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# HEET



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## Newsletter

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- COSTECH conducts comprehensive HEET mid-term review, deliberates on more efficacy
- COSTECH-HEET scholarship beneficiaries manifest impressive progress



## HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION ( HEET ) PROJECT





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# Director General Note



**Dr. Amos Nungu**

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) is implementing a five-year (2021-2026) Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project through the World Bank funding. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) takes an overall responsibility of ensuring smooth implementation of this project in the higher learning institutions. COSTECH HEET project implementation contributes to the achievement of the second component of the Project Development Objective (PDO), which aims to strengthen the Management of the Higher Education System. The project implementation features COSTECH as an enabler in enhancing the research and innovation management system in the Higher Learning Institutions. It facilitates the uptake of innovations and other research outputs for economic transformation through academia-industry linkages.

The project focuses on areas such as infrastructure development, strengthening the use of digital technology in education delivery, upgrading curricula, promoting applied research and innovation and strengthening the linkage between the University and the industry. There are several instruments that have been identified for use in order to facilitate the project's implementation.

The project involves three partners: the Government, the World Bank, and the Implementing Agencies where the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology fall in this. These partners, each has legally binding duties and responsibilities established through the duly signed legal agreement between MoEST and COSTECH.

Article 6 of the Grant Agreement provides for the project implementation requirements. The success or otherwise of





this project depends in the final analysis on the implementers. The Project Development Objectives are very clear, the achievement of which measured through attaining key milestones. One of those milestones is the Institutional Project Steering Committee (IPSC). As its name implies, the Steering Committee must provide overall support for the implementation of the project. It is expected to be alert all the time to ensure that project objectives are achieved as per the implementation schedule. The composition, duties and responsibility of the Institutional Project Steering Committee is provided under Article 6 (2) of the Grant Agreement.

Specifically, the responsibilities of the IPSC are to provide an oversight role in project execution as follows: assessing and approving quarterly project and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports for onward transmission to internal institutional organs before submission to the Ministry, using the prescribed project reporting tool; assessing and approving detailed and timeline-bound annual work plans; and reviewing and approving expenditure reports and additional fund applications; Conducting or holding quarterly meetings or as the need may arise; and ensuring and providing evidence, in conjunction with

the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) that project implementation and reporting are participatory and inclusive in nature.

The committee will also be responsible with exercising a supportive and guidance role to the PIU and shall not cause administrative or bureaucratic delays to HEET Project; playing an oversight role and monitor performance of project activities and in particular the performance of the PIU and make decisions that support the PIU and increase implementation efficiency; reviewing and making decisions on deviation/reforms of project support documents for effective attainment of Project Objectives in relation to the Grant Agreement, Program Appraisal Documents and Project Operational Manuals; and reviewing and approving quarterly and annual project implementation progress.

The above IPSC roles crucial and fundamental, including the Government of Tanzania has a lot of interest in this project, and so are the other partners. I therefore urge all stakeholders to understand this sensitivity and never allow anything to undermine the achievement of the goals set, we must aim for a distinction.





## **COSTECH consolidates Grievances Redress Mechanisms for HEET Project**

*By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET*

**T**he Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) is taking all necessary measures to ensure smooth implementation of the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project by consolidating Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs) at different areas and components, it has been informed.

According to the information obtained, various instruments have been formulated and are put in place for implementation in order to address various related aspects such as grievances in the construction

sites, issues to do with gender-based violence and others.

Among the instruments for GRM that COSTECH has already formulated, and this Newsletter managed to learn about them, include the establishment and operationalisation of grievance redress mechanism committee and the gender desk committee.

In order to make these committees operational, COSTECH prepared operational instruments which include Guideline for the formation and operation of Grievances Redress Mechanism; Grievances Redress Mechanism Manual; Gender



Desk; and Grievances Handling Procedures.

Speaking about the Guideline for the formation and operation of Grievances Redress Mechanism recently, COSTECH Director General, Dr. Amos Nungu said it was a guidance to support COSTECH build and operationalise the COS-GRM to pre-empt, reduce, and resolve complaints, concerns, and grievances relating COSTECH's product and service delivery to its clients.

"The COS-GRM framework includes: a) the building blocks (constituting of organisational placement and people, principles, and people), b) key steps in building a functional GRM (including assessment of the requirements, policies, and needs), and; c) The GRM value chain (including forming the grievance handling team and committees, the grievance recording, and action)", explained Dr. Nungu in the recently released document.

He further said that the objective of the COSTECH GRM is to pre-empt, reduce, and resolve complaints, concerns, and grievances relating COSTECH's product and service delivery to the government, its partners, its staff and its clients.

### **Meeting the needs of the COSTECH's client base**

Meanwhile, HEET Project Assistant Coordinator Dr. Aloyce Andrew said that the emphasis of the GRM document is on the implementation

guidelines and the operationalisation of the GRM to meet the needs of the COSTECH's client base. The framework of national and institutional policies, regulations, and principles has been dealt justice.

