The first-ever National Students’ Research Symposium was held last week in Windhoek, under the theme ‘Nurturing Potential, Sharing Knowledge’. The symposium was hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, in collaboration with NUST, the University of Namibia, the International University of Management, and the National Commission for Research, Science and Technology (NCRST).

During the opening session of the two-day event, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education Training and Innovation, Honourable Dr Becky Ndjizze-Ojo, addressed the gathering and emphasised the importance of collaboration in the higher education sector. She encouraged the students to take advantage of platforms such as the Symposium, for the greater good of the country.

The event gives students an opportunity to engage in mentally stimulating discussions and collaborations across various disciplines. Some of the studies presented by NUST students at the Symposium were: Evaluation of E-Government Services Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Developing Countries - The Case of Namibia; A Symptomatic Based Insider Threats Assessment Framework for Namibia Critical Infrastructure Organisations; and Design and Development of Voice Activity Detection-Based Smart Home Automation Systems.

During the closing ceremony, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education Training and Innovation, Honourable Dr Becky Ndjizze-Ojo, noted that the competition is set to provide students with real-world challenges simulated in a theoretical environment that models a practical corporate network to curb these crimes. She added that students are challenged to protect modelled corporate networks, while at the same time attending to normal day-to-day activities, such as setting up e-mails, attending to employee queries and serving clients under strict deadlines.

The competition was also made possible by other companies and institutions that included Business Connexion (BCX), Bank of Namibia, Namibian Police, Ministry of Defence, Office of the Prime Minister, Telematic Namibia and NamWater. With the date for the next NNCSC event for next year already pegged for Saturday, 05 October 2019, FCI encourages industry to come on board and make a difference in the cyber security sector. More details can be found on the competition website: www.nnasc.com.

NUST wins National Cyber Security Competition

NUST has once again won the annual Namibia National Cyber Security Competition (NNCSC). The competition, being held for the fourth time, is aimed at creating awareness for cyber security threats. The theme of the NNCSC was ‘Trust, But Verify’, which aimed at promoting responsible online behaviour within organisations.

The NUST Team 1 secured the 3rd place. Additionally, there were category prizes, namely, Best Injects, which was won by Lingua Training College, and Best Uptime, as well as Attacker’s Award, that where both scooped by the NUST Team 1. On top of this, Best Collaboration went to NUST Team 1.

The rules of the competition made provisions for institutions to enter more than one team. The awards were sponsored by Paratus Telecom, MTC, Green Enterprise Solutions, and the First National Bank, respectively. Furthermore, the achievements were crowned with individual trophies and medals, courtesy of CSS Tactical Security.

The competition also provides a platform for industry to grow future Information Communication Technology (ICT) professionals with a specialisation in cyber security.

In all, there were six teams from four institutions namely, Delta Secondary School, Lingua International College, the University of Namibia and NUST. Mercy Chitaura, a lecturer in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FCI) at NUST, and the coach of the NUST teams, noted that the competition is set to provide students with real-world challenges simulated in a theoretical environment that models a practical corporate network to curb these crimes.

Science is everywhere...

Recently, staff of the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences took part in the 2018 Science Week. The outreach initiative was organised by Goethe-Institut, and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), with support from various partners such as NUST. The Week aims to increase awareness of the role science plays in society through entertaining educational activities and films. This year, the films addressed contemporary science issues in line with the theme ‘The Food Revolution.’ The films focused on nutrition and meeting the demands of a fast-growing global population, one of the current key challenges the world is facing. Moreover, participating schools and members of the public had the opportunity to witness scientific experiments while interacting with local scientists.