



NUST BRIEF

Intensifying aerospace research in Namibia

The Namibia Space Week was inaugurated during the Windhoek Agricultural and Industrial Show. The event brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to deliberate on intensifying aerospace research in the country. Organised by the Namibia Institute of Space Technology (NIST), the Space Week focused on two critical themes namely, Nanosatellite Technology and Earth Observation.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has dubbed Nanosatellites as 'Small Satellites Big Discoveries' and is aggressively targeting research and innovation in this field. Earth Observation and Remote Sensing applications are numerous, and are used in areas such as natural resource management, disaster monitoring, marine protection and mining, security and tracking, cellphone communication and television broadcast. This shows that Namibia can benefit immensely from the satellite applications. Additionally, Space Science, Technology and Applications as a discipline, has been identified as one of the priority areas in the research implementation plans identified by the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (MHETI).

"The Ministry is aware of the ongoing collaboration and discussion with AIRBUS regarding the setting up of the Namibian Space Data Centre to monitor our shores and land. The Ministry is supportive of this endeavour in Earth Observation and by monitoring of our land, we intend to protect our environment

and natural resources from all illegal activities. The Ministry is pleased to know that there is progress being made towards the Namibia Space Data Centre through collaboration with NIST. We look forward to the day when Namibia would launch a NAMSAT, a nanosatellite with payload, to assist in studying and monitoring our land and ocean," said Dr Alfred van Kent, the MHETI Permanent Secretary.

"Our leadership in Space Technology will engage the inhabitants of Namibia in how we all can use Space Technology for industrialisation and socio-economic enhancement. Thus the theme for the Namibia Space week was aptly selected to be 'Namibia: Exploring New World in Space'," said Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor.

NUST's partners in aerospace include, AIRBUS Defence and Space, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, French South African Institute of Technology, University of Namibia, Namibia Scientific Society, and representatives of High Energy Spectroscopic System.



FROM LEFT: Dr Alfred van Kent, Permanent Secretary: Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation; and Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor.



FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor; Advocate Esi Schimming-Chase, Chairperson: NUST Council; and Dr Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education Expert, pictured with Council members.

Rethinking university engagement

NUST hosted the 24th Southern African Association of Institutional Research (SAAIR) Conference from 23 to 26 October 2017, under the theme: "Rethinking University Engagement in Africa."

NUST is a member of SAAIR, a dynamic association of about 25 universities which promotes institutional research, training and development, and the exchange of information at universities. The SAAIR Conference is held annually for scholars, academics and higher education officials, including Institutional Researchers (IRs) and experts.

More than 130 participants from 23 different universities in the SADC region attended the Conference. Dr Jamil Salmi, a renowned global tertiary education expert was the guest speaker at the gathering. Salmi has globally provided advice on tertiary education development, financing reforms and strategic planning to governments and university leaders in about 90 countries. He wrote the first World Bank paper on higher education reform in 1994 and he was the principal author of the Bank's 2002 Tertiary Education Strategy entitled 'Constructing

Knowledge Societies: New Challenges for Tertiary Education.'

At an Open Campus meeting held ahead of the Conference, Dr Salmi gave a presentation on "Establishing World-Class Universities". He provided a global perspective on the experiences of a wide range of national university systems, including Brazil, China, India, Singapore, Malaysia and Mexico.

"Universities do not operate in a vacuum, they are located somewhere, and what happens in that specific environment has a big influence on their development. Inevitably, political and economic stability has an impact on the quality of students and researchers an institution attracts in its pursuit of world-class standards," Salmi said. He added that world-class universities are the product of a combination of three main factors: abundant resources, concentration of talent, and favourable governance.

Central Bank to host NUST interns

Through the Centre of Cooperative Education Unit (CEU), NUST signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) recently. The MoU will enable students from the University to secure internships at the Bank as part of their Work Integrated Learning (WIL) course.

The BoN recently conducted a study on the financial sector with support from the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority.

The Deputy Governor of the Bank, Edson Uanguta, said the study "comes at a time when the financial sector is impacted by a myriad of technological changes such as recent developments in governance, risk and compliance framework, competition, new organisational forms, increasing demands from consumers, issues of financial inclusion and evolving opportunities, and may I dare point out – threats." It is against this background, that training of students to acquire relevant skills is necessary.

Dr Andrew Niikondo, the NUST Deputy-Vice Chancellor: Academic Affairs, expressed his

gratitude to the Bank for opening its doors to students.

"WIL is an integral part of the Curriculum model of the undergraduate programmes at NUST. Through this course students are accorded the opportunity to learn and apply their cognitive skills and knowledge in industry. It is an important part of teaching and learning progression and through this course our graduates pull together knowledge from the classroom and practical know-how from real work environment," Niikondo said.

Since 2009, BoN has availed 20 internship opportunities and five scholarships in the fields of IT, Economics, Finance and Accounting to NUST students.



FROM LEFT: Dr Andrew Niikondo, NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs; and Edson Uanguta, Deputy Governor, Bank of Namibia, posing for picture after signing the MoU.

Wishing all students the best with their examinations!