be solved. A number of suggestions were put forward as the University Executive thought there was a need for everyone to focus on solving this water challenge. The Pro Vice Chancellor for Business Development and Resource Mobilization Prof Zororo Muranda also presented on the importance of his section and the rationale behind a business model approach. There was a need to solve the Shankuru Campus water crisis and members agreed that that there was a need to move with speed to solve water issues.
The Research and Graduate Studies Directorate under the astute leadership of Professor Grace Mugumbate continues to impact the University’s research thrust by empowering supervisors who play a pivotal role in assisting researching students and researchers at large. In one such a practical antique, the Directorate held one day Supervisors’ workshop as a precursor to the popular once-off per semester Residence week on Thursday February 13, 2020 at CUT Hotel’s Chirorodziva conference Centre attended by undergraduate and postgraduate supervisors that included the Vice Chancellor Prof. Simbi, a Supervisor of repute in his Metallurgy and Chemical Engineering that ranges from pyrometallurgy, corrosion engineering, construction materials, fuels, energy and environmental studies. The Vice Chancellor began by alluding the importance in the research architecture. He said that research sits at the centre of two paradigms which are goods and services. He reminded all supervisors that they were responsible for unlocking the doors of new ideas brought by researchers.

SUPERVISING WITH STRONG INTELLECTUAL PATRONAGE, NOT GOOD SAYS PROF JINGURA

In his presentation during the first 2020 Supervisors Workshop, the Director of Quality Assurance and the Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Administration Professor Raphael R. Jingura advised supervisors against being guided by a supervision model that had strong intellectual patronage as it produced half-baked researchers and academics who will only have labels than levels. He said that students were not foot soldiers for lecturers to get tenured or to get promoted but there was a need to have meaningful research outputs that produced goods and services that assisted in hastening the development agenda of the community.

RESIDENCE WEEK HELD

Chinhoyi University of Technology’s Research and Graduate Studies Directorate held its 2020 Residence Week whose major highlight was the Research Day held at CUT Hotel Conference Centre on Thursday February 20, 2020. The Residence Week was organised in such a way that it also allowed for MPhil and DPhil students to have an interaction with their different supervisors and have Schools-based presentations. Students came all the way from as far as Zambia, Cape Town in South Africa and several other local parts of the country. The one day Research day was tagged “Impacting the society through cutting edge research” lived to its apt name when students presented unique and indeed cutting edge research proposals and posters.

CUT STUDENTS WIN hackathon competition

A CUT trio, Tatenda Chinyamakobvu, Gordon Muneka and Elvin Kakomo surprised not only themselves but the entire higher and education industry when they created a prototype — “Smart Alert Mechanisms for rapid response” which seeks to improve reaction to accidents by detecting an accident and simultaneously directing ambulance services to the scene. In a competition held in Kadoma on Friday February 7, 2020, the ICT students won a $1 million award for their University and an individual student received $5 000 each. Hackathon is a design sprint-like event in which computer programmers and other ICT geniuses are often involved in software development projects. The winning students will attend the international Hackathon 2020 World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Forum to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in April.

Nine universities contested in the Hackathon POTRAZ sponsored competition displaying workable ICT ideas under the theme “Sustainable smart cities”. For their exploits, the three students earned themselves a place to be among the first benefits to have their innovative technology at the CUT Innovation Hub and probably find its way to the Industry Park.

The Vice Chancellor of CUT Professor David Jambgwa Simbi held a Reception at the University Boardroom and Canteen in honour of the winning students. The Award reinforces the fact that Chinhoyi University of Technology is emerging to be a force to reckon with in the Higher Education sector in the country. This will be a second bunch of students to represent the country in the global arena after the 2011 BOOST SIFE CUT team took the world by storm when it came an incredible second in the world in Germany student Championship. It is the hope that the three students will not disappoint at the global arena.
Acting Dean of Engineering School Dr Musademba’s full unabridged congratulatory Speech

“Everyone wants success, but it only follows those who make a true approach to get it. Today we are gathered here to celebrate the great success story of 2020 in the history of the School of Engineering Sciences and Technology and indeed the CUT family; which came through three brilliant students: Elvin Kakomo level 2.2, Gordon Muneka level 2.1 and Christopher Tatenda Chinyamukobvu level 2.1.

The team walked away with $15 000 for themselves and $1 million for the University’s Innovation Hub after winning POTRAZ’s inaugural Hackathon 4 Smart Sustainable Cities. The trio will proceed to Geneva, Switzerland on 5-6 April 2020.

The team developed an emergency response application that allows users to call for medical services after a car crash. The application has a panic button that users can hit for minor accidents. This development of the algorithms for the automatic alarm to call for emergency response at the exact place of accident is a new development and a feat never before achieved by ICT researchers in the country.

Getting team success means working together without losing a rhythm, which is really a tough thing and that needs lots of understanding and trust for each other. Team performance earns more than the winning. It earns understanding, it teaches you to work together, and when one is about to collapse or become weak, the team spirit comes in like a parachute to lift you up when you are about to hit rock bottom.

The aim in the life lies in pushing your limitation always. You have successfully made this thing possible as a team. Your achievement is the result of your efforts. And with this achievement, you have added another feather in your crown. I wish you all the best as you proceed to Geneva. Aim for the stars, you can do it and you have demonstrated it. Once again I would like to say congratulations for your fabulous victory. You deserve every bit of it. Thank you and God bless you.”

CUT AS AN INSTITUTIONAL BRAND

After the sensational and phenomenal achievements of Chinhoyi University of Technology students and staff alike, allow me to resuscitate my column but this time under a different name. You are aware of the CUT ICT trio and also remember Jesca Dzvore from Biology making waves in South Africa. Then what we have become is a "brand". This becomes my first note this week. We all need to be its Brand ambassadors...read on........

CUT is distinct and its position is outstanding in a community of Universities...the recent POTRAZ Hackathon Award is evidence for my claim.

Consumers recognise the brand in the market...everywhere I have gone people ask for any memorabilia with a CUT logo. I’ve been around the country during Career guidance shows and I’ve been mobbed by pupils all wanting to come to CUT.

CUT is recognised as a competitive brand ,differentiated from sister institutions (uniqueness). Our degree programs are unique and never found at other institutions. E.g. where else do you find B.Eng (Hons) in Mechatronic Engineering & Technology?

The CUT brand is an asset (in the community, province ,country). I’ve been to Kadoma (remember we installed robots there), been to Hwange (remember our the cynide poisoning of elephants; our presence in Bikita, Mwenezi and Gonarezhou, Cyclone Idai how we played our part). In Chinhoyi we have solar-powered robots and the biogas digester for people in Alaska. We have won accolades in provincial, regional, national and global events.

This is the first of my several NOTES on Institutional branding and other related articles.
The industrious and illustrious Research & Graduate Studies Director Prof Mugumbate addressing MPhil & DPhil students, below the Supervisors (Prof Mamimine, Prof Simbi & Dr Chavhunduka (top-right is Dr Marima-Deputy Dean Entrepre-

Well done my children.....the VC seems to be saying to two of the three students for winning POTRAZ Hackathon Award