

## NUST and Airbus to open Data Centre

NUST and Airbus Defence and Space (ADS) have agreed to collaborate in establishing a Virtual Space Data Centre in Windhoek to assist Namibia in monitoring and growing key elements of the economy. This was announced during the occasion of the Signing of the Letter of Intent between the two parties.

The Namibian government has delegated NUST to host the Institute for Space Technology and mandated it to implement the Virtual Space Data Centre, as part of its strategic plan for developing the country's aerospace, geo-information, earth observation and spatial science capabilities.

Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor, highlighted the University's dedication to discovering the needs and niches in Namibia, and to find long-term solutions that bring about sustainable development.

"The Centre will find wide applications in Namibia in the fields of aviation, maritime and land transportation, urbanisation, mapping and surveying, human health, disaster management, food security and sustainable agriculture, environmental monitoring and natural resources management. The data will be made available to government ministries and various entities," said Tjivikua.

Dr Jean-Marc Nasr, the Head of Airbus Defence and Space for Africa, Middle East, France and the UK is equally optimistic about the collaboration. "Namibia is a key market for Airbus in Sub-Saharan Africa and we see this initial project as the starting point for a broader relationship with our partners at NUST and the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, which will include other aerospace themes," explained Nasr. Furthermore, through this partnership, both parties intend to collaborate on developing academic postgraduate programmes in various fields of Aerospace Technology, e.g. Satellite Ground Element Technology, Space Technology, Aerospace Dynamics research and industry, and thereby push the boundaries of technology in Namibia. Through the collaboration, NUST will link to the Airbus Academy and French universities.



From left: HE Christian Schlaga: German Ambassador; HE Concepción Figuerola Sanchez: Spanish Ambassador; Dr Jean Marc-Nasr, Head: Airbus Defence and Space for Africa, Middle East, France and the UK; Dr Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor: NUST; and HE Jacqueline Bassa-Mazzoni pictured after the Signing Ceremony.



Front row from left: Dr Harmony Musiyarira, Head: Department of Mining and Process Engineering; Veston Malango, CEO: Namibia Chamber of Mines; Emily Nickerson, Program Manager: Mining Shared Value; Jeff Geipel, Founder: Mining Shared Value; Prof Errol Tyobeka: Special Adviser to the VC; and Prof Godfrey Dzinomwa, MD: Paasol Resources pictured at the launch.

### Mining procurement trends report launched

A research report comparing Namibian and South African mining company procurement strategies and their regulatory environments was launched last week. The research was conducted by the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute (CIRDI) and the Mining Shared Value (MSV) venture of Engineers Without Borders.

The launch was hosted at NUST due to the long standing relationship that the Department of Mining and Process Engineering has with Prof Dirk van Zyl from the Norman Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering at the University of British Columbia in Canada. Van Zyl has worked closely with the CIRDI and MSV.

One of the main findings of the report is that there are significant challenges in both countries' efforts to increase local procurement in mining and there are a number of opportunities for the governments to support current and future approaches in this area.

In the case of South Africa, the recommendations offer opportunities to support existing regulations and ease some of the tensions surrounding them.

The report recommends that similar interventions should be considered as options in Namibia for any future introduction of legislated requirements for mining local procurement.

In addition, the report states that companies are keen on local procurement as this drives host communities to support their mining operations.

However, while all the companies expressed a

desire to purchase as many goods and services as possible, concerns over the ability of local suppliers to meet their needs were widespread. One of the authors of the report, Emily Nickerson, from MSV, highlighted other key findings and potential future studies.

"This study provides policy insights for both South Africa and Namibia, as well as for policy makers across the continent.

However, there remains a large gap in empirical research on the effects of regulations requiring local procurement and this study in many ways is only a start," remarked Nickerson.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tjama Tjivikua's speech was read at the event by Prof Errol Tyobeka, his Special Adviser. "While the economic relationship between South Africa and Namibia is significant, the South African mining industry is relatively bigger than that of Namibia. Nonetheless, it is important that Namibia also draws relevant lessons on how best certain regulations can be crafted and modified in the interest of increasing local procurement. It is possible to learn from the mistakes that other countries have made and build on the successes that we have registered to date," he said.

### Students take charge of their reproductive health

Over 50 students attended this year's Family Planning workshop, organised by the NUST Department of Student Services. The workshop has been held at the Institution since 1992, with the aim to educate students about their sexual and reproductive health.

Namibia is faced with unprecedented high cases of teenage pregnancy, maternal mortality and sexually transmitted diseases amongst young people. Many young girls and women face the risk of their studies being disrupted as a result of unintended pregnancies. Factors attributed to these early and unintended pregnancies are poverty, lack of access to comprehensive sex education and peer pressure, amongst others.

The Department of Student Services aims to reduce these occurrences by educating female and male students about the options available to them. Sister Kristine Siseho, a registered nurse at the NUST Clinic emphasised the importance of making informed choices. "Social evils such as baby dumping are on the rise in Namibia and there are various reasons why young mothers find this as the only alternative. In some cases, unwanted pregnancies result in abortions, which is a great public health concern, not only because it is illegal in Namibia, but because many of

these procedures are performed in unsafe ways which pose serious health risks for the women. Nonetheless, if more young people are educated about the various Family Planning methods, these tragic situations can be avoided," she stressed.

During the workshop, students were tested on their knowledge of Family Planning. Gideon Shilongo, a first-year Computer Science student explained that it is about preparing for your future and having a number of children that you can support. Maxine Jakobus, a first-year Environmental Health Sciences student simply summed it up as one's decision of when exactly they wish to get pregnant.

The most widely available forms of contraceptives at government health care facilities are injections, pills, intrauterine devices and condoms. The NUST clinic offers contraceptives to the University community at no charge.



Sister Kristine Siseho: NUST Clinic Nurse (seated centre in uniform), pictured with students who attended the workshop.

### NUST CAREER FAIR

15 and 16 March 2017

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