UNIVERSITY of RWANDA

ACEIoT

African Center of Excellence in Internet of Things(ACEIoT)

NewsLetter

October 2019

Orientation day for the ACEIoT students-September 2019 intake

On 3rd October 2019, ACEIoT arranged the orientation for new intake of students. They include Masters and PhD students who are admitted to the Center for the academic year 2019-2020.The main objective of the event was to interact with the new students, provide full information about the Center and its activities and the
access of information and various services offered in the campus.

Dr. Damien Hanyurwimfura the Head of PhD, who represented the Director of the Center, explained different programs that are offered at the Center and the main requirements that students have to fulfil towards the completion of their studies.

Ongoing students have shared experiences with the new students and assured to support for the smooth integration.

In his key note, the Principal of the College of Science and Technology, Dr. Ignace Gatare welcomed the new students and highlighted the essence of the African Centers of Excellence Project. He said the project was designed for the region in a bid to find solutions to regional challenges. "The project was timely. We are now collaborating with the region and the rest of the world to advance postgraduate studies. We are now being able to tackle African problems", he said. He urged students to make effort in conducting research instead of relying only on Lecturers' offerings.

During this event, different departments' representatives have presented the services they offer and requested students to feel free to request for these services as they are on their disposal during their stay at the Center. This year, the Center admitted 7 PhD students and 47 Masters Students.

Students following the presentation about the Center

Oluwatobi Oyinlola a student of Cohort1 Masters programme completed his Student Exchange

Oluwatobi (first from Right) and his teammates at solar pocha working station in France

Oluwatobi Oyinlola, a Master student in African Center of Excellence in Internet of Things (ACEIoT) specialising in Embedded Systems is one among the 20 young innovators from 15 countries that were incubated in France for six months to design, prototype and create projects that will contribute in finding solutions to world pressing challenges. Oluwatobi Oyinlola was selected to join the team after undergoing a very tough competitive selection process. During the 6 months, these innovators collaboratively designed three projects which were fully supported by the French Government and other partners in the European region.

The first project "Colimo" is an application that uses personality traits and deep learning algorithm to recommend places that fit you using Augmented reality to shape, design and change your city for the better, and an emoji called Colimoji which helps you to express your feelings in the place. "The feedback from this app helps city makers/the governments understand the public needs, feelings, for the government to plan and respond accordingly", says Oluwatobi Oyinlola.The team also designed "YOBL" which is a small Internet of Things device that connects to your personal social media accounts through a mobile app. The device helps you manage your time and allows you stay off social media. YOBL's primary and only function is offline time, a countdown time that can be activated by users to stay away from all the social media platforms of their choice by pressing a single button. This device is developed in a way that if the users access a social media platform during offline time, they lose a life. Users get a total of 3 lives a day. If you are off social media for at least 5 days, YOBL gives you incentive like access to free movie, access to a book to read and many more advantages. Oluwatobi argues that this will be a solution to time management challenge that hits today's society. "We thought of this app after noting that people spend much time on social media instead of concentrating on other business. Their time is not really well managed. They are getting much more addicted to social media and this app will be a solution to this challenge", explains Oluwatobi Oyinlola.

The third project "Solar Pocha", is an autonomous outdoor working station that allows you to work outside while powered by solar energy. "We created a mobile app for online booking to know if Solar Pocha is open to use with GPS tracking", Oluwatobi says.Oluwatobi's contribution is what the African Center of Excellence is championing for. We are looking for having so many smart minds that will use Internet of Things to find solutions to regional and even global socio-economic challenges.

UR signs partnership agreement with ICIPE for hosting PASET-RSIF Funded PhD Students

On 17th October 2019 the UR has signed Partnership agreement with International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) for hosting PhD students from Africa in the PhD in IoT-Embedded Computing Systems programme offered by ACEIoT funded by PASET- Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) initiative.

The signing ceremony which took place at ICIPE headquarters in Nairobi was attended by UR VC Prof Phil Cotton and officials from ICIPE. Through this initiative, Rwanda will get skilled PhD scholars who will contribute in solving existing challenges in different areas such agriculture, health, energy among others. It is expected that the UR's African Center of Excellence in Internet of Things will receive the first cohort of PhD scholars under PASET scholarship by November 2019.

UR Vice Chancellor with other UR Staff and ICIPE officials in the signing ceremony

Besides the signing ceremony the coordinators from different Universities shared updates on the quality of PASET doctoral programs at African universities, methods and approaches of building PhD capacity in Sub- Saharan Africa among other issues.

This has been an opportunity for PhD coordinators to interact and share experiences in running PhD programs and strengthened collaboration and networking.