

On cooperation with the Republic of Zimbabwe

On January 17, 2019, within the framework of the visit of the President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa to the Republic of Belarus, there was held a solemn ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Agreement between BSU and the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

In order to give effect to the Memorandum and develop the cooperation, a detailed proposal on the willingness of BSU to provide educational services and train Zimbabwean citizens in specialties prioritized for the national economy was sent to the Zimbabwean side in April 2019.

From January 30 to February 1, 2023, as part of the state visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus A. G. Lukashenko to the Republic of Zimbabwe, the BSU delegation headed by Rector A. D. Korol took part in the second Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum “Expanding Horizons: Dynamic Solutions for Economic Development” and events in the field of education and science.

Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the University of Zimbabwe (Harare), Zimbabwe Open University (Harare), Lupane State University (Lupane), and the National University of Science and Technology (Bulawayo).

Soon afterwards to the University of Zimbabwe (Harare) there were sent:

- proposals in the field of veterinary drugs development (specifying the contact details of the developers);

- proposals on the organization of joint scientific research in the field of pedagogical sciences and problems of educational development, such as the transformation of the education system in the conditions of information society, digital transformation of education, the formation of pedagogical culture, value orientations and professional competencies of teachers, the use of modern pedagogical technologies, socialization and character education, management in educational institutions;

- invitation to participate in the II International Scientific-Practical Conference “Diversification of Pedagogical Education in the Conditions of Information Society Development”, which is to be held in BSU on November 16, 2023;

- Proposals for the establishment of a Center for the Study of Bilateral Belarusian-Zimbabwean Relations on the basis of the Faculty of International Relations of BSU;

- proposals for the development of educational cooperation in the field of business and entrepreneurship, including the development of joint educational programs of advanced higher education in English.

Proposals in the areas of instrumentation, industrial and educational equipment, information technology, medicine, food technology, biotechnology and water treatment (specifying the contact details of the developers) were sent to the Harare Institute of Technology (Harare) and the National University of Science and Technology (Bulawayo).

The representatives of the company “Global Careers Connection” (Harare) were sent a letter with a proposal to visit BSU to study the educational potential of the university, familiarize themselves with its material and technical base and evaluate the most favorable directions and forms of cooperation.

From May 8 to 18, 2023, the delegation of educational institutions and organizations of the Republic of Zimbabwe headed by the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe Professor Amon Murwira was visiting the Republic of Belarus and, in particular, paid a visit to BSU on May 16, 2023.

As part of the visit, there was organized a presentation of BSU, its structure, educational opportunities of the university, as well as an exhibition of its scientific developments. The representatives of the universities of Zimbabwe were presented with the university nanosatellite Cubesat-2, antitumor drugs for local chemotherapy, food additives (phytochemicals) for bakery and meat products, veterinary biologics, microbial biologics for plants and other developments.

Within the framework of the visit, BSU signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Harare Institute of Technology (Harare) and a Memorandum of Understanding with Midlands State University (Gweru). During the visit, the guests also visited the Faculty of Biology of BSU, and Minister A. Murwira delivered an open lecture to the students and faculty representatives of BSU. In addition, as part of the visit, there was held the first meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Zimbabwean Commission in the field of science and technology with the participation of BSU Vice-Rector for Research A. V. Blokhin.

As part of the implementation of the signed cooperation agreements, the following work has been done:

- Working contacts have been established between the Faculty of Economics of BSU and the Faculty of Business and Management of the Harare Institute of Technology. The parties have exchanged curricula in English and discussed the possibilities of academic exchange. Following the discussion, the Zimbabwean side have nominated 3 master students for exchange studies at BSU in the autumn semester of the 2024/2025 academic year.

- On the basis of the Faculty of International Relations of BSU there has been established the Center for Belarusian-Zimbabwean Dialogue, which

represents an electronic platform for collecting and analyzing materials on relations between the two countries.

– The Faculty of Advanced Training and Retraining (Preparatory Department) of the Educational Institution “International Sakharov Environmental Institute of BSU” has received 1 citizen of Zimbabwe for training, 3 more citizens are expected to arrive.

From February 17 to 24, 2024, as part of the official delegation of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus, the BSU delegation headed by the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Educational Innovations A. G. Prokhorenko took part in the first meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Within the framework of the meetings of the expert group, there were discussed proposals on intensification of cooperation, in particular, in the area of organization of remote cooperation, internships (online/offline) for students and teachers, as well as research projects. During the visit, there were held meetings with the heads of Zimbabwean recruiting companies “Satco Academic International” and “Ruothy World Education Adventure”, and an agreement on further cooperation to organize training of Zimbabwean citizens at BSU was reached.

During the visit, working contacts were also established with the Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency which expressed interest in cooperation with BSU. Subsequently, the Zimbabwean side was sent the contact details of representatives of the relevant faculties of BSU and possible areas of cooperation.

On March 13, 2024, the head of the recruiting company “Satco Academic International” Ms. Maureen Meda paid a visit to BSU, during which there were held negotiations on cooperation on the issue of attracting Zimbabwean citizens to study at BSU. As a result of the negotiations, it was agreed that the company will assist BSU in the participation in the educational exhibition, which was held in Zimbabwe in April 2024, as well as in sending Zimbabwean citizens to study at BSU in the next academic year.

At present, the priority directions and forms of Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation in education and science for BSU are the followings:

1. Training of Zimbabwean citizens on a fee-based basis:
 - Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in specialties prioritized for the Zimbabwean side;
 - training within the framework of academic mobility;
 - training in the frames of the implementation of the educational internship program for managers and specialists.
2. The opportunity for Zimbabwean citizens to train in pre-university education programs taught in English, including using information and communication technologies.

3. The possibility of training Zimbabwean citizens at the expense of grants from the President of the Republic of Belarus.

4. Implementation of student academic mobility programs within the framework of the existing interuniversity contractual framework.

5. Development of scientific and scientific-technical cooperation with institutions and organizations of the Republic of Zimbabwe in the following areas:

- agriculture;
- medicine and pharmacy;
- mechanical engineering;
- geology and exploration of mineral deposits;
- geoinformation sensing of the Earth;
- radio electronics;
- water management for water purification.

In order to give effect to the scientific and scientific-technical cooperation, institutions and organizations of the Republic of Zimbabwe are invited to participate in scientific and scientific-practical events held at BSU and to participate in the competition of joint projects in promising areas (in case the competition is announced by the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus).