



NUST BRIEF

Making a positive impact on the economy

More than 15 papers were presented at this year's Faculty of Management Sciences Research Day. Whilst some of the papers focused on the economic activities of a number of countries, most of the research aimed at making a positive impact on the local economy.

The studies presented covered various topics in hospitality and tourism, marketing and logistics, manufacturing, trade and construction, amongst others. These included: *Determinants of House Prices and New Construction Activity: An Empirical Investigation of the Namibian Housing Market*; *Achieving Economic Growth in Namibia through Foreign Trade: Application of Cointegration Method*; *The Analysis of SMEs Owners' Operational and Management Skills and Business Growth*; and *A Framework for Supplying Management Accounting Information to Promote a Green Construction Industry*.

Martin Inkumbi, the CEO of the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), delivered the keynote address and highlighted the support that the Bank gives to researchers.

"Our annual Good Business Awards, and

particularly the Innovation Award, was introduced with the aim to encourage research and the development of innovative business solutions in our country.

DBN places emphasis on practicality and technical viability of winning businesses," Inkumbi said. He added that it is crucial that graduates are trained to provide practical solutions to communities and to think independently.

Dr Harold Campbell, the Dean of the Faculty also presented a paper on "An Evaluation of using technical Analysis and Fuzzy Logic as Alternative Investment Tools on the JSE Securities Exchange of South Africa, Part 1." The paper demonstrates a successful method of how fuzzy logic engineering tools may be used in finance, both from fundamental and technical analysis perspectives.



From left: Dr Hylton Villet, Director: Harold Pupkewitz Graduate School of Business; Martin Inkumbi, CEO: Development Bank of Namibia; Dr Andrew Niikondo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs; and Dr Harold Campbell, Dean: Faculty of Management Sciences.

Education's Impact on the Knowledge Economy



Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor, speaking at the Commonwealth Education Conference.

The Commonwealth Education Conference was held earlier this week in Windhoek. The event was hosted by the Commonwealth, the University of Namibia (Unam) and the National Council for Higher Education.

This is the first time that the Conference, which aims to initiate action to foster educational cooperation and the sharing of experience among countries of the Commonwealth, is being held outside London.

During the opening ceremony, Honourable Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, the Right Honourable Patricia Scotland, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and Prof Lazarus Hangula, Unam Vice-Chancellor, addressed the gathering.

Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor, spoke at one of the sessions of the Conference on the topic "Education's impact on the Knowledge Economy." Dr Tjivikua was the respondent to the keynote presenter of the Session, Professor Mabel Imbuga, the Vice-Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, in Kenya.

"Professor Mabel Imbuga made enlightening and liberating remarks on the importance of education, especially higher education in transforming society," Tjivikua said. He added that the role of primary, secondary and tertiary education must be restructured in order to re-examine the role of ideas such as the preparation for good citizenship, self-discovery, and self-fulfillment in light of national education priorities.

The economy of a country becomes a "knowledge economy" when the sustained use of new knowledge becomes a central part of its national development process. In addition to underscoring the importance of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, he emphasised the need to place great value on, and measure, the outputs of the quaternary and quinary (the fourth and fifth) sectors of the economy, in order to holistically understand and develop the nation.

Creating a conducive environment for mentorship

The Cooperative Education Unit (CEU) at NUST, in collaboration with B360 Education Partnerships co-facilitated a mentorship workshop to capacitate industry partners and Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Coordinators at NUST.

The role of the industry mentors is to support undergraduates by giving them insight into their chosen career. They also assist with practical tips, offering advice in career matters and guidance in the transition from undergraduate to professionals.

The process enhances students' creativity and problem-solving skills, thus, encouraging reflective learning and enabling mentees to identify their areas of personal and professional development and improve self-confidence.

However, if a conducive environment is not created for both the mentor and mentee, internships can be perceived as a time-wasting and costly exercise. This is one of the reasons this workshop was created.

During the event, industry mentors were given an overview of the tools needed to perform their roles effectively. Kwathiindje Hamunyela, a work-place mentor from IT

Solutions CC, commended the initiative saying it is an effort to try and bridge the gap between the requirements in the industry and the output from the Institution.

Joel Eelu, the Deputy Head of the Computer Science Department and a NUST WIL coordinator said: "This platform gives mentors the platform to pose their challenges to us, so we know where and how to improve". Eelu added that the industry partners also had the opportunity to interact with other mentors which helped them understand their roles better. "To meet the needs of both students and future employers, the University, industry and community need to collaborate and play a role in constantly improving academic programmes and aligning teaching and learning methodologies," said Martha Namutuwa, an Industry Liason Officer at CEU.



Front row: Matchwell Lizazi, Industry Liason Officer: CEU (third from left); Martha Namutuwa, Industry Liason Officer: CEU (fourth from left); Dr Eva Bilhuber Gulli, B360 Education Partnerships (fifth from left), and Dr Alina Segobye, Dean: Faculty of Human Sciences (sixth from left), pictured with other participants of the workshop.

START-UP AND SME SEMINAR

The Centre for Enterprise Development (CED) in conjunction with B360 Education Partnerships will host a Start-Up and SME Seminar for all persons interested in starting their own businesses or entrepreneurs who simply want to know more about SME business financing.

COST: N\$250 **DATE:** 19 September 2017 **TIME:** 8h00 - 13h00 **VENUE:** Harold Pupkewitz Graduate School of Business (3rd Floor)

ENQUIRIES: Helena Illovu **TEL:** +264 61 207 2296 **EMAIL:** hilovu@nust.na

International Education Day, 12-14 September 2017, Main Campus.