"The emphasis is not to restate this framework. The background in this document only orients the existing GRM framework to the specific needs and conditions of functionality at COSTECH without overly restating the framework", he said.

Meanwhile, the Social and Gender Safeguards Specialist, Ms. Nichiza Malaki stressed that the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was necessary for addressing the legitimate concerns of the Project Affected Persons (PAP). "Grievance handling mechanisms provide a formal avenue for affected groups or stakeholders to engage with the project on issues of concern or unaddressed impacts".

She added that: "Grievances are any complaints or suggestions about the way a project is being implemented, and they may take the form of specific complaints for damages/injury, concerns around resettlement and compensation, concerns about routine project activities, or perceived incidents or impacts".

She further said that COSTECH has also introduced to stakeholders the procedures through which they may





file their grievances, compliments and opinions regarding COSTECH products and services.

### ***Establishing and launching Gender Desk (GD)***

Ms. Malaki further unveiled that COSTECH has formulated the Gender Desk, which was underway to be launched, which would enable COSTECH to address the agenda of gender issues which include gender violence and gender inequalities as well as setting efforts to educate employees, service providers and all stakeholders in the institution about the importance of considering gender issues in their day-to-day activities.

“Also, it will help the institution to have feasible and sustainable plans and goals so that all stakeholders can benefit from. This step will improve employees and stakeholders’ confidence, commitment and

independence to develop a nation driven by Science, Technology and Innovation”, said Ms. Malaki.

She further said that the desk could also be given a strategic role to mainstream gender and oversee designing and implementation of gender policies and its activities. This can include but not limited to prevention, response, and monitoring of gender violence as well as strategic plans and actions toward awareness-raising, empowerment, and issues related to gender equality and equity.



# COSTECH conducts comprehensive HEET mid-term review, deliberates on more efficacy

By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET



The Agency Project Implementation Unit (APIU) for the Higher Education Economic Transformation (HEET) Project at the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has recently conducted a thoroughgoing project mid-term review and deliberated on more efficient implementation, it can be reported.

According to HEET Project Assistant Coordinator at COSTECH, Dr. Aloyce Andrew HEET, the review, which was done in Arusha in August, 2024, also included assessing the Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons Learnt (MELL) report, aimed at, among other things, at stock-taking of project implementation and an assessment

of whether the implementation is on track to achieve its development objectives.

“The review also validated soundness and relevance of initial project development objectives; design including activities; results framework – including targets; risks, implementation arrangements; and others in light of implementation performance and evidence of results, with a view on the outcome at project completion; leading to recommendations for way forward to enhance project development objectives”, said Dr. Andrew.

Dr. Andrew said that, this review was critical and undertaken timely as COSTECH ended the 3rd year of HEET project



implementation and that APIU team was vested with the duty of frequently reporting to the Management on the project implementation status and the preparation of all reports as required by external consumers such as the World Bank, the Ministry Education, Science, and Technology.

“Given the scale and importance of this project, it is important to periodically to assess and report on the implementation status. The implementation assessment enables the management to be updated on the relevance of the project, effectiveness and efficiency of the project, significant achievements, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations”, said Dr. Andrew. He further said that performance reports ensured compliance with monitoring, evaluation and lessons learned principles considering that the HEET project included a combination of interventions organized under three components designed to improve the quality of learning environments and programs, and to enhance the management of the higher education system.

This review for the project performance in the three years of project implementation (2021-2024) was held at Arusha Technical College, and the session included APIU team which comprised of the implementation focus areas specialists, the Chairperson for the MELL Committee, NPIU MELL specialist and Public Relations and Communication specialist from the University of Dar es Salaam.

### ***A focus on Development Project Objectives and Implementation Progress***

Meanwhile, Dr. Rigobert Ngeleja, HEET Project Research and Innovation Specialist as well as Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at COSTECH said the review focused on two major areas namely

Development Project Objectives (PDO) whose discussion was on what needed to be forward-looking and assess the likelihood of achieving them; and Implementation Progress which provided a snapshot of what is happening on the project.

“The key questions in this regard included, for instance, is the project being implemented properly? What have been the challenges and bottlenecks thus far and what needs to be done to overcome them? So, the mid-review report thus mainly detailed and commented on these aspects”, said Dr. Ngeleja.

Dr. Ngeleja said that the final Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons Learnt Mid-Review (MELL-MTR) report thus included major components namely executive summary; project description; project outcome or implementation progress; fiduciary aspects and risk management safeguards; sustainability strategies; lessons learned; and the question whether there was a need for restructuring; and implementation challenges.

He also informed that the review draft outputs or reports were prepared and submitted to the management for review and recommendations before being submitted to the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology and further to the World Bank.





