

High Commission of India Lusaka

Press Release

Celebration of ITEC DAY 2021 (28th March 2022)

As a part of the ongoing celebrations of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", High Commission of India Lusaka celebrated ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) Day 2021 on 28th March 2022 at hotel Taj Pamodzi, Lusaka.



2. His Excellency Mr. Douglas Munsaka Syakalima, Honourable Minister of Education of the Republic of Zambia graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.



3. High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar in his address highlighted excellent bilateral relations with Zambia built over more than five decades

encompassing political, economic, commercial and development cooperation. Describing ITEC programme as an important and integral part of our bilateral relations with Zambia, High Commissioner mentioned Development Partnership as a cornerstone of India's foreign policy, which is based on two pillars ie working for mutual benefit and cooperation based on priorities identified by the partner. He stated that ITEC programme aims to support capacity building and skill development of Zambians working in various government departments and institutions through customised training programmes in agriculture, micro and small enterprise development, renewable energy, information technology, public finance management etc.



(High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar addressing the gathering)

Underlining the impact of ITEC programme, High Commissioner mentioned that 1100 Zambians have so far benefitted from this programme since 2005 in areas like agriculture, engineering, information technology and education. He also mentioned that for the year 2022, the number of ITEC civilian slots have increased to 170 from 70 in 2015. Under the ITEC Defence scheme, several senior and serving defence personnel have undergone training at various Defence Training Institutes in India and number of Defence slots have also increased to 22 for 2022 from 6 in 2020.

Highlighting the salient features of Govt. of India's New Education Policy 2020, High Commissioner mentioned that it envisages re-structuring of the school curriculum, ensure holistic development, reduce curriculum content and encourages experimental learning and empowers students through flexibility in course choices and stresses on vocational training.

High Commissioner further added that besides ITEC programme, Zambians also benefitted from Government of India's other programmes viz. 70 candidates in the last seven years benefitted from Scholarship programme by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and 86 Zambian students have been awarded scholarships under Study in India programme. He also mentioned that Zambia is also a participating country of iLearn

Scholarship Programme of the Government of India. Mulungushi University in Kabwe is the iLearn Centre in Zambia under this programme and so far around 800 students from Zambia have benefitted from iLearn Programme.

4. Guest of Honour His Excellency Mr. Douglas Munsaka Syakalima, Honourable Minister of Education in his keynote address highlighted close India-Zambia historic relations based on the strong foundation in the spirit of South-South Cooperation and Non-Aligned Movement. Highlighting bilateral cooperation in the field of education between both countries, the Minister underlined that ITEC programme plays an important role in it and greatly helps Zambia in capacity building and skill development of Zambia's human Resources. He mentioned that under the ITEC programme 161 countries across the world are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience acquired over six decades India's existence as a free nation. ITEC programmes have generated immense goodwill and substantive cooperation among the developing countries.



(H.E. Mr. Douglas Munsaka Syakalima, Minister of Education of Republic of Zambia delivering his keynote address)

Hon'ble Minister acknowledged the benefit for Zambia from various programmes of Government of India viz. ITEC Defence Scheme, Scholarship programme by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Study in India programme and online iLearn scholarship programme. He expressed his gratitude for this gesture by Government of India. Highlighting the distinguishing features and comprehensiveness of New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) of Government of India, he mentioned that Zambia as a nation can draw inspiration from it which matches the demands of the 21st Century and will address the many growing developmental imperatives of the country. Minister has also sought support and cooperation of Government of India in pursuit of New Dawn Government's vision for the development of education sector of Zambia.



(ITEC alumni sharing their experiences and benefits of ITEC programme)

5. ITEC alumni currently working in different capacities in Government of Zambia also shared their experiences of participating in ITEC programmes and how they have benefitted in their careers.



6. A short film on ITEC programme was screened. An Indian dance performance was also presented during the event.
