ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Strengthening industry-academia collaboration in Botswana

"The IEOM Society of Botswana has also helped to resuscitate a student club, the University of Botswana Industrial Engineers Association, which was on the verge of collapsing. The club is now up and alive and is actively working with the IEOM Society of Botswana in planning its activities."

Dr Herbert Mapfaira, Senior Lecturer at the University of Botswana

GCRF
Global Challenges Research Fund

AngloAmerican
GROUP FOUNDATION

Between 2016 and 2018 the University of Botswana was funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering as a hub university under the Higher Education Partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa (HEP SSA) programme. The hub focused on improving the standard of engineering education by strengthening engagement between local academia and industry in Southern Africa through workshops, lectures and bilateral secondments.

The HEP SSA grant resulted in the creation of a new not-for-profit, the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM) Society of Botswana (the Society). It is part of the global IEOM movement, which aims to bridge understanding between universities and industry, improving knowledge sharing in universities worldwide. The Society is run through the University of Botswana's Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

The main aim of the Society is to promote critical thinking, create and strengthen industrial links and support graduate mobility within Botswana. It invites industry experts to hold lectures, participate in workshops and host industry tours, which has increased awareness and industry-academia collaboration within Botswana.

The Society is led by an executive committee of staff and students from the University of Botswana. Dr Herbert Mapfaira, Senior Lecturer at the university explains that the Society has encouraged engineering students and staff to work together.

The Society is planning to introduce skills-based workshops to prepare students for industry employment. This includes more industry tours, career development workshops and regular events with inspiring speakers. Since its launch in May 2018, the Society has focused on improving access to global resources for both students and academics to strengthen the curricula at the university. The HEP SSA programme has funded 15 hub universities since the programme's inception in 2013 and provides resources to strengthen industry and academia collaboration across sub-Saharan Africa.

For more information, visit the website:
www.raeng.org.uk/hepssa