# COSTECH sets solid frameworks to foster academic-industry linkages

By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project, has undertaken significant steps in response to the rapidly evolving labour market by setting up new frameworks to enhance academic-industry linkages. According to Dr. Rigobert Ngeleja, HEET Project Research and Innovation Specialist, and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at COSTECH, the planned frameworks will lead to enabling environment for sharing data emanating from Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) stakeholders.

“This will offer guidelines for rating of scientific research competence and

the establishment and management of Higher Learning Institutions, Research and Development institutions and industry in Science, Technology and Innovation for developing research and innovation for sustainable development”, said Dr. Ngeleja.

Dr. Ngeleja highlighted that the guidelines would strengthen and accelerate the development in research, innovation and technology sectors in the country whereby every guideline aims to provide consistent direction in responsible sector.

The guidelines, which will be launched on 4th October, 2024 include the National Framework for Linkage between Higher Learning Institutions, and Research and



Development and Industries; the National Data Sharing Framework for Science, Technology, and Innovation; and the National Framework for Scientific Research Competence.

He said that the National Framework for Linkage between Higher Learning Institutions, Research and Development and Industries provides guidance on the establishment and management of assisting where HLIs, R&Ds and industry interact to enhance the contribution of research and innovation outputs in Tanzanian economic development.

“The National Data Sharing Framework for Science, Technology, and Innovation provides an enabling environment for sharing data emanating from STI stakeholders. This environment refers to both technical and legal considerations in a manner that provides an effective scale and scope required to facilitate data sharing among the stakeholders”, he said.

He added that, the National Framework for Scientific Research Competence aimed to evaluate the ability and skills of our Researchers in international standards.

“All these guidelines went through a thorough process with collaboration of different stakeholders from Ministries, Government Institutions, Higher Learning Institutions, Research Institutions, and the Private Sector, from both the Mainland and Zanzibar”, he said.

As the COSTECH continues to evolve, these guidelines represent a strategic move to foster more development in Research and Innovation for sustainable development.







## COSTECH-HEET scholarship beneficiaries manifest impressive progress

*By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET*

**F**our members of staff of the Tanzania Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) who are beneficiaries of the affluent PhD scholarship provided by the HEET project, have demonstrated promising progress with expectations to complete studies end of 2024 and 2025.

Speaking to the members of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons Learned (MELL) Committee of the COSTECH HEET project at different times when it paid a courtesy call in their respective Universities recently, the four PhD candidates showed positive progress, with promises to complete their studies timely.

The four PhD students, with their

programmes and universities where they are doing their studies include Marco Martin Mwendo (PhD in Sustainable Agriculture (Plant Molecular Breeding) at Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology); and Norah Venance Mdee (PhD in Agricultural and Rural Innovation, Sokoine University of Agriculture).

Others are Ntufye Simon Mwakigonja (PhD in Natural Resource Assessment and Management, University of Dar es Salaam); and Frank Peter Fovo (PhD in Food Science and Technology, University of Dar es Salaam).

The MELL committee members, during the visit, met both students and supervisors who explained their plans, challenges and



prospects as far as the students' studies progresses were concerned. "From the conversations we held with them, that is scholarship beneficiaries and supervisors, it is apparent that their progress is satisfying, and promising that they will complete their studies in time", said Dr. Deogracious Protas, the MELL committee chairperson at COSTECH.

The four members of staff began their PhD studies in 2021/2022 and, except Norah Mdee whose studies duration is four years, the other three members of staff expect to complete their studies within their planned three years timeline.

"The scholarship was under the MASIP budget in which, out of the total project budget of USD 8,000,000 granted to the Commission, about USD 160,000 was for long-term training granted by the government of Tanzania under the HEET Project and we are very happy that all the four members of staff who received this scholarship have demonstrated promising progress", said Hamad Badi Ngowo, COSTECH-HEET specialist on capacity building.







## COSTECH signs contract with consultant for state-of-the-art STI Complex

*By Teresia Mbunda, COSTECH-HEET*

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has signed a contract with the consultant, Mekon Arch Consult, for design, review and supervision of construction of its new Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Complex and renovation of COSTECH buildings, under the World Bank grant, the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project.

This momentous occasion took place on 8th, August 2024 in Dar es Salaam, and was graced by the presence of the guest of honour, the COSTECH Director General, Dr. Amos Nungu, consultant, Agency Project Implementation Unit (APIU) and other Commission members of staff.

Dr. Nungu urged both the consultant and

the COSTECH project implementing unit to ensure that the respective consultancy assignment and other construction activities were undertaken professionally, timely and according to the rules and regulations.

“The Commission is well prepared to make a close follow up of the implementation of this project which is intended to bring about efficiency in the areas of higher education management, research and innovation public service”, said Dr. Nungu.

Dr. Nungu further said that the objectives of the HEET project, through which the funds for such STI complex construction came from, were in line with the Commission’s Vision and mission of a nation driven by science and technology; and to ensure utilisation of knowledge-based products through coordination and promotion



of science, technology, and innovation for rapid social-economic development, respectively.

