

High Commission of India Lusaka

Press Release

Celebration of ITEC DAY 2023

High Commission of India, Lusaka celebrated ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) Day 2023 on 21 February 2024 at hotel Taj Pamodzi, Lusaka.

2. Hon'ble Mr. Felix Mutati, Minister for Technology and Science, Republic of Zambia was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. About 70 ITEC alumni who attended various ITEC courses attended the event. A few prominent members from the Indian business Community were also present during the occasion .



3. High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar called India and Zambia as natural partners and that India and Zambia will be celebrating 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year. He acknowledged excellent bilateral relations between India and Zambia encompassing areas including Government to Government Development Cooperation, Trade, Commerce & Industry, SME, Agriculture, Health, Education, etc. High Commissioner also spoke about India's G20 Presidency and campaign for full membership of the African Union in the G-20.



4. High Commissioner gave an overview about ITEC programme and highlighted the important role of the ITEC programme (both Civilian and Defence) as a part of India's Development Cooperation Programme, which has helped Zambia immensely in its capacity building. He also mentioned about other modalities like e-ITEC, ITEC-Onsite and ITEC- Executive included in the bouquet of ITEC courses.

5. High Commissioner appealed the government of Zambia for full utilization of ITEC slots offered by India both in civilian and defence sectors. High Commissioner appreciated forward looking initiatives of

New Dawn Government of Zambia in the education sector such as free education upto school level to all, employment of teachers etc. He praised Zambia's remarkable journey and efforts towards economic recovery and development, debt restructuring reflecting the New Dawn Government's commitment to nation's progress. He reaffirmed that India is true friend of Zambia and stands with Zambia in all its trying times. He informed that India provided approx. 3.5 tonnes of humanitarian assistance comprising water purification supplies, chlorine tablets and ORS sachets in the wake of Cholera outbreak.

6. High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar called for strengthening of bilateral cooperation in education sector, including setting up of campuses of higher learning in the field of engineering, ICT, management and other professional courses in Zambia. He also requested Zambia to consider setting up educational campuses on the lines of Indian Institute of Madras, Zanzibar. He also urged Zambian government to encourage Zambian students to take admission in the IITM, Zanzibar, a world-renowned institute in the African continent itself.

7. High Commissioner also urged Zambian students to take advantage of Government of India's 'Study in India' programme, ICCR scholarships and 'e-VidyaBharti' (eVBAB) programme which provides fully funded scholarship for online programme 'iLearn' by the Government of India.

8. Hon'ble Felix Mutati, Minister for Technology and Science eulogized the strong bilateral relationship between India and Zambia. He highly appreciated ITEC scholarships and various development cooperation initiatives of the government of India helping Zambia in capacity building and skill development. Highlighting Human Capital Development at the core of the vision of the Government of Zambia, Hon'ble Minister assured that Government of Zambia will make all efforts to utilize all the scholarships under ITEC programme.

9. Hon'ble Minister acknowledged India's advancement in technological sector and spoke of India's landing on the moon. He sought India's support and cooperation in pursuit of the New Dawn Government's

vision for the development of various sectors of the economy under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Republic of Zambia.



10. A sizeable number of ITEC alumni, who successfully completed their ITEC programmes in the last two to three years were invited to the event. Four ITEC alumni, Ms. Catherine Moono Sambi, Ms. Bertha Mululuma, Mr. Benjamin Kasweka and Mr. Chabala Luswili from various Ministries of the government of Zambia spoke on the occasion. They shared their rich experiences about ITEC programmes they had undertaken. They highly praised the programme and the ways these have benefitted them in their personal and professional life. During informal exchanges, all the participant ITEC alumni expressed similar views of deriving benefit from practical knowledge and experiences imparted during their training in India under ITEC programme. Many ITEC alumni requested to consider their names for further training.

11. Short films on India's G-20 Presidency, Vaccine Maitri and on ITEC Development Partnership were also screened.
