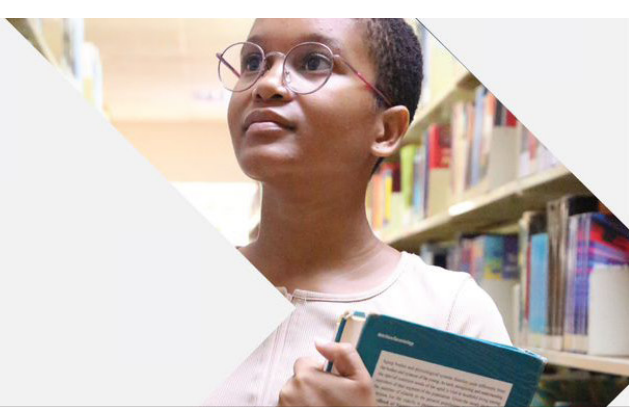




University of Venda  
Creating Future Leaders

# UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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## UNIVEN and the Limpopo Department of Education Strengthen China-South Africa Relations through “Chinese Bridge” Educational Tour



*UNIVEN officials posing for a group photo with the leadership of Hubei University of Technology*

Under the careful organisation and arrangement of the Green Technology Confucius Institute (GTCI), the University of Venda (UNIVEN), in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Education, recently participated in the 2025 “Chinese Bridge” South African Delegation Educational Tour in China. Held from July 7 to 11, 2025, the tour aimed to enhance educational collaboration and cultural exchange between South Africa and China.

Led by Professor Matodzi Nancy Lambani, the delegation included nine representatives from UNIVEN, the Limpopo Department of Education, and educational institutions in the Vhembe District.

Their itinerary featured a mix of academic engagements, cultural site visits, and strategic industry exposure.

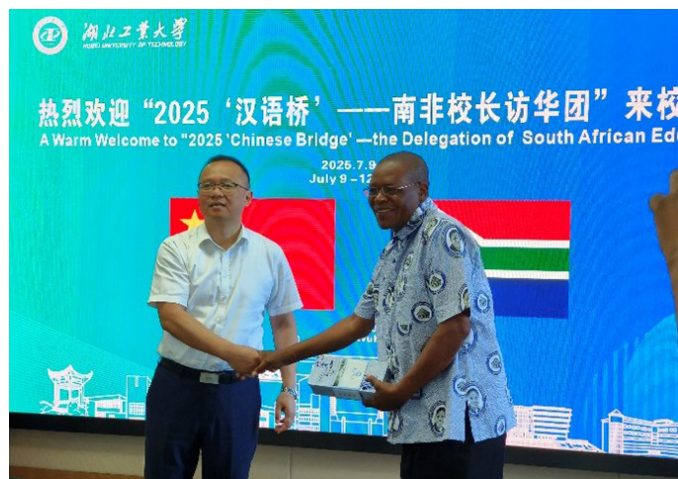
In Beijing, the delegation visited iconic landmarks such as the Great Wall and the Summer Palace, gaining valuable insights into Chinese history and traditions. They then travelled to Wuhan, where they engaged in university-based activities, cultural heritage experiences, and enterprise visits.

At Hubei University of Technology (HBUT), the hosting party of GTCI in China, the Vice President, Professor HE Xingyang, warmly acknowledged the delegation's participation in the “Chinese Bridge” programme.

He said that the visit of this delegation vividly demonstrates a joint commitment to enhancing cultural exchanges and deepening educational cooperation.



Professor HE Xingyang emphasised that this face-to-face engagement marks a significant step forward in advancing collaboration between HBUT, UNIVEN, and the Limpopo provincial educational sector. He stated that the partnership is poised to “jointly chart a new chapter for China–South Africa educational cooperation.” He further highlighted that the collaboration between HBUT and South Africa has evolved into a three-dimensional model defined by strategy-driven initiatives, platform-supported implementation, and multi-party synergy. He noted that this model serves as a strong foundation for sustainable educational development and mutual growth between the two regions.