Meanwhile, HEET Project Assistant Coordinator at COSTECH Dr. Aloyce Andrew said the contract, worth 408,347,500/- Tanzania shillings, would cover provision of consultancy services for design, preparation of bidding documents, cost estimates and supervision of the construction of the STI complex in Dodoma and renovation of COSTECH headquarters building in Dar es Salaam.

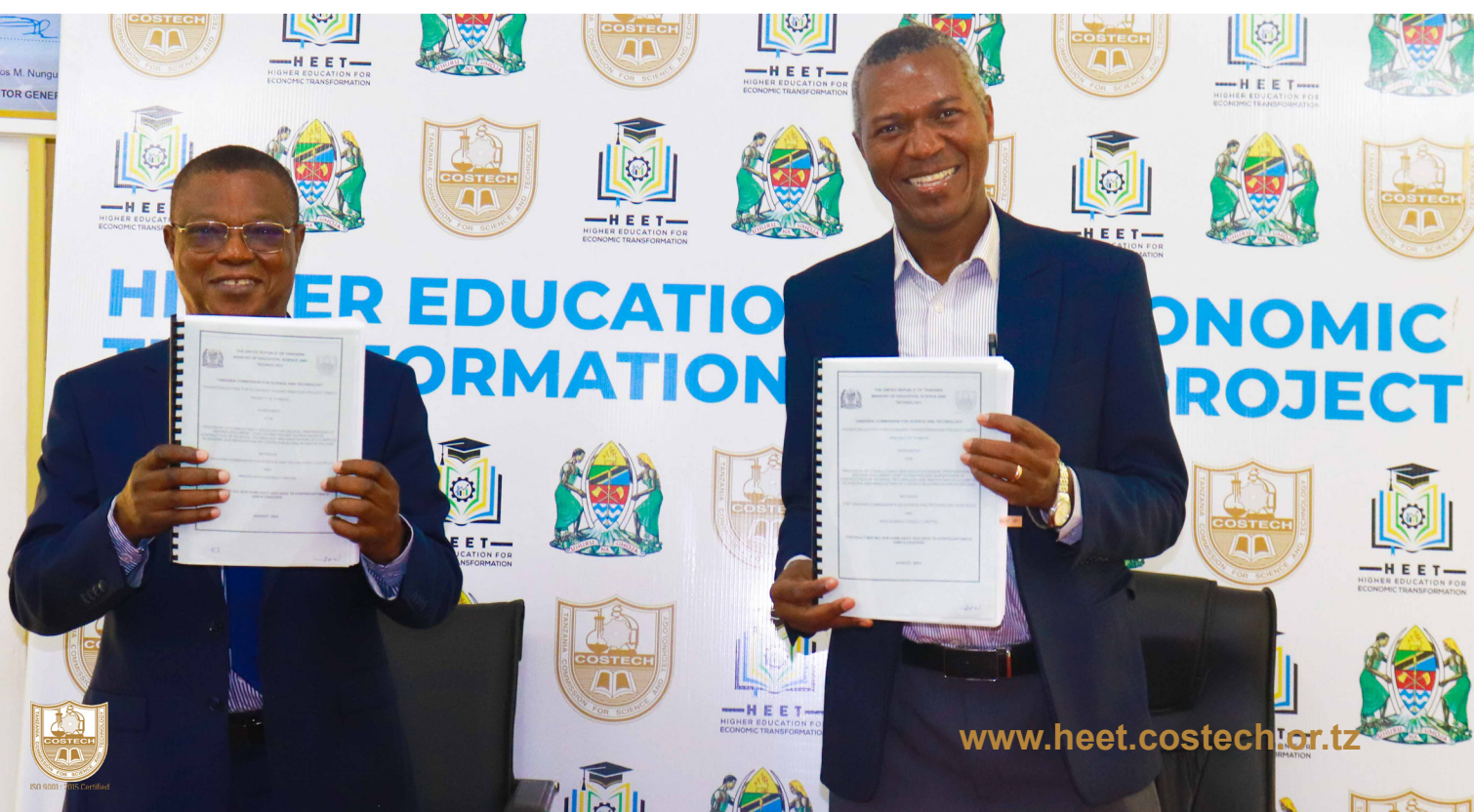
Dr. Andrew also urged the consultant to abide with all the agreements made in the respective assignment as the STI Complex is very important to COSTECH for it will offer incubation space for researchers to gain skills for acquiring market; innovation space for ideation and mentorship; innovation laboratory, office spaces, knowledge lab, hall, and theatres.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer of Mekon Arch Consult, Dr. Moses Mekoni commended COSTECH for its progress and assured that the consultant company was well prepared to fulfill its role in the project by providing relevant design and construction management service on time.

"After signing the contract, Mekon has become COSTECH ambassador, and it is very essential to maintain the high level of standards in implementing this task while ensuring that it is complemented on time for further processes to take place", said Dr Mekony.

