



NUST BRIEF

JLU Giessen University and NUST strengthen ties



Prof Joybrato Mukherjee, President: Justus Liebig University (JLU) Giessen (left) and Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor, posing with Lameck Mwewa, Associate Dean: Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, and recipient of the Justus Liebig Medal.

Owing to the excellent relations between the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Justus Liebig University (JLU) Giessen, a delegation from the German University, led by its president, visited Namibia last week.

The delegation was joined by the DAAD Country Representative in Namibia. A Memorandum of Understanding that exists between the two universities outlines the areas of collaboration. These areas include cooperation in research and teaching, staff and student exchange, common supervision of doctoral student projects, and the exchange of scientific publications.

The Delegation engaged in two main activities during their visit namely, an Open Campus session, and deliberations on the partnerships.

The Open Campus meeting was held in partnership with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The objective was to provide information to NUST staff and students regarding exchange opportunities at Giessen University, and DAAD scholarship funding opportunities. DAAD avails over 100 000 scholarships annually to students across the world. Prof Joybrato

Mukherjee, the President of JLU, spoke highly about the relationship between NUST and JLU, stating that he looks forward to exploring further areas of collaboration.

The Justus Liebig Medal was awarded to Mwewa, Associate Dean in the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, by that University's Senate for his impressive personal contributions to promoting and enhancing the relationship between JLU and NUST, specifically during his tenure as the Dean of the then Faculty of Natural Resources and Tourism.

The Faculty has since been renamed to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences.

Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor further held extensive discussions with Prof Mukherjee aimed at enhancing the cooperation.

Sharing best practices in hospitality and tourism

A delegation from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) attended a workshop hosted by the Namibia University of Science and Technology's (NUST) Department of Hospitality and Tourism. The aim of the discussion group was to share best practises in the tourism curricula.

Both NUST and CPUT run hotel schools that are open to the public and serve as training platforms for students in the tourism and hospitality fields. Some of the facilities are run by students with guidance from the staff. Boniface Mbidzo, the Head of Industry Services at the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB), said that despite the financial constraints, the National Development Plan 5 requires the sector to grow the arrival numbers of tourists in Namibia. He further commended the initiation of such workshops.

Thembisile Molose, the CPUT Director of Granger Bay (Hotel School) and Dr Tshinakaho Nyathela, a CPUT Senior Research Lecturer, gave detailed presentations of the programmes offered by their university. This includes Master's and Doctorate programmes in Hospitality and Tourism.

NUST's programmes are revised every five years to assess curriculum development needs. This workshop enabled staff in the Faculty of Management Sciences to make comparisons with

CPUT in order to improve the programmes on offer.

Dr Erling Kavita, an Associate Dean in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism, stated that currently the department offers four programmes and there are hopes to expand this in the near future. Kavita specifically mentioned that the introduction of a Bachelor of Culinary Science is on the cards, a qualification he says the industry desperately needs.

Tourism in Namibia is a major industry contributing billions of dollars to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with over one million tourists visiting Namibia annually. In 2015, an estimated 100 000 jobs were created in the sector. However, there are challenges that pose a threat to the growth industry's, which include poor customer care and a shortage of skilled personnel. These are some of the challenges NUST aims to address.



FRONT ROW: Boniface Mbidzo, Head of Industry Service: Namibia Tourism Board (third from left); Prof Harold Campbell, Dean: Faculty of Management Sciences (fourth from left); and Dr Erling Kavita, Associate Dean: Faculty of Management Sciences (fifth from left).



NUST STUDENTS: Shariffa Bessinger, Kevin Nakashona and Annete Peter.

From NUST to Berlin School of Economics and Law

NUST students Annete Peter, Kevin Nakashona and Shariffa Bessinger departed for the Berlin School of Economics and Law (BSEL), Germany, on a four-month student exchange visit.

The three NUST students were selected for the semester exchange programme to BSEL during January 2018, and each received a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Nakashona and Bessinger are 3rd year Economics students, while Peter is a 3rd year Accounting and Finance student. The three students will spend the next four months at the Berlin School of Economics and Law.

NUST and BSEL established a formal collaborative relationship in 2013, and the partnership has been both fruitful and mutually beneficial with staff and students from both universities undertaking regular exchange visits.

"We're so happy and excited to be going abroad on this semester exchange. This is an amazing opportunity to experience a different university, different cultures and to gain valuable

international exposure," Nakashona said, shortly before boarding their flight to Germany. Peter and Bessinger were equally enthusiastic, saying that they were very grateful for the opportunity to spend four months abroad. They intend to make full use of the chance and will carry the NUST name high.

In January this year, two professors from BSEL visited NUST for deliberations over new areas of collaboration and to continue the partnership between the two institutions. Two NUST academics will also undertake an exchange visit to BSEL later this year. "We are very happy that the partnership between NUST and BSEL is working so well and we look forward to continuing the strong relationship that we have built with our German partners," said NUST International Relations Officer, Nico Smit.