*Vice President of HBUT Professor HE Xingyang together with Prof Nancy Lambani, Tovhowani Edington Maswime, Provincial Director, Directorate of Mathematics, Science and Technology, Limpopo Department of Education, and Tshitangoni Alex Muthelo, Principal, Marude Secondary School, Vhembe East.*

On behalf of UNIVEN, the Limpopo Department of Education, and various educational institutions from the Vhembe District, Prof. Matodzi Nancy Lambani expressed sincere appreciation to HBUT for sponsoring the educational tour. She also thanked the two Co-Directors of GTCI for organising the tour and making it come true. Lambani acknowledged the impactful role of GTCI, noting that it has become a vibrant hub for UNIVEN staff, students, and community members learning the Chinese language and engaging in cross-cultural programmes. Reflecting on the GTCI-HBUT-UNIVEN Educational Tour, Prof. Lambani expressed gratitude for the enriching experience.

She expressed that, “During our three-day visit, we had the opportunity to engage with Chinese people, to observe and learn about Chinese culture, to explore the values embedded in Chinese family life, and to visit several symbolic and historical sites such as the Great Wall of China, the Summer Palace, the Yellow Crane Building and the Hubei Provincial Museum. We admired the Chinese architectural beauty and tasted a wide variety of authentic Chinese cuisine.” Prof. Lambani concluded by affirming the importance of such engagements in building bridges between nations and strengthening global education networks.





The delegates toured HBTU's innovative facilities, including the School of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Agricultural Machinery Engineering Research and Design Institute, and the Grid-Forming Photovoltaic Engineering Training Base.



The delegation also visited technology-driven enterprises, such as Wuhan Rixin Technology Co. Ltd where the delegation was introduced to the way the solar panels generate electricity to recharge the electric cars, OS-Easy Technology where the delegation explored the digitalisation in education, and Zhimei China Co. Ltd, a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer where the two parties discussed future collaborations in preserving health. These visits showcased advancements in renewable energy, digital education, and traditional Chinese health products.



Prof Matodzi Nancy Lambani, Mr Tovhowani Maswime, together with Mr. SHEN Fangxiong, Chairman of Zhimei China Co. Ltd.

GTCI organised and sponsored the “Chinese Bridge” Student Tour in China in June 2025, and the 2025 “Chinese Bridge” Management Educational Tour is the first in GTCI history to grant opportunity for South African educators to explore China. Mr. Tovhowani Edington Maswime, Provincial Director for Mathematics, Science, and Technology at the Limpopo Department of Education, reflected on the tour’s value for South Africa’s educational transformation: “This tour gave us a practical view of how innovation, technology, and education can be integrated to prepare learners for the future.”

Through the tour, not only the SA delegation gained more knowledge about China and the Chinese culture, but the Chinese community also gained insights into the South African and the Venda culture. The 2025 “Chinese Bridge” tour reaffirmed the mutual commitment of South African and Chinese institutions to expanding cross-border collaboration, driving educational excellence, and fostering innovation. GTCI will continuously organise “Chinese Bridge” programmes in the future, contributing to the building of a constructive bilateral relationship between China and South Africa.





## Three Days of Transformative Learning: University of Venda's Leadership Programme Ignites Purposeful Change



*Group photo of the participants*

In a bold move to strengthen leadership and management capabilities, the University of Venda's Human Resources Department (Organisational Development and Training) recently launched the second cohort of its Management Development Programme (MDP). The intensive three-day workshop, held at the University of Venda Student Parliament, brought together Heads of Departments (HoDs), Managers, and selected staff for a powerful and reflective leadership journey.

What made this programme stand out was not only its carefully crafted curriculum but also the insightful engagement and group exercises that encouraged participants to share their thoughts, perceptions, and personal leadership experiences in a safe and collaborative environment.

In her virtual welcome and opening remarks, Director of Human Resource, Mrs Uan-da Ndou warmly welcomed the esteemed guests and participants, expressing her enthusiasm for the

collaboration with the renowned UCT Graduate School of Business.



*Mrs Uanda Ndou, Director of Human Resources at the University of Venda*

She underscored the importance of this initiative as a pivotal step in the university's ongoing efforts to implement the Career Pathing Programme, aligning it with the institution's operational objectives.