According to Dr. Andrew, the HEET Project at COSTECH which is worth USD 8 million, focuses on seven key areas, namely, construction and rehabilitation of technology and innovation support infrastructure; promoting applied research and innovation capacity in R&D and HLI; building functional linkages with the private sector/industry for the uptake of innovation and research outputs; and establishing and upgrading of state-of-the-art ICT Infrastructure.

Other areas include equipment and services for the management of research and innovations; developing options for self-generated income; and building capacity of COSTECH staff and project administration, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.







# More optimism as COSTECH hands over STI complex site to consultant

*By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET*

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has recently handed over to the consultant the site where its new Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Complex will be built – bringing optimism for construction to be undertaken in the near future, thanks to the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project support.

The handing over of this site in Dodoma City, which has marked a pivotal milestone and progress in COSTECH mission to improve researchers and scientists working environment in Tanzania, suggests assurance that, with the presence of the STI complex, more scientific and innovation works will reach higher heights.

“With this HEET project, which is funded by the World Bank, the Commission’s capacity is going to be increased, and the institutions and researchers we work with are going to even contribute more to the nation’s economic growth and development”, said Dr. Aloyce Andrew, who is HEET project Assistant Coordinator at COSTECH.

Dr. Andrew further said that the handling of the site to the consultant, MEKON Arch Consult, happens after COSTECH signed the contract, worth 408,347,500/- Tanzania shillings with the consultant on 8th August, 2024, to design, review and supervise of construction of the STI complex.

During the handover ceremony, Dr. Andrew emphasized the importance of this building which, after the construction is completed, will offer Incubation space for researchers to gain skills for acquiring market; innovation space for ideation and mentorship; innovation laboratory, office spaces, knowledge lab, hall, and theatres.

Meanwhile, the representative of the consultant, MEKON Arch Consult, assured the Commission of their dedication to completing their assignment on schedule, and that they have already commenced their work by conducting topographic and geotechnical survey. The contract for the actual construction of the STI complex is expected be signed in December, 2024.

