



High Commission of India Lusaka

Press Release

High Commission celebrates ITEC DAY 2022 on 23rd March 2023

High Commission of India, Lusaka celebrated ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) Day 2022 on 23rd March 2023 at hotel Taj Pamodzi, Lusaka. Hon'ble Mr. Gary Nkombo, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Republic of Zambia was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. About 70 ITEC alumni who attended various ITEC courses from 2021 onwards attended the event. A few prominent members from the Indian Community were also present.



2. High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar acknowledged excellent bilateral relations between India and Zambia encompassing areas including Government to Government Development Cooperation, Trade, Commerce & Industry, SME, Agriculture, Health, Education, Energy, Power, Mining, Scientific Research etc. He 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 new modalities like e-ITEC, ITEC-Onsite and ITEC- Executive included in the bouquet of ITEC courses from 2018 onwards. High Commissioner appealed the government of Zambia for full utilization of ITEC slots offered by India. High Commissioner forward looking initiatives of New Dawn Government of Zambia for enhancing Constituency Development Fund from Kwacha 1.6 million to Kwacha 25.7 million in 2022 and Kwacha 28.3 million in 2023.



3. 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, medicines, ICT, management and other professional courses in Zambia. He also requested Zambia to consider India as a destination of quality education at affordable prices for its students. High Commissioner also urged Zambian students to take advantage of Government of India's 'Study in India' programme and 'e-VidyaBharti' (eVBAB) programme which provides fully funded scholarship for online programme 'iLearn' by the Government of India. High Commissioner also spoke about India's G20 Presidency and International Year of Millets 2023.

4. Hon'ble Mr. Gary Nkombo, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development focussed on specifically strong bilateral relationship between India and Zambia. He highly appreciated 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 urged government of India for more scholarships under ITEC programme. He made a special mention about 'Lusaka Decongestant Project' which was completed by Indian company M/s Afcons in the recent past.



5. Hon'ble Minister acknowledged India's advancement in various fields and 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. He called for Indian investment in various sectors of Zambian economy, including setting up of pharmaceutical plant in Zambia.

6. Three ITEC alumni from various Ministries of the government of Zambia spoke on the occasion. They shared their rich experiences about ITEC programmes. They highly praised the programme and the ways these have benefitted them in their skill development and capacity building. 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.

7. Two short films, one on ITEC Programme and the other on India's G20 Presidency were also screened.