*Mr Matamela Matibe, Training and Development Practitioner (Skills Development Facilitator), Department of Human Resources, University of Venda*

Mr Matamela Matibe, Training and Development Practitioner at the university warmly expressed pride in the ongoing partnership with the UCT Graduate School of Business, highlighting how the programme supports the institution's broader Career Pathing Programme and aligns with its long-term strategic priorities.



*Mrs Fortune Gamanya*

Mrs Fortune Gamanya began by inviting participants to reflect on their leadership presence through a picture prompt. From the outset, she emphasised collaboration as central to the programme's success. She led a deep dive into organisational culture and the realities of change management, topics that resonated deeply as the university prepares to implement a new 15-year strategic plan.

Day one cantered on personal leadership reflection. Drawing on Eric Hanna's boundary-based leadership model, Fortune introduced four essential leadership capacities: self-reflection, self-confidence, genuine humility

, and the ability to create balance. She challenged participants to examine their internal narratives and life experiences, highlighting that leadership is not a fixed role but an authentic, evolving practice rooted in intentionality and self-awareness.

Participants were encouraged to ask themselves the following questions:

What kind of leader am I becoming? What does my leadership story communicate to others?



*Dr Rutendo Hwindingwi*

On day three, the focus shifted to strategic thinking and adaptability. Dr Rutendo Hwindingwi led an engaging session that redefined strategy as a dynamic and responsive process, more like a river than a rigid plan. He emphasised the value of clarity, adaptability, and purposeful decision-making, especially in times of disruption.

Drawing from his experience launching a Deloitte leadership program during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Hwindingwi illustrated how agility and focus enabled success while traditional models struggled. He encouraged participants to challenge assumptions, consider who defines strategy, and evaluate their relevance in a rapidly changing landscape driven by technological shifts such as AI.

He concluded with the introduction of the Play Tool, a practical strategy framework developed by leaders from Procter and Gamble and the Rotterdam School of Management, designed to help organisations align purpose with action.





*A group of participants sharing ideas*

During these three days, the programme balanced deep reflection, practical tools, and peer learning. Through group discussions, case studies, and personal storytelling, participants were not just gaining knowledge; they were reshaping how they lead.

The Management Development Programme marks a significant investment in building the leadership capacity of the University of Venda's management cohort.

By equipping participants with strategic insight, emotional intelligence, and authentic leadership practices, the university is laying the groundwork for long-term institutional growth and success.

As this second cohort completes its transformative journey, the University of Venda reaffirms its commitment to developing visionary, values-driven leaders. With the support of esteemed partners like the UCT Graduate School of Business, the MDP continues to shape a resilient, capable, and forward-looking leadership community.



*Participants reflecting on their leadership skills through pictures*

# Invitation For 2025 Disability Indaba

**THEME: The importance of creating an inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of their abilities, feels valued and supported.**



04 September 2025



09h00



UNIVEN Sports Hall

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**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

TECHNOLOGY  
SECURITY  
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QUALITY  
CONTINUITY  
MAINTENANCE  
REAL ESTATE  
ENVIRONMENT

**ARCHIBUS**  
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SYSTEM (IWMS)  
**IS NOW LIVE**

## Innovation in Action: UNIVEN Automates Facilities Management for Staff

The University Uses The Archibus System For Facilities Management/Maintenance. You Can Log A Service Request For Repairs, Maintenance, Waste, Cleaning, And Other Enquiries Which Is Then Directed To The Facilities Management Team.

### HOW TO LOG A CALL



SCAN ME

Simply scan the QR code to access Archibus and log your maintenance request in moments. It's quick, easy, and ensures our team can respond promptly to keep things running smoothly.



Log in via your web browser using Chrome:  
<https://archibus-prd.univen.ac.za:9000/archibus>



For Maintenance Enquiries  
Contact.



[maintenance@univen.ac.za](mailto:maintenance@univen.ac.za)



Ext: 8222

To Find Out More  
Contact.



[Mukhethekanyi.Ndou@univen.ac.za](mailto:Mukhethekanyi.Ndou@univen.ac.za)



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