The HEET project, backed by the Tanzanian

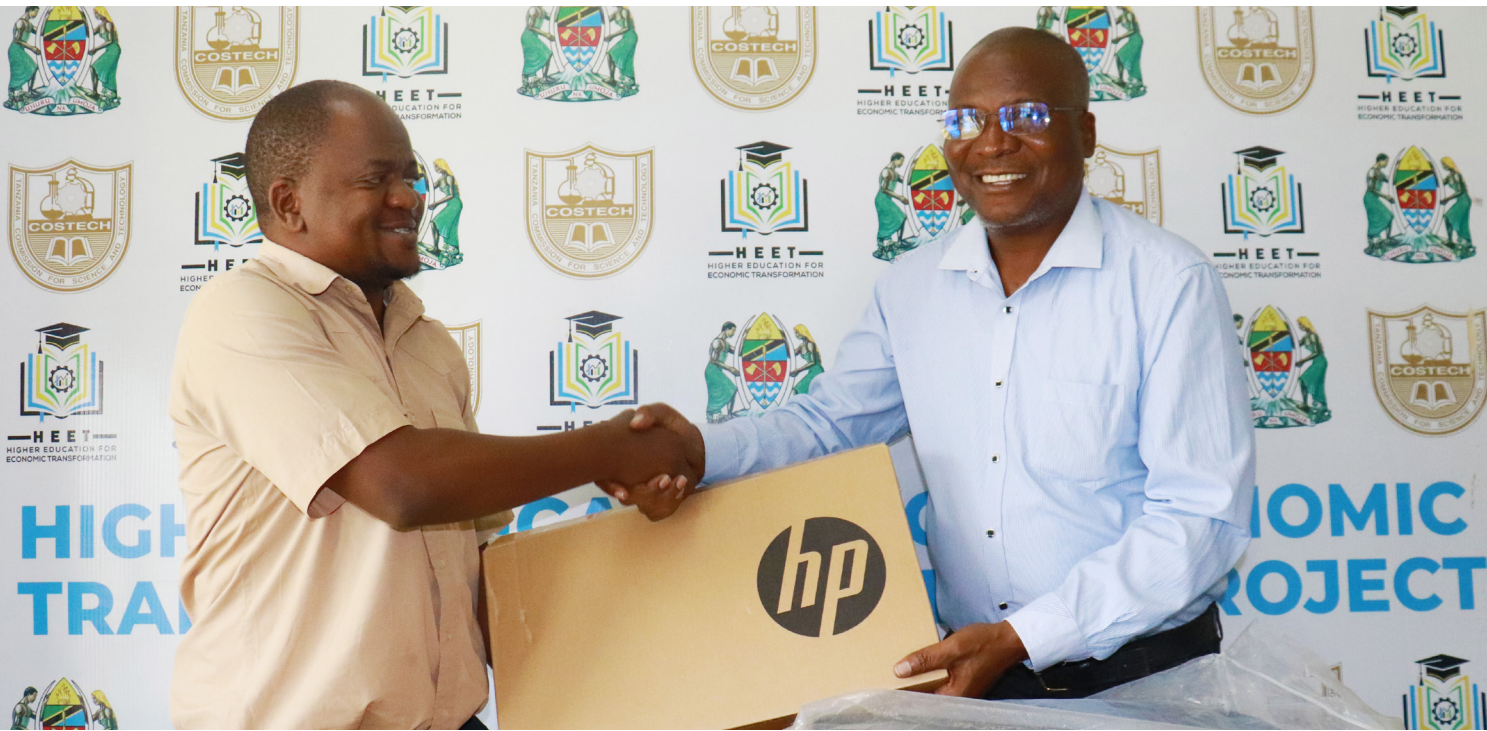


government and the World Bank, is a cornerstone of COSTECH mission to ensure utilization of knowledge-based products through coordination and promotion of science, technology and innovation for rapid social-economic development. Apart from the construction of the STI complex, COSTECH through the HEET

project, is rehabilitating comprehensively its headquarters building in Dar es Salaam.







## APIU receives ICT equipment to bolster project implementation

By Teresia Mbunda, COSTECH-HEET

Members of the Agency Project Implementation Unit (APIU) for the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) initiative at the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology have received ICT equipment to support implementation activities, thanks to the project support.

During the handover ceremony which took place at COSTECH, HEET Assistant Coordinator, Dr. Aloyce Andrew said the equipment were instrumental in the implementation of both the Commission key functions and the project activities and marked a significant milestone in the COSTECH's commitment to promoting research and innovation.

"The equipment will serve better our project implementation team, and will strengthen the capacity of our institution, and lead to more efficient undertaking of

their roles and responsibilities", said Dr. Andrew

He further noted that the state-of-the-art equipment received would not only enhance their working conditions but also could enable them to deal with various research, project, innovation and linkages with sector.

"We are optimistic that the accomplishing of various activities of the project will now be more efficient. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the government at large for their inclusion of COSTECH in this remarkable project", he said.

The ICT equipment that the APIU members received include ten (10) laptops, and one projector, and UPS facility.



## Call for innovation support to higher learning institutions attracts plentiful applications

By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET



The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) call for innovation support to higher learning institutions (HLIs) through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project, has attracted improbable big number of applicants, this Newsletter can report.

According to the information received from COSTECH HEET coordination office, individuals who submitted their applications for the call, which could support up to 14 innovation projects with each receiving a budget not exceeding twenty million (TZS 20,000,000), reached more than 110 from seven (out of 19) Tanzania higher learning institutions that

are HEET beneficiaries.

The call, whose deadline for submission of eligible applications to COSTECH was 19th September, 2024, based on the COSTECH's aim to strengthen science, technology and innovation management systems to support innovations as well as utilization of emanated research results within the HLIs through innovation intermediaries such as Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs), Innovation spaces and others.

According to Dr. Rigobert Ngeleja, HEET Project Research and Innovation Specialist, and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at COSTECH, through this call, the Commission will support technology development from



prototyping to minimum viable product (proven product), with a special focus on student or graduate students within the project implementation period, that is from 2021 to date.

“This call targeted fourteen priority areas of HEET project namely, engineering and technology; ICT; material sciences; health sciences; urban and environmental engineering and technology; renewable energy; water resources; climate change; agriculture and agribusiness; wildlife conservation; tourism and hospitality; academic industry linkages; humanities; and education”, said Dr. Ngeleja.

Dr Ngeleja explained the submission guidelines for the innovation project to include Research and Development (R&D) results that show proof of system components of a prototype; to show exactly how and where the R&D product will be piloted and transferred to users or

potential customers; and R&D results to show prospects of supply chain of system components.

“Other guidelines include the fact that R&D results must show prospects of potential customers or users either in industry or community; and each innovation must indicate milestones and deliverables in achieving its minimum viable product and the associated budget”, he said.

COSTECH is among twenty-two institutions implementing the HEET (Higher Education for Economic Transformation) Project led by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and has received a total budget of USD 8,000,000 to implement various project activities.



# Gallery









# Dr. Nungu stresses on effective HEET implementation as COSTECH staff train on GRM

By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET

The Director General of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) Dr. Amos Nungu has urged all members of staff to effectively take part in the implementation of the Higher Education for Economic

Transformation (HEET) project for realisation of intended objectives and subsequent successes.

This was said by Dr. Nungu, who was represented by the Commission's Director of Corporate Services and HEET Project Coordinator at COSTECH, Mr. Imanuel Mgonja, during the officiating of the one-day training on the project Grievances Redress Mechanism which was held in Dar es Salaam in August, 2024.

Dr. Nungu said that working efficiently in the implementation of the project included working professionally in various aspects and activities such as handling grievances and complaints from members of staff and other stakeholders.

"It is very important that everyone participates and implements their respective tasks as per the project objectives. We are gathered here to remind each other about our roles and responsibilities which include how you can handle not only HEET project grievances but also complaints and related challenges in your respective offices", said Dr. Nungu.





