

UN ready to partner with NUST

A public dialogue, held under the theme: "Enhancing International Cooperation to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," was held on campus recently to mark the International Education Day 2016. The event was organised by the Department of International Relations to provide a platform for the United Nations (UN) and various embassies to share ideas on how NUST can participate in the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs were created to tackle the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were set to be achieved by 2015. The Goals are designed to place the world on a path towards ending poverty, ensuring peace and prosperity, building strong partnerships, and in essence, setting a development agenda for a better world.

Kiki Gbeho, the UN Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, said the UN stood ready to partner with NUST to advance the dialogue on matters such as ensuring research on clean and sustainable energy. "NUST is making progress through the Namibia Energy Institute and is well placed to lead research in

the area of clean energy in partnership with financial institutions, regional and international partners," Gbeho said.

NUST Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, endorsed the initiative, highlighting the Institution's role in implementing the SDGs. "It is clear that all the 17 SDGs are relevant to our mandate of teaching, research, learning and community engagement. One of the targets of Goal 4 of the SDGs, for example, speaks to the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that education systems should instil in learners and students," Tjivikua said.

He emphasised that NUST values strong collaboration with the objective to promote internationalisation and to enhance the quality and relevance of higher education.



Front: Jörn Rothacher, European Union; Kiki Gbeho, UN Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative; Dr Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor and Ulrich Kinne, Deputy Head of Mission: German Embassy. Back: Dr Cyril Ogbokor, Acting Dean: Management Sciences; Dr Anicia Peters, Dean: Computing and Informatics and Pio Lumaga, Director: Innovation and Design Lab.



Pictured with graduates, front row: Christian Schlaga, German Ambassador; Dr Gert Günzel, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Finance and Administration; Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangii, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation; Patrick Kohlstaedt, CATS Chairperson and Sen Iyambo, CATS Vice-Chairperson.

Logistics sector needs more training

A cohort of 21 students graduated from NUST's Centre for Enterprise Development (CED) after successfully completing the Commercial Advancement Training Scheme (CATS) programme.

To date, 107 candidates have graduated from this programme.

The Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangii, commended this achievement and said she would like to see an increase in the number of graduates. "We are indeed making progress, even though, at this pace, it will take us a long time before we make a meaningful impact on the challenges of poverty eradication and inequality, which are urgent and critical," Kandjii-Murangii said. She pleaded for a roll-out of a larger programme.

The initiative was started in 2005 after various industry stakeholders realised that the lack of training was hampering the growth of the Logistics and Transport sector. The dual training concept, which is a combination of practical and theoretical training, was then introduced, enabling employees to work and study simultaneously. The practical part of the programme consists of on-the-job training whilst theory training entails attending classes in business administration at the CED.

The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) contributed significantly to the growth of this programme, particularly because the dual training concept is one of the cornerstones of the German economy. The German Ambassador to Namibia, Christian Schlaga, said he was pleased to see that the seed that his government had sown has blossomed into a successful self-sustainable initiative.

The Chairperson of CATS, Patrick Kohlstaedt, said despite the many success stories, some challenges still remained. "Unfortunately, the quality of new entrants is weak, especially in Mathematics and English. We appeal to primary and secondary education institutions, as well as parents, to increase their efforts in providing support for learners to thrive," he said.

Dr Gert Günzel, NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Finance and Administration, announced that plans are underway to upgrade the qualification to a diploma registerable on the National Qualifications Framework, Level 6.

NUST student wins national first prize

Roelf Diergaardt, a NUST student studying for a Basic Skills Chef Certificate, won a gold medal at the first National Skills Competition (NSC) that was held last week. Ten different trades formed part of the competition. Diergaardt won in the cooking section.

More than 100 competitors from different Vocational Training Centres and other institutions across Namibia participated in the competition held at the Ramatex premises in the capital city. Organised by the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) and World Skills Namibia, the event aimed to uplift the training standards for vocational skills and change societal negative perceptions of jobs in this field.

Diergaardt, who was very excited about his achievement, says cooking is his passion and he is already looking forward to the possibility of going to Abu Dhabi next year for the World Skills International Competition. The international competition, in which more than 50 countries will participate, provides a means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades and service sectors of the global economy.

Ralf Herrgott, NUST Chef Lecturer, said he enjoyed organising and developing the competition layout and overseeing the

proceedings during the event. "This was a milestone achievement for Namibia to host such a competition and was well executed," he said.

Diergaardt, who started training as a chef in 2015, now has two titles under his belt. The first one was the '2015 Junior Chef of the Year,' a competition organised by the Namibian Chefs Association.



Roelf Diergaardt, left, pictured with Ralf Herrgott of NUST.

Clean-up organisers thank sponsors



The organising committee of the NUST Clean-up Campaign has extended its appreciation to the sponsors of the first Campus Clean-up Campaign held under the theme: "Keep Nust Clean – Keep Namibia Green." The sponsors are: Coca Cola, the Marketing Association of Namibia (MAN), Ohlthaver & List, MMI Holdings, City of Windhoek, Rent-A-Drum, Afrox and Sensia Cleaning Services. The members of the Transport and Logistics team, above, were the eventual winners of the campaign.