MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Virginia Tech)
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA, USA

AND

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING,
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training of the Government of the Republic of Zambia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) agree to implement this memorandum of understanding effective as of the date both parties affix their signatures.

This agreement is based on the principle of reciprocity and expresses the interest of both parties in exchanging scholars, staff, and academic information and materials in the belief that the research and educational process at both organizations will be enhanced and that mutual understanding between their respective scholars and staff will be increased by the establishment of such shared experiences. Three areas to be focused on initially will be vocational teacher/trainer education, entrepreneurship preparation, and science and technology. This agreement is based on the following objectives in each of these three areas.

I. Vocational Teacher/Trainer Education

1. Enhance the capacity of vocational/technical teachers and trainers in Zambia's technical colleges through the upgrading of their academic profiles by establishing bachelor's and post-graduate degree programs in vocational and technical teacher education. These degree programs will focus on preparing vocational teachers/trainers in occupational areas such as (but not limited to):

   A. Agricultural Education
   B. Business and Information Technology
   D. Marketing
   E. Health Occupations
   F. Design, cutting and tailoring
   G. Food Production
   H. Food and Beverage Service

   I. Trade and Industrial Education
      a. Automotive Mechanics
      b. Automotive Electrician
      c. Auto Body Repair
      d. Metal Fabrication & Welding
      e. Electrician Technician
      f. Carpentry & Joinery
      g. Building Construction
      h. Masonry
      i. Plumbing
      k. Radio & TV Repair
      l. Cosmetology
2. Establish in-service training for current vocational/technical teachers and trainers to upgrade their credentials in their teaching content areas and in pedagogy.

3. Strengthen the integration (linkages) between vocational training on the one hand and academic knowledge related to science and technology, math, and communications on the other hand.

4. Promote collaborative relationships between Virginia Tech and Zambian institutions in the spirit of North-South cooperation.

5. Promote collaborative relationships between Zambia/Virginia Tech and other SADC institutions in the spirit of South-South cooperation.


7. Establish exchange programs between:
   A. Zambian technical college vocational/technical faculty and U.S. community college vocational/technical faculty.
   B. Zambian vocational teacher/trainer faculty and U.S. vocational teacher/trainer faculty.

II. Entrepreneurship Preparation

1. Enhance the promotion of entrepreneurship education in Zambia’s technical education and vocational training colleges by:
   A. Establishing small business incubators at each technical college.
   B. Developing an entrepreneurship training program element to be included in all technical college programs.
   C. Developing a program to prepare entrepreneurship trainers.

III. Science and Technology

1. Explore mutual areas of interest in science and technology in order to identify specific activities to enhance these areas in both Zambia and the U.S.

2. Collaborate to provide technology solutions in various sectors of Zambia.

3. Exchange software materials and use of open sources.

4. Develop exchange programs between science and technology faculty.

5. Develop jointly organized symposia on Zambian and U.S. development issues related science and technology.

This agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document. It is meant to describe the nature and to suggest the guidelines of the cooperation described above. Nothing therefore shall diminish the full autonomy of either institution, nor will any constraints be imposed by either upon the other in
carrying out the agreement. The specifics of any joint program between the parties shall be separately negotiated and determined by both parties.

The agreement shall become effective on the day representatives of both parties affix their signatures and seals, will be in force for a period of 5 years, and is subject to revision or modification by mutual written agreement. It is also understood that either party may terminate the agreement at any time, although it is assumed that such action would only be taken after mutual consultation in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to the other institution.

For Virginia Tech, Dr. Bill Price, Program Leader – Career and Technical Education and for the Zambian Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Mr. Joseph Mukuni, Director of Vocational Education and Training shall serve as liaison officers for this agreement.

Dr. Charles W. Steger  
President  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA, USA  
6/18/08  
Date

Dr. Buleti G. Nsemukila  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Science, Technology, and Vocational Training  
Zambia  
Lusaka, Zambia  
7/11/08  
Date

Dr. S.K. De Datta  
Associate President for International Affairs  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA, USA  
6/17/2008  
Date

Joseph Mukuni  
Director, MSVTE  
7/3/08  
Date