He said that the training was very vital as it aimed at strengthening communication and handling of the project grievances and improving good governance using the e-government electronic system for handling grievances and opinion, E-mrejesho.

Meanwhile, the HEET Project Assistant Coordinator at COSTECH, Dr. Aloyce M. Andrew, said the HEET project aimed improving various systems in the Higher education Institutions in Tanzania for producing relevant knowledge to ensure such required skills and knowledge is imparted in order to realise the government's objective to make the Higher Education is for indeed for Economic Transformation.

The workshop covered various crucial topics, with presentations and discussions focusing on the COSTECH-HEET project and grievance handling procedures. Key figures in the University's HEET Project Team were present to shed light on these issues and respond to queries from attendees.

Apart from other project leaders who presented insights into the HEET project at COSTECH, shedding light on its objectives and significance through aspects such as project background and advantages of

providing support to the COSTECH buildings rehabilitation processes, the Social and Gender Safeguards Specialist, Ms. Nichiza Malaki covered a topic on issues namely Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM); Gender Based Violence (GBV); Sexual Exploitation Abuse/ Harassment (SEAH) issues; and service providers map.

"The project awareness training was meant to make COSTECH family to positively support the achievement of the intended results during the HEET project activities implementation including construction and rehabilitation of some COSTECH building Rehabilitation", said Ms. Malaki

She stressed that the workshop was a significant step in ensuring that the concerns and grievances of the HEET project are addressed promptly and effectively. "We value the contributions of all our staff and stakeholders and are committed to ensuring their concerns are heard and resolved. The platform through which these concerns can be aired is the special email, [malalamiko@costech.or.tz](mailto:malalamiko@costech.or.tz)





## National Information System for Science, Technology and Innovation (NISSTI) in the offing

By Teresia Mbunda, COSTECH-HEET

In a move towards massive technological advancement, the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology under HEET project is currently working on developing one useful National Information System for Science, Technology and Innovation (NISSTI), it has been learnt.

This was informed during the internal stakeholder's forum to collect variables for the system, famously known as systems required specifications that would be used to for the NISSTI formulation and functioning, which was held from 23rd to 24th September 2024.

Speaking when officiating this forum, the Director General of COSTECH,

Dr. Amos Nungu highlighted the importance of having a centralized National Information System for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NISSTI) that would facilitate effective coordination and working.

"This system will help streamline research and innovation activities in the country as well as support accordingly collaboration, and improve access to relevant data", said Dr Nungu.

Meanwhile, the Acting Director of Knowledge Management at COSTECH, Mr. Daudi Mboma said the NISSTI will support research and innovation processes by increasing their number, facilitate the collection and sharing of data



across institutions, and enhance communication and collaboration among researchers and innovators in Tanzania.

“Through HEET, this system is expected to be one of the stock centres of science technology and innovation information. It will help in research and development, higher learning institutions (HLIs), innovation and technology transfer, research fund and grant management, as well as knowledge storage and dissemination and publication, and science technology and innovation dashboard”, said Mr. Mboma.

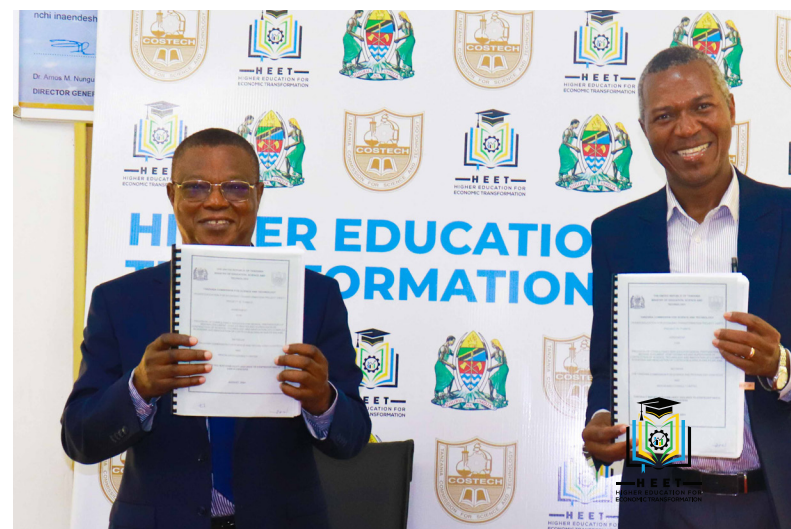
Dr. Bunini Wilbert Manyilizu, the facilitator of this internal stakeholder’s forum on NISSTI described the relevant variables for NISSTI and the data sharing process and its importance as well as how the system could ensure secure and efficient access to research data.

He also explained about collaboration between research institutions, universities, and private innovators, and potential challenges such as data security and the immense opportunities NISSTI presents for national development.

