



NUST BRIEF

Ensuring sustainable energy supply

The Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN) workshop on Solar Thermal Technology Roadmap Implementation Plan was held last week on campus. The event brought together representatives of various government departments, the academia and private organisations.

The SOLTRAIN project, which was initiated in 2009, is financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and it is implemented by AEE - Institute for Sustainable Technologies, Austria, in cooperation with project partners from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The overall goal of this southern African regional project is to contribute to the switch from a fossil fuel based energy supply to a sustainable energy supply system based on renewable energy.

Mr John Titus, the Director in the Energy Division of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, delivered a welcoming speech to the delegates, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Simeon Negumbo. "Impacts of activities and contributions from SOLTRAIN are already evident in Namibia, especially in our work towards the Renewable Energy Policy, Demand Side Management Framework, Update of the National Energy Policy, the development of the curricula in Universities, and in Vocational Training Centres," Titus said. Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor,

via a speech read by Lameck Mwewa, a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Science, elaborated on the SOLTRAIN project achievement.

"The initiative has funded and facilitated the installation of water heating systems at five Vocational Training Centres (Okakarara, Valombola, Zambezi, Eenhana, and Rundu) for use in the training of their students. The project acquired two demonstration trailers for NUST and the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre. A curriculum in solar thermal systems is also being developed for the VTCs," he said.

The platform was also used to handover a scholarship to a NUST student, Anna Amupolo, courtesy of SOLTRAIN. Amupolo is studying toward a Bachelor of Technology in Power Engineering.

The workshop was organised by the University's Namibia Energy Institute (NEI), in conjunction with the AEE INTEC - Institute of Sustainable Energy Systems (Austria), and the Ministry of Mines and Energy.



Front row, from left: Dr Zivayi Chiguvare, Director: Namibia Energy Institute; Anna Amupolo, student: Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Dr Werner Weiss, SOLTRAIN Coordinator: AEE INTEC (Institute for Sustainable Technologies, Austria). BACK ROW: Nico Snyders, Deputy Director, Renewable Energy; Ministry of Mines and Energy; Lameck Mwewa, Senior Lecturer: Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences; John Titus, Director of Energy: Ministry of Mines and Energy; Helvi Iлека, Project Officer: Namibia Energy Institute, and Fenni Shidhika, Researcher: Namibia Energy Institute.



Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor (front row, sixth from left), pictured with staff and youth involved in the UNESCO Youth Mobile Initiative.

NBII launches second UNESCO Youth Mobile Initiative

The Namibia Business Innovation Institute (NBII) and its Reconstructed Living Labs (RLabs) division, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held the second round of the UNESCO Youth Mobile recently.

The initiative was launched last year with the aim to equip Namibian youth, particularly young women, with the skills and confidence to develop, promote and sell relevant mobile applications that contribute to sustainable development.

The initiative is specifically designed for unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 35 who are committed to attend on a full-time basis. Collin Hangula, one of the participants who successfully completed the programme last year, has excelled to becoming a trainer.

The current training, with 40 participants, kicked off in May and will end in October.

"It is public knowledge that many public and private institutions in Namibia rely heavily on

foreign software developers to develop local systems due to the lack of local expertise. I am, therefore, encouraging you, the participants, to start filling that gap in the future," said Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor during the opening ceremony.

"The five months of training will surely allow UNESCO Youth Mobile to equip young people with the skills that are needed to tackle the challenges of the 21st century," said Dr Jean-Pierre Ilboudo, UNESCO country representative.

NBII's vision it to be recognised globally as a leading centre of excellence in transforming innovative ideas into sustainable businesses and social solutions.

NUST staff receives international scholarly award

Dr Cyril Ogbokor, an Associate Director in the Faculty of Management Sciences, won the Best Paper Award at the recently concluded International Conference on Business and Management Dynamics 2017. The conference took place in Cape Town, South Africa. It was jointly hosted by a consortium of four universities, one in Africa and three in Europe.

Dr Ogbokor's paper titled: "Promoting Economic Growth in Namibia through Foreign Trade: Application of Cointegration Method," assesses the impact of foreign trade on Namibia's growth for the period 1990 to 2012 using quarterly data.

The study result attests to the important role of foreign trade on Namibia's economic growth.

The paper recommends the need for Namibia to put in place appropriate export incentives so as to encourage, improve and boost exports.

The study also recommends the need for Namibia to invest massively in infrastructure, as well as further exploring its various trade agreements with regional economic blocs across the world.

Dr Ogbokor envisages that these recommendations can be useful strategies of improving the country's competitiveness in foreign trade, as well as its overall economic performance if effectively implemented. He concludes by providing directions on further research opportunities on the subject.

Dr Ogbokor holds a Doctorate in Economic Science and over the years, he has taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He has written and published extensively in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. His research accomplishments are mainly in macroeconomics, development



Dr Cyril Ogbokor, Associate Director: Faculty of Management Sciences.

economics, international economics and econometrics. Dr Ogbokor's research activity has earned him the Faculty of Management Sciences Best Researcher Award four times since the introduction of this scholarly accolade.