



NUST BRIEF

NUST recognised for sustainability efforts

The Green Building Council of Namibia (GBCNA), presented a Bronze Founding Member Certificate to NUST, in recognition of the University's support towards the Council's environmental sustainability initiatives.

GBCNA was established by the Namibia Energy Institute (NEI) in 2012 as an extension of the national sustainable development activities advocated by the Ministry of Mines, the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Fund.

The Council's overarching goal is to promote the construction of cities that are environmentally sensitive, economically viable and socially just. Furthermore, through workshops and meetings, GBCNA provides a framework for organisations to contribute to the promotion of all aspects of green building.

Becoming a part of GBCNA gives members a competitive advantage as it demonstrates commitment to sustainability. Receiving the Certificate, the NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tjama Tjivikua, pledged the Institution's commitment to sustainability. "We have taken measures to ensure that we save energy in every way possible.

We have gone back to basics by practicing energy saving measures such as opening windows for air flow, instead of utilising air-conditioning, as well as opening curtains to utilise natural light, to utilise natural light instead of switching on lights," Tjivikua remarked.

Recently, an initiative to encourage staff and students to join the University in its commitment to sustainability was introduced by means of a pledge.

Hundreds of employees have heeded the call by signing the online document and promising to, amongst others, reduce procurement costs and implement innovative ways to contribute to the Institution's Sustainability Strategy.

The GBCNA Chairperson, Frederick Muketi, highlighted that by 2020, the Council aims to train more than 1 000 professionals in green building principles and practices.



From left: Dr Zivayi Chiguvare, Director: Namibia Energy Institute; Dr Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor: NUST; Fredrick Muketi, Chairperson: Green Building Council of Namibia and Ndakema Hamunghete, Honorary Secretary: Green Building Council of Namibia.



Kirstin Wiedow, Director: FABlab (centre behind flag) and Bjorn Wiedow, Deputy Director: FABlab (far right, back row), pictured with staff and MIT students outside the laboratory.

MIT Master's students impressed with FABlab

A group of 26 Master of Business Administration (MBA) students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sloan School of Management paid a visit to the NUST Fabrication Laboratory (FABlab).

The trip formed part of the students' spring break study tour which included a focus on Namibia and Botswana with the aim to investigate economic strength and diversification of each of the countries.

The students were eager to engage with institutions that contribute to the growth of the local economy.

Laura Adelman, one of the MBA candidates said: "The facilities are impressive and the team has accomplished a lot in the manufacturing and design space. The work done here is an excellent example of innovative entrepreneurship taught at MIT Sloan."

During the visit, the FABlab Director, Kirstin Wiedow and Deputy Director, Bjorn Wiedow, explained what the various equipment is used for and the future plans of their projects.

"They were also eager to learn about the job opportunities we create, which gender group we mostly cater for, if any, and other benefits

for the economy. It was really our pleasure to host them, keeping in mind that the FABlab is a brainchild of their institution," Kirstin added. Bjorn spoke extensively about one of the laboratory's projects that transforms discarded raw wool into potential job opportunities and has brought a new dimension to value-addition, entrepreneurship and recycling in Namibia.

The campaign, branded HERD, takes sheared, washed and carded raw wool and turns it into various products, including mats, bags and lampshades.

Internationally, the first FABlab was founded in 2001 at the Centre for Bits and Atoms at MIT, and has since grown to approximately 1 000 laboratories around the world.

The NUST Laboratory was founded and officially opened in February 2014 and is the first rapid prototyping and design laboratory in the country, one of the largest and best equipped FABlabs in Africa.

Computing lecturer handpicked to represent Africa in America



Josephina Muntuumo, Junior Lecturer and Master's Student: Computer Science Department.

The A.M. Turing Award was named after Alan Turing, a pioneer in computing who is the inventor of the TuringMachine and considered to be the father of theoretical Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence.

Muntuumo is one of 13 students who will be student Ambassadors for the ACM Special Interest Group on Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) during the Celebration. The selection process was competitive with about 45 applications from around the world.

The fact that the Faculty had established a local ACM SIGCHI chapter in Namibia certainly increased the chances of Namibian students to participate.

The FCI had established three local chapters of ACM in early 2016, one being a professional ACM chapter. To date, these chapters have opened doors and many opportunities for the Faculty's academic staff and students.

Dr Anicia Peters, the Dean of the FCI said: "Muntuumo is an exceptional candidate who excelled among many students from around the world who competed. To be selected as the only representative of Africa certainly shows the quality of students and staff at NUST."

"At the time I was informed about the selection, I had no clue whatsoever that I was the only student selected from an African university. Knowing this indeed makes me feel honoured to represent the continent. I am grateful to Dr Peters for always making sure we are provided with such amazing opportunities," Muntuumo said excitedly.

A Junior Lecturer and Master's student in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics, Josephina Muntuumo, has been selected to attend the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) 50 Years of the A.M. Turing Award Celebration.

The prestigious event in Computing will take place in June in San Francisco, USA.

The Turing Award is the highest award in the Computing field and recognises individuals who make exceptional and lasting contributions to the field.

UPCOMING SHORT COURSES OFFERED BY THE CENTRE FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (CED):

COURSE	DATE	FEE
Marketing Management for SMEs	25 April - 10 May 2017	N\$1 800
Financial Management - How to cost and price your goods and services	22 May - 6 June 2017	N\$1 800
Financial Management - How to budget and keep financial records	12 June - 27 June 2017	N\$1 800

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Graduation Ceremonies: 20 and 21 April 2017: Safari Hotel.