



NUST takes lead in VET development



From left: Prof Moses Ketch, University of London; Dr Bernd Lennartz, University of Röstock; Prof Peliwe Lolwana, University of Witwatersrand; Gesine Haseloff, University of Röstock; Ullrich Kinne, Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy and Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor.

A three-day Vocational Education and Training (VET) Development Symposium, organised by NUST and the University of Röstock, Germany and supported by the Volkswagen (VW) Foundation, brought together representatives from 16 countries last week to establish networks which will result in increased opportunities for research and collaboration between VET practitioners.

The symposium, held under the theme "Current situation and development of further education research in vocational and training in Sub-Saharan Africa," was opened by NUST Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua. He said Namibia needs to take cognisance of the fact that the role VET needs to play in Namibia to achieve Vision 2030, is dependent on the quality of systems, instructors and facilities. "Professional skills alone are not adequate to churn out well-trained artisans. There is a need to train instructors in Technical Education Didactics for the effective transfer of skills," Tjivikua added.

Ullrich Kinne, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Namibia, underscored his country's reputable vocational education

system which he encouraged others to emulate. He emphasised the need to address challenges that hinder the growth of the sector in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as the lack of qualified staff and the high number of dropouts.

NUST is set to address the skills shortage by offering qualifications in VET Management programmes that recognise the important role managers play within Vocational Education and Training and will ensure that the skills needs of industry are addressed. These qualifications provide the students with learning experiences that will enable them to achieve the standards set in the curricula of the new NQF registered National Vocational Awards (NVA).

Foreign students complete European Summer School

A group of 11 European Summer School students were rewarded with certificates this week after successfully completing several four-week tailor-made courses that were facilitated by the Faculty of Management Sciences.

Hosting exchange students from universities around the world is part of driving the NUST international strategy premised on the integration of best international practices into all teaching, learning and research activities.

Dr Marius Kudumo, the Director of the International Relations Department, emphasised the importance of globalisation and said that encounters of this nature go a long way in moulding young people to become well-rounded global citizens. He addressed the successful foreign students and said: "I trust your interaction has changed your perception of Africa and you have now become ambassadors of not only the continent, but Namibia specifically."

The group, made up of students from Austria, Germany and Slovakia, expressed their

appreciation for the opportunity and said they had obtained a world of knowledge from the courses they attended. These included: Doing Business in Africa, Media and Globalisation, Intercultural Communication, Business Ethics and Governance and Politics in Africa.

The curriculum also included visits to tourist attractions such as Sossusvlei and the Etosha National Park. Dr Cyril Ogbokor, the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, urged the students to return to Namibia and to tour other parts of the country.

The Summer School is an initiative of Verein zur Förderung des Austauschs Europäischer (VAEA), an international organisation that aims to establish sustainable exchanges in the fields of culture and education between Europe, America and Southern Africa.



Front, from left: Markus Strasser, Summer School Coordinator; Dr Cyril Ogbokor, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences; Dr Marius Kudumo, Director: International Relations; Eden Shipanga, Lecturer in the Faculty of Management Sciences; and Mao Mpyoi, Summer School Coordinator, are pictured with the foreign students who attended the Summer School.



Dr Kenneth Odera, Academic Director: NGIL (extreme left, back row) and Liina Shangheta, Research Assistant: NGIL (extreme left, front row) pictured with participants in the seminar.

NGIL to train students to deal with natural disasters

A research survey conducted to assess the challenges of humanitarian logistics in Namibia has found that there are multiple training needs in this sector.

The findings of the study, conducted by Dr Kenneth Odera and Liina Shangheta of the Namibian-German Institute for Logistics (NGIL), were presented at a recently held seminar.

The increasing frequency of natural disasters such as drought, fires and flooding nationwide, prompted the Institute to look for ways in which institutions of higher learning can contribute to ensure that the country's level of preparedness is improved. The researchers believe that academics have the time and mandate to articulate, codify and transfer knowledge that can be widely applied and contribute to a better and more sustainable world.

The NGIL has, therefore, initiated the process of developing a programme on Humanitarian Logistics after consulting widely with stakeholders. The survey was conducted to gauge opinions and views on Namibia's humanitarian logistics challenges and training needs.

The study was conducted from May to June 2016 to solicit views of stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in humanitarian operations. The findings will be used to assist in developing the content and the curriculum of the programme. Graduates of this programme will be well-equipped to pursue careers in the fields of humanitarian and development work, such as health in emergencies, logistics, and water and sanitation.

Some of the stakeholders consulted during the survey included staff of the Ministry of Education responsible for the school feeding programme, the Office of the Prime Minister: Directorate of Disaster Risk Management, the Windhoek Fire Brigade, and the Namibia Red Cross Society.

The new programme initiated by the NGIL is in line with the objectives of World Humanitarian Day which is annually commemorated on 19 August and brings to the fore the need for action to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims.