

Meeting : Internet of Things
Committee : Innovation and creativity of IOT
Country : Zimbabwe

Republic of Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in southern Africa. It is also the most highly developed country in Africa after South Africa. The capital and largest city of this country is Harare. The country has about 16 million people in which it also has 16 official languages, with the most commonly used English, Shona, and Ndebele language. Since the 11th century, present-day Zimbabwe has been the site of several organised states and kingdoms as well as a major route for migration and trade.

The Internet in Zimbabwe has seen rapid expansion in recent years. The Internet country code top-level domain. In 2009, the Mugabe-Tsvangirai Government of National Unity established a Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to focus on ICT growth and development. Statistics approximately 40 percent (5.2 million) of Zimbabwe's population were internet users as of January 2014. This contrasts with 15.7 percent in 2011 and 0.4 percent in the year 2000. Most of the users (5.16 million) access internet via mobile devices. Zimbabwe has a very good mobile penetration rate, making a moving screen like a mobile phone a good information weapon to use. The community of Zimbabwe need to develop information channels that help educate their people. Digital tools that are at our disposal must be utilised hence this information hub.

Humanity continues to create and invent advanced technologies as part of human development. The internet of things (IOT) is certainly one and not the last of such achievements. By definition, the IoT refers to the connectivity of many gadgets by people whose objective is to find smart solutions from the use of technology. In essence, it involves deployment of various Internet-driven software applications and technologies in order to simplify, filling it with exciting experiences. The interconnected rise of the internet and mobile phones was the precursor of the age of the IOT. For the west the promise of the internet of things were fridges that would automatically replenish your milk. In Africa, Africans adapted the same tools and technology to deal with immediate problems. "Lumkani.com" is a perfect example of internet of things (IOT). This device has saves lives by warning of nearby shack fire. Though few and far between IoT, companies exist in Zimbabwe with most focusing on security and health. Because of the usual suspects of constraints, IOT use has had a slow uptake. I believe with a lot of will and a little bit of ingenuity uptake can be better. What started out as an idea led to a prototype that shed light on what the real cost of a power-cut is. Such an ability was impossible only a few years back. The technology has not reached its fullest potential and if we are willing to look beyond the usual sectors we could not only learn more but create business literally out of thin air. As a country that is entering a stages of rapid development, IOT and the resulting data can help highlight areas that need immediate attention. The future of Zimbabwe lies in its ability to utilize IoT technology to collect data, analyzing it not just to make the right decision but to accurately measure its progress.