

## Huawei cultivates ICT talents across Africa

It looks as though African students are set to benefit as Huawei announced at the World Economic Forum on Africa 2015 that over the next five years 1,000 students across the continent will take part in its technical training programme dubbed Seeds for the Future, which seeks to strengthen information and communication technology (ICT) capabilities in Africa.



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Charles Ding, senior vice president of Huawei, announced the training plan for Africa during a panel discussion entitled Africa Mobile Technology. "Governments in Africa need to develop a vision for boosting connections. They need to invest or facilitate investment into national broadband plans and train technical talents. "This will create jobs, boost economic growth and secure Africa's future."

According to the telecommunications giant, it will work globally with local governments and universities to send students overseas to acquire training and work experience with the world's best ICT equipment.

To date, more than 10,000 students worldwide have benefited from the Seeds for the Future programme. The programme has already been implemented in Zimbabwe, where 10 Zimbabwean ICT students from different provinces and universities - including the Zimbabwe Open University, Harare Institute of Technology and Midlands State University - travelled to Beijing and Shenzhen in October last year to receive ICT training as part of the programme.

### **Contributing to the future development of the nation**

The corporation was honoured for its efforts when it received the Special Ministerial Award at the 2015 ICT Achievers Awards last month for its contribution to ICT growth and ICT talent cultivation in Zimbabwe.

Speaking during the ICT Achievers Awards, Dr Sam Kundishora, permanent secretary of Zimbabwe's Information and Communication Technology Department, expressed his hope that students will use their training to contribute to the future development of the nation. "Seeds are a symbol of life, future and hope. Huawei will continue to assist Zimbabweans to learn ICT technologies and promote comprehensive development in the ICT sector," Kundishora said.

By the end of 2015, ICT students from more than 15 African countries, including Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, Angola and Zimbabwe, participated in the programme. This year, Huawei plans to roll out the programme in more African countries such as Uganda and SA.

*Source: Business Day*

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