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OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Department of International Relations*

International Relations News



2016



NUST Dept. of International Relations



NUST: Dept of International Relations



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Internal Matters

Message from the Director

The Department of International Relations to drive the internationalisation agenda of NUST



The main function of the Department of International Relations is to drive the internationalisation agenda of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). This function entails supporting faculties, departments, centres and units in their international engagements and facilitating such interactions. It also involves coordinating the implementation of activities emanating from international agreements. The Department of International Relations is thus not an implementer per se, but a facilitating, supporting and coordinating Department.

Interstate or interparty engagements require that states or parties to the interactions are proactive, conscious and sensitive about the need for responsiveness and have defined strategic interests that they pursue in international engagements. The importance of international action plans in this regard cannot be overemphasised. The development of an international action plan for each faculty, department, centre and unit at NUST would ensure clarity and coherence regarding the articulation of strategic interests to be pursued, and thus entering into quality international agreements that add value to the achievement of the strategic goals and objectives of the university.

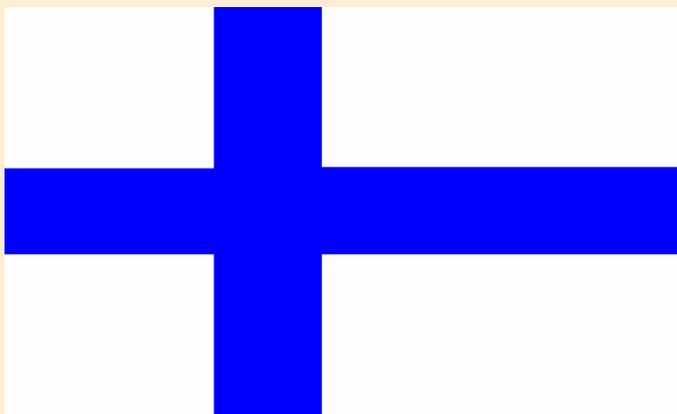
Against this background, the Department will pay particular attention in 2016 to the development of annual international action plans, assessment of current international agreements to determine the extent to which they add value to the goals and strategic objectives

of the institution. We will also redraft the webpage information of the Department to make it presentable and to provide the required information in a succinct manner.

Diplomacy has evolved, and has become not solely the domain of state actors. Universities, the private sector and civil society organisations are increasingly becoming involved in international engagements and diplomacy. It is critical therefore, that key staff members of the university who are engaged in international interactions acquire basic protocol, diplomacy and business etiquette knowledge and skills. In our view, some staff members of the university are not always sensitive about protocol, diplomacy, tact and sensitivity expectations in national and international interactions.

The Department International Relations against this background will organise a half-day Protocol and Business Etiquette Executive training workshop on 09 June 2016. The programme will cover topics such as; dealing with government and the international community, application of seniority in seating, standing, speeches, photographs and protocol at international and national events as well as responsibilities as a guest, and as the host. The training will also cover dress code and social conduct at national and international events.

Featured Partner: Republic of Finland



Finland has been contributing to Namibia's education sector for more than 140 years, beginning with the schools established by Finnish Evangelic-Lutheran missionaries in northern Namibia. During the liberation struggle, the Finnish Government contributed to a SWAPO Scholarship Fund from 1976 to 1992, helping 65 Namibians to obtain university degrees. Over the years, Finland has continued to provide development assistance to Namibia in education as well as culture, science, religious organisation and local governance. In terms of higher education, NUST has many Finnish partners, collaborating in various fields. A few key collaboration projects are highlighted below.

- **NAMURBAN:** This project is financed by the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (TEKES) for a two year period (2015-2017). NAMURBAN is a research collaboration between Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (SAMK) from Finland and NUST. The aim is to develop a framework for urban resource efficiency utilization in developing countries using Namibia as a pilot country.
- **UFISA:** The User-centred design for Innovative Services and Applications (UFISA) project facilitates the development of joint education between universities in Namibia, Finland, South Africa, and Botswana. Project activities includes student and staff mobility and intensive courses and network meetings. The three year project ended in December 2015. Since the ending of the UFISA project, NUST and Aalto University have established a collaborative relationship.

