

Main Text (The essay must be 1 page in English or Japanese)

Essay Title: **Young Engineers – How can we take on challenges which will contribute to the future?**

Topic Num.:

The year 2014 marked the beginning of my career when I was appointed by Telecom Namibia as a Junior Engineer. Life was good. I bought my first car, I moved from the village to the city. The salary was very good compared to a normal salary of a fresh graduate. Even though I had everything, I was not fully happy because I knew the future of the world, Africa in particular, depends on us young people, and on how much knowledge we seek. From my undergraduate studies, I had the basic knowledge, but not the knowledge which was necessary to significantly contribute to the future of the world. So, I decide to leave everything nice I had to further my studies. It was a tough decision, because I was the sole bread winner of my family, but deep down my heart I knew the end results will be worth it. Because I did not have money to support my studies, I started to look for financial assistance from around the world. Fortunately, I was awarded a full scholarship by the government of Japan under the ABE Initiatives to come do my Masters in Japan. I wanted to get a study leave from my employer, but unfortunately, it was not granted, so coming to Japan meant I lost the good paying job that I head. My parents were sad, my friends did not understand why I took such a decision, but I knew I needed to learn more skills, which will allow me to be more competitive in my area of specialization. March 2017, I was enrolled as a full-time master's degree student in the department of electrical and electronic engineering at Doshisha University and I am due to graduate March 2019. At Doshisha University, I was very fortunate to be supervised by one of the best professors in fiber optics telecommunication, professor Hiroyuki Toda. My original research proposal I came with was somehow outdated, so my professor decided to give me a new topic. The topic is related to the combination of microwave photonics and fiber optics. Even though I had little knowledge about fiber optics, I had no knowledge about microwave photonics. That means I needed to read a number of text books before I can fully understand the topic and carry out my new research independently. I completed reading three books page-by-page within 8 months. The knowledge I gained from reading these books gave me confidence, and today I can almost understand any topic related to my research. With such knowledge, I started to understand the future of fiber optics telecommunication. I started to understand where telecommunication is heading and what skills are need to be competitive in the industry. I also attended numerous conferences in Japan, where I learned so much about microwave photonics and fiber optics telecommunication. Today, I am very happy with the decision I made to leave behind everything good I had to come and further my studies. I have learned so much during my two years in Japan, which I could otherwise not get if I did not take up the new challenge. With my new diverse knowledge, I can pursue different initiatives to the society humanity. My plans after graduation is to return to Namibia and use my knowledge to contribute positively to the development of telecommunication industry in Namibia. If given opportunity, I would like to further my studies at PhD. I believe I have gained tremendous knowledge which will allow me to be a key player in the development of telecommunication industry in Namibia and beyond, all thanks to the challenges I took. My message to my fellow young engineers, male and female is: Never stops learning. Do not be comfortable with what you have. Always take up challenges while you are young. The future belongs to us, and we should work hard to realize it. Like Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa said and I quote: *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*