

ICEE 2004 Abstract

International Technology Transfer : An insight into the cooperation between a multi-national and an African University

Dr E. Chikuni, Polytechnic of Namibia
E. Rashayi, University of Zimbabwe

Cooperation and linkages between corporate organisations is a well-established practice in the developed countries of Europe and the USA. The motivation is usually that of mutual benefits to both organisations. The Universities benefit from increased funding and staff motivation and the corporate organisation benefits from potential increased earnings and competitiveness from new developments and innovations arising from academic research efforts. Cooperation between large corporate organisations and small academic institutions in developing countries in a high technology field is a far less common occurrence. The paper will describe one of such co-operations involving CISCO Systems an international computer networking organisation based in the USA and the University of Zimbabwe, Department of Electrical Engineering. It will highlight the process involved in establishing the project, the training process, the challenges and the positive outcomes that resulted from the project. It will also show the benefits of the project within a national context in particular gender sensitivity and promotion of information and communication technology in Zimbabwe.