



UNIDO 20th GENERAL CONFERENCE MISSION REPORT

THE PROJECT FOR PROMOTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT THROUGH CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATING SKILLS TRAINING



24 NOVEMBER 2023 – 02 DECEMBER 2023



HITACHI

Reliable solutions



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

SAP 200069 project aims to contribute to closing the skills gap in Zambia's construction and mining industries in order to support the country's Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP). This will be achieved through three outputs, 1) Developing and accrediting a competency-based and demand-driven modern curriculum for construction equipment operator's workforce; 2) Establishing a regional centre of excellence for construction equipment operator training; and 3) Providing vocational training and career services to unemployed and underemployed youths, with a particular focus on female and disadvantaged students. This project (SAP 200069) builds on UNIDO's extensive experience in the design and implementation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), particularly in projects adopting the Public-Private Development Partnership (PPDP) modality. Partnership between the Government of Japan, the Government of Zambia, Hitachi Construction Machinery (HCM), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will stimulate systemic change in closing the skills gap observed in the construction and mining sectors in Zambia.

The project for promoting youth employment through Heavy equipment operator skills training (herein referred to as KVTC project) seeks to provide decent employment opportunities for youths in Zambia. The expected outcome is that Zambian youths are professionally qualified to fulfil the human resource demands for skilled Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO) in the construction and mining sectors.

2. AIM

In line with project communication strategy to increase project visibility, participation in the UNIDO 20th General Conference under the theme: Fair Globalization innovative solutions for the industry of tomorrow; was undertaken to showcase the project at the exhibition stand.

3. OUTCOMES

a. UNIDO 20th General Conference

Participated in the general conference: The [UNIDOs 20th conference](#) under the theme; Fair Globalization innovative solutions for the industry of tomorrow was conducted from the 27th to 1st December, 2023 at the Vienna International Centre, Austria. The General Conference (GC) is UNIDO's supreme policymaking organ where all Member States meet once every two years. It determines the guiding principles and policies of the Organization, approves the budget and work programme of UNIDO. The meeting was a hybrid session with both in person and online attendance from member states and other representatives. The general conference provided a platform for showcasing the project through exhibition stands, knowledge sharing and interaction with key strategic players such as representatives from HITACHI Construction Machinery and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and industry Zambia, who were also present. In addition to the exhibition stands, the conference held preliminary sessions and thematic events that promoted talks around innovation and creative ideas for the industry of tomorrow.

b. Exhibition at the stand

The exhibition at the stand provided an opportunity for project visibility within attendees in the general conference. The stand was strategically positioned at a corner that provided more visibility for individuals who were passing in that

direction. Notably over approx. 100 people gazed at the stand to capture the short narrative about the project that was displayed including the [video](#) and models at the stand. Visitors who came to the stand inquired about the project, including asking technical questions, expressing interest for engagement, visiting the project site to learn more and possibility of enrolment for international students. Senior officials attending the conference also passed through the stand including the UNIDO Director General Mr. Gerd Müller, the permanent secretary for the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry in Zambia along with his delegation, Senior officials from UNIDO member states, UNIDO staff and other representatives. The stand was equipped with marketing kit, business cards for contacts and staff present at all times. Participants who were present at the project exhibition stand include the following in the table below;

#	Name	Title	Organization
1	Jonathan Lemisa	Manager, Training and Human Capital	HCMZ
2	Hideki Hattori	Company President	HCMZ
3	Nephas Moyo	National Project Coordinator	UNIDO ZM
4	Chie Matsumoto	Project Manager	UNIDO HQ
5	Elena Cooke	Communications Expert	UNIDO HQ
6	Harry Beachcroft-Shaw	Project Associate	UNIDO HQ
7	Angora Aman	Vocational Training Expert	UNIDO

Table showing list of participants at the booth



Picture showing the exhibition at the stand

4. TAKE AWAYS

Overall, participating in this conference provided an opportunity for learning and knowledge exchange through dialog and interactions with various participants. It also provided room for opportunities and possible future synergies with other players from different parts of the world. The event also created a platform for increasing project

visibility which in a great sense will in turn attract attention, support and possible collaborations with various players.

5. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There was Less industry participation and would recommend to have more participation from Industry especially for the exhibitions and innovation talks.