



# NUST BRIEF

## Quality Day underscores principles of excellence

NUST, in its commitment to academic excellence and internal quality assurance, pays specific attention to the importance of institutional quality management in building a world-class university. To this end, the first-ever Institutional Quality Day was held at NUST, organised by the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU).

The event was a platform to celebrate how far the Institution has come in upholding quality standards, befitting a world-class university.

Dr Lisho Mundia, the Director of Research and Innovation, at the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, delivered the keynote address on behalf of the Minister, Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi. "Higher education institutions are the principal drivers of skills, knowledge and innovation development in all the countries across the world. Quality in higher education will be achieved if universities carry out their core functions, which are teaching and learning, research and innovation, and community engagement in an environment that continuously and conscientiously promote quality and learning by doing," Dr Mundia said.

"When we talk about quality assurance, we should not only look at it as ensuring some checks and balances, but as a way to improve what we do. It allows us to ask ourselves some critical questions about what we

do and how we teach and learn. Today, education is a global paradigm. We produce graduates for the global market. As such, it is very important that we follow global standards," remarked Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor. "Ensuring quality is expensive; it costs money and resources, but it is absolutely necessary for the graduates that we put out there in order to create a competitive economy in a globally benchmarked world," he added.

Dr Caroline Selepe, the Director of Quality Promotion at the Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa, who amongst others, is also a programme accreditation expert, also shared her considerable expertise with the audience.

NUST, through the QAU, continuously aims to ensure that all the programmes on offer are registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and are accredited by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA), and other professional bodies.



FROM LEFT: Chie Wasserfall, CEO: Namibian Standards Institution; Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor; Dr Caroline Selepe, Director, Quality Promotion: Tshwane University of Technology; Mocks Shivute, Executive Director: NCHE Secretariat; Himeesora Kaimu, Director: NUST Quality Assurance Unit; and Dr Lisho Mundia, Director, Research and Innovation: Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.



FROM LEFT: Mckevin Ayaba Dormithienne, CEO and Founder: SASA; Vincent Nowaseb, General Manager, Innovation and Technology Development: NCRST; Enid Keramen, Acting CEO: NCRST; Pedrito Agostinho Da Fonseca, Winner of two categories, namely Start-up of the Year and Best Ecosystem Initiative; and Morné du Toit, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance: NUST.

## 11 start-ups receive recognition

The Namibia Business Innovation Institute (NBII) in partnership with the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and First National Bank Namibia (FNB) hosted the first-ever Southern Africa Start-up Awards (SASA). SASA is an official Southern Africa circuit for the Global Start-up Awards, which have been running annually since 2012.

A total of 525 nominations were received, of which 46 were eligible to compete in 11 categories. The categories are Start-up of the Year, Best Newcomer, Founder of the Year, Best Student Start-up, Best Accelerator/Incubator Programme, Female Role Model in Tech, Best EduTech Start-up, Best Social Impact Start-up, People's Choice, Best Start-up Ecosystem Initiative, and Best Water Crisis Management Solution.

SASA places the spotlight on model entrepreneurship and aims to inspire a dynamic community of start-up enthusiasts; encourage serial entrepreneurship and involve policy makers as well as diverse mentors and promoters of tech-innovation. The NBII Manager of Innovation marketplace, Silas Newaka, said: "The event was hosted not only to recognise talent and give awards, but also to build an ecosystem of start-ups in Namibia. NBII recognises the need to prepare Namibia's start-ups to compete with

industrialised countries in the region and globally. A successful SASA programme requires partnerships, collaborations and sponsorships from all sectors of Namibian society." The Start-up of the Year Award was won by Black Gold Engineering for being a tech start-up that has shown the greatest development over the last year based on growth, innovation and impact with its services. The Best Water Crisis Management Solution went to Solve Namibia, a venture that has shown the greatest development over the last year based on growth, innovation and impact with a product/service that uses technology to contribute to the sustainable improvement of the environment.

The awards are divided into three stages: National, Regional and Global Awards. The regional awards are slated for 21-22 November 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa, where all the Namibian award winners will represent the country.

## Prof Jat conferred Professorship

Prof Dharm Singh Jat received a Certificate of Professorship, conferred upon him by Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor, at a Professorial Inaugural Ceremony recently. Prof Jat is currently a Professor of Computer Science in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics.

The ceremony forms part of a Professorial Inaugural Lecture Series that are being held at the University to celebrate excellence in academic achievement of recently promoted and certified professors. Prof Jat delivered a lecture titled 'Smart Computing and Communication: Enabling Future Internet of Things (IoT)'. This lecture was about smart computing and communication, future research directions and challenges within the context of a local environment such as smart cities, homes, factories, and transportation, amongst others.

Prof Jat has presented at numerous prestigious academic and professional conferences. He boasts a highly distinguished academic track record and has been the recipient of more than 19 prestigious awards as a Scientist and Engineer. He is a Fellow of The Institution of Engineers, as well as the Computer Society of India, and a Chartered Engineer.



Dharm Singh Jat, Professor: Faculty of Computing and Informatics (left), pictured with Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor (right).

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