

SUMMER SCHOOL 2018 FINGAZ EDITORIAL

TITLE: FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WITH FOCUS ON EVERYTHING ICT – THE DIGITAL AGE & CYBER SECURITY

1. The Computer Society of Zimbabwe

The Computer Society of Zimbabwe (CSZ) is an internationally recognized Professional Association for Information Communication Technologies practitioners in Zimbabwe. The membership includes Businesses, Academic Institutions, Researchers and Special interest groups. As an association CSZ is affiliated to other international organizations such as ICDL (International Computer Driving License) and IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing).

CSZ mandate is for the provision of a platforms for learning, exchange of ideas, development and setting of standards for ICTs. In addition, CSZ provides platforms for its mandate through holding of regular Special Interest Groups Meetings and conferences. Annually, CSZ host Summer School Conferences as one of its flagship event attended by organizations both members and non members. This is a platform for collaboration and exchange of ideas with subject experts, industry solution providers and international organisations.

2. Rational

We are in the fourth industrial revolution era which is to a large extent driven by advanced, exponential digital technologies. The pace of these developments are making significant changes in human behavior, expectations and demands. It has been predicted that Technology and Innovation for future production is the Fourth Industrial Revolution expected to create up to \$3.7 trillion in value by 2025 (World Economic Forum)

In the quest for meeting the change demand, Information Communication Technologies (ICT) are playing a pivotal role in this new revolution era. Consequently, disruption is the new reality that countries and organizations are faced with leading to new limitless possibilities. The United Nations Conference and Trade Development (UNCTAD) *Technology and Innovation Report 2018: Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development*, notes that change is becoming exponential due to the power of digital platforms and innovative combinations of different technologies that become possible every day.

Digital disruption is the new reality faced by entities and opportunities are limitless. The innovation of ICT technological trends and automation have been progressing exponentially more so in the last decade. Every business today is a technology driven organization, hence the paradox for continuous innovation and for some entities, playing catch up in the new

technological frontier. The challenge for entities is how do organizations rise above the noise, challenge the convention and remain relevant in this digital age.

Digital Disruption is therefore the new revolution where opportunities remain limitless for organizations in attaining their vision and goals. Notable trends in technology of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Advanced Robotics, Block Chain, Cloud, Big Data, Analytics and Business Intelligence, Internet of Things and Social Media Technologies, to mention but a few, cannot be ignored by entities as they are pivotal in the way business is run.

In line with UN Sustainable Development Goals and World Economic forum on Technology, it is agreed that to attain the desired broad-based economic and societal impact and to maximize productivity gains, technology adoption is key throughout the production and economic ecosystem. This is attainable through strategic and deliberate multi-stakeholder collaboration and scaling up current efforts at both the national and international level.

Critically, in the face of these technological developments, are the threats that come especially so on the back of the events of yester year such as Ransomware and data loss. It is fundamental that knowledge, strategies and skilling is critical for cybersecurity trends such as Artificial Intelligence-powered attacks, infrastructure hacks, malware, personal data breaches.

According to mandate to provide platforms for collaboration, continuous learning and adoption methodologies, CSZ will be hosting a conference from 7th November to 09 November 2018 at Elephant Hills, Victoria Falls, with the theme **EVERYTHING ICT – THE DIGITAL AGE AND CYBER SECURITY**.

It is against this backdrop that CSZ has partnered with technology experts and ICT organisations (local & International) collaboratively for hosting this years Summer School. The conference seeks to provide a platform for knowledge exchange, provoke thinking and promote adoption. The conference will delve on the developments in ICTs and their applicability in the day to day operations and the future. Inclusively not to be ignored is the exponential technologies and trends that are transformational in nature in the dealing with the relevant challenges and opportunities.

The conference will also focus on the recent major innovations on offer that have implications on industry and society in general. The applicability and adoption strategies of the innovations becomes of paramount importance for organizations.

3. PARTICIPATION

The captive audience will range from various industry sectors, ICT communities in Southern Africa and Zimbabwe, Research Groups, Academia and ICT solution providers to Summer School 2018. Invited and encouraged to participate are Board representatives, C-Level and technocrats to interact with various ICT Companies, and experts to actively engage in the various facets of organizational automations and digital solutions.

Delivery method will be through subject expert keynote addresses and specialized break away sessions with key topic streams for Decision Makers, Technical Streams, Demo Centres and Exhibitions. During the event, specialized exclusive sessions designed for Executives and Technical Teams will be facilitated to assist on their roles in digital adoption, steering and aid in answering todays challenges of the role of technology and digital adoption in growing the business and giving it the requisite upper hand.

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CSZ Summer School 2018 Convener