



# NUST BRIEF

## NUST and UNAM formalise partnership



Front from left: Dr Rolf Becker, Dean: NUST Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences; Dr Tjama Tjivikua: NUST Vice-Chancellor; Prof Lazarus Hangula: UNAM Vice-Chancellor and Prof Frednard Gideon, UNAM Pro-Vice Chancellor: Academic Affairs, pictured with senior staff from the two institutions.

The two leading universities in the country, NUST and UNAM, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise existing partnerships in the sharing of facilities, student exchange and research.

Their relationship dates back to the era before independence when both institutions were part of the Academy for Tertiary Education.

The MoU was initiated by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences of NUST and it will see the two institutions strengthening efforts to ensure the success of current and future mutually-beneficial projects. At present, the collaborations are in areas such as the monitoring of animal movement and poaching, small stock management, dairy cow management, processing of dairy products and the general management of farm infrastructure.

Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor spoke highly of the MoU stressing that there can be no knowledge economy without universities. "This is an opportunity for us to function as a knowledge hub for the country. If we are not coordinated, we will not reap the maximum benefits of the capabilities that exist between us

and we will not be able to ensure the longevity of our work," Tjivikua said. He further proposed a more comprehensive partnership agreement.

Prof Lazarus Hangula, the UNAM Vice-Chancellor said: "It is commendable that we have started formalising our relationship through agriculture and food production as these are crucial areas for our sustainability. I look forward to extending our partnership into other focal points," Hangula remarked.

Salomo Mbai, the Head of the NUST Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences added that through the joint collaboration, great strides have been made in the country's agriculture sector. For instance, under the supervision of staff from both universities, a group of bachelor degree students conduct research on the possible use of salt water for crop production.

## Faculty aligns research agenda with Sustainable Development Goals

The importance of conducting research in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was under the spotlight at the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences' (FNRSS) first Research Day for the year.

The SDGs are a set of 17 aspirational global goals spearheaded by the United Nations that cover issues such as eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change and protecting oceans and forests.

Eight projects were presented by staff and students on topics such as: Law reform for improved delivery of land to the urban poor; The flexible Land Tenure System in a global context; Revisiting the homestead: Contemporary expressions of tradition through architecture; Leasehold rights and economic development, and Agro-biotechnology investment and economic feasibility of the production of torrefied wood pellets in the Khomas Region. [Torrefaction of biomass is the change of biomass properties at high temperatures to provide a much better fuel quality for combustion or gasification applications.]

Dr Peter Tarr, the Executive Director of the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA), delivered the keynote address titled: The impact of the Sustainable Development Goals on the research landscape in Namibia. Tarr challenged the University community to conduct research that not only earns them doctoral titles, but that also brings about policy change and makes an impact on societies. "No matter what your research topic is, frame it around the SDGs," he said.

Dr Rolf Becker, the Dean of FNRSS highlighted that the Institution has ensured that students and staff have ample time to conduct research, thus he encouraged all departments in his Faculty to take full advantage of this opportunity. He added that one of the Faculty's main objectives is to strengthen its research portfolio at postgraduate level. The event was attended by students, staff and industry representatives.



Front from left: Celeste Espach, Head of Department of Geo-Spatial Sciences and Technology: FNRSS; Dr Rolf Becker, Dean: FNRSS and Charl-Thom Bayer, Lecturer: FNRSS, pictured with other attendants of the event.



Participants of the Spring School pictured at Krones, a manufacturing company that they visited.

## Students attend Spring School in Kenya

Six students and a lecturer from the Faculty of Computing and Informatics recently visited the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), in Kenya, as part of a week-long Spring School exchange programme.

During the excursion, the students attended a workshop held under the theme: "Leveraging on ICT for Business Transformation and Excellence."

The workshop, which focused on the use of ICT in businesses in Africa was not only attended by NUST and JKUAT, but two other collaborating universities, namely the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, and the Institute of Technology Management, Cameroon.

Johnson Billawer, the NUST Project Coordinator and lecturer, leading the students, said the programme enables students from different

backgrounds to interact, learn from each other and experience the way foreign business operate. He further expressed his appreciation to the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD, for its continued support.

Jenny Christoph, one of the students, said she learned how businesses integrate technologies to manage their activities

The students also toured telecommunications, manufacturing and geothermal energy companies in the country.

## NUST goes to Omaheke Region



Staff from the NUST Department of Communications and Marketing recently attended the Ritja Career Fair which was held at the Gustav Kandjii Secondary School in the Omaheke Region. More than 500 learners from nine different schools attended the Fair. The learners were eager to know the different programmes that NUST offers, specifically in the agriculture field.

Happy Independence Day Namibia.