“NISSTI represents a transformative step forward for Tanzania’s research and innovation landscape by centralizing data, fostering collaboration, and supporting national development goals”, said Dr. Manyilizu.

He added that through HEET project “this system will play a fundamental role in advancing science, technology, and innovation in our country. However, its success relies not only on the technology itself but also on the active participation and commitment of every researcher, innovator, and institution represented here today”.

He encouraged members of staff to embrace NISSTI and explore the vast potential it offers to streamline our efforts, share knowledge, and create impactful innovations. “Together, we can ensure that NISSTI becomes a cornerstone of our scientific and technological advancement. This is a thriving platform for the future of Tanzania’s research and innovation community”.







## COSTECH impressively secures ESIA certificate for construction of its complex

By Mary Kigosi, COSTECH-HEET

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has received its anxiously awaited Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificate for the proposed construction of its Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Complex, this Newsletter can report. Speaking recently about this achievement, HEET Project Assistant Coordinator, Dr. Aloyce Andrew said the certificate was a very significant step towards implementing construction processes of the STI complex which is aimed to support higher education management, and whose costs are largely covered by the World Bank grant, the Higher

Education Economic Transformation (HEET) Project.

“This certificate has come at the right time when other processes for the construction of the STI complex are underway including signing a contract, with the consultant, MEKON Arch Consult, on 8th August, 2024, to design, review and supervise of construction of the this complex”, said Dr. Andrew.

Dr Andrew said that the Commission has also handed over to the consultant the site where its STI complex will be built, in Dodoma City – “another pivotal milestone and progress in COSTECH mission to



improve researchers and scientists working environment in Tanzania”.

Meanwhile, HEET Project Gender and Social Specialist at COSTECH, Ms. Nichiza Malaki said that the securing of the ESIA Certificate for the proposed construction of the STI Complex at Plot no. 11, block B, NCC Mlimani area, Salmini mtaa,



Tambukareli Ward in Dodoma City, has been possible after undergoing several steps required by National Environmental Management Council (NEMC).

“Firstly, COSTECH engaged a consultant to conduct an ESIA investigation as guided by the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC). Secondly, the signing of the contract for undertaking ESIA study was done on 30th January 2024 which marked the commencement of the environmental and social investigations”, said Ms. Malaki.

She further said that after COSTECH had shown the site to the consultant, an inception and ESIA draft reports were submitted which were subsequently reviewed before they were submitted to NEMC for project certification and World Bank (WB) clearance.

“Earlier, the engaged consultant for undertaking ESIA submitted a scoping report for review before submitting the same to NEMC for project registration. This report was reviewed by COSTECH for ensuring that environmental and social considerations were adequately addressed in the proposed project, the construction of the STI Complex”, said Ms. Malaki.

Ms. Malaki said that this review session was critical to ensure that the ESIA report meets all necessary standards and adequately addresses the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed STI Complex construction project.

She added that, all these processes were undertaken so that “the construction project is developed and implemented in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental and social impacts while considering the concerns of stakeholders and complying with legal requirements”.





# COSTECH HEET Project Newsletter to cover multiple areas

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) is implementing a USD 8 million World Bank's Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project for various activities to transform higher education management.

The HEET project at COSTECH, which is implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, covers a range of areas including focuses on seven key areas, namely, construction and rehabilitation of technology and innovation support infrastructure; promoting applied research and innovation capacity in Research

and Development and Higher Learning Institutions; building functional linkages with the private sector/industry for the uptake of innovation and research outputs; and establishing and upgrading of state-of-the-art ICT Infrastructure.

Other areas include equipment and services for the management of research and innovations; developing options for self-generated income; and building capacity of COSTECH staff and project administration, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

In implementing such multiple and diverse



areas that the HEET project is dealing with at COSTECH, the Commission formulated a special Agency Project Implementing Unit (APIU) that comprises of experts from such different respective areas through which the project is being implemented.

Therefore, apart from the project Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator who is also the Environmental Specialist, other members of the APIU include Building Construction Specialist; Research and Innovation Specialist/ Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; Information and Communication Technology Specialist; Gender and Social Specialist; Procurement Specialist; Financial Specialist; Financial Assistant Specialist; Logistics and Documentation Specialist; Communication and Public Relations Specialist; and Capacity Building Specialist.

These diverse areas depict the numerous activities that are being undertaken in the course of the project implementation which, as a result, need to be publicized and communicated properly through various platforms to different stakeholders.

One of the platforms through which the diverse COSTECH HEET areas and activities are covered and publicized is thus this newsletter. This newsletter, which is published biannually, reports about progresses, news, analysis, and any related information about such diverse but focused project areas and activities at COSTECH.

Therefore, this newsletter serves both as the COSTECH HEET project platform as well as a bridge between the APIU and various stakeholders through which opinions, suggestions, concerns and grievances can be aired and be addressed as well. We therefore urge everyone to make use of this important platform and forum for desired successful implementation of the HEET project particularly at COSTECH, and for the betterment of this institution in general.

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