- **JOCID:** The Journalism for Civic Involvement, Democracy and Development (JOCID) network brought Finnish and African universities together in developing their curricula and pedagogic practices with the aim to provide high-quality journalism training. Although the eight year project ended in November 2015, it has achieved among other things, the establishment of student radio stations at NUST and other partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania.
- **Reconstructed Living Labs:** In 2012, NUST, through the Namibia Business Innovation Institute (NBII), received a grant of N\$ 1,6 million from the Finnish Embassy Fund for Local Cooperation. The RLabs focuses on the youth, and creates an environment for community driven innovation offering various training, community development, mobile and internet solutions and social enterprise incubation.



Aalto and NUST sign Student Exchange Agreement

The Faculty of Computing and Informatics, with Aalto University School of Science in Finland, has established a formal collaborative relationship primarily focusing on the exchange of students.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tjama Tjivikua, and the Dean of the Aalto University School of Science, Professor Risto Nieminen, signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Student Exchange Agreement at the end of 2015. The purpose was to formalise the collaborative relationship between the respective institutions. The Agreement primarily focuses on exchange of students between the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at NUST and the School of Science at Aalto University. Provision is also made for NUST and Aalto to join efforts and collaborate in joint education and research activities, joint research seminars and conferences as well as faculty and staff exchange.

The foundation for the relationship between the NUST Faculty of Computing and Informatics and the Aalto University School of Science was born in an earlier initiative, which brought together a number of higher education institutions in Southern Africa and Finland around a common objective. The User-Centred Design for Innovative Services and Applications (UFISA) Project was a multi-disciplinary initiative that focused on education and social and technical development, and was supported through official development aid from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The UFISA Project brought together academics and students from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Finland to jointly work on user-centred design of information and communication services for communities. In other words, design with the people, for the people.

The UFISA Project, which started in August 2012, came to an end in December 2015. Based on the positive and mutually beneficial relationship that had developed between NUST and Aalto University during this time, the two institutions decided to formalise the relationship. The primary focus of the newly formed partnership is on student exchange. The agreement enables NUST to implement its internationalisation of education strategy.

“As an institution, we are very happy to broaden our network of international partners, especially in this instance, as we have formally teamed up with Aalto University,” said Dr Marius Kudumo, Director of the Department of International Relations at NUST. He added that the history of working together that predates the formalisation of the partnership provides an ideal platform for broader cooperation.



Marly and Nabot enjoy Finland

Two Bachelor Honours degree students from the Department of Informatics spent a semester in Finland during the latter part of 2015 where they were exposed to an entirely different world. From snow-covered landscapes to an innovative library that aims to provide students with an ideal learning environment.



Marly Samuel takes a moment for a photo with a wonderful view of Helsinki in the background

Nabot Natanael and Marly Samuel each received scholarships from the User-Centred Design for Innovative Service and Application (UFISA) Project in 2015 for a semester abroad study exchange to Aalto University in Finland. The UFISA Project brought together Universities from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Finland in a collaborative initiative on user-centred design of information and communication services for local communities.

The UFISA scholarships allowed Marly and Nabot to experience a part of the world they had only imagined before, as they headed for the capital of Finland, the cosmopolitan city of Helsinki, where Aalto University is located. There, they encountered a different academic and learning experience. One that encourages students to read broadly and conduct research on their own. "This helped me to think holistically, attain greater academic heights and broaden my understanding and research skills," Marly commented. She added that Aalto University had a teaching programme, which relies on bringing industry experts into the classroom to share their knowledge and experiences with students.

One of the highlights for both NUST students during their stay at Aalto University, was the Learning Hub (library), which remains open on a 24 hour basis. Students working in the Learning Hub are provided with blankets, if they feel cold, fatboy cushions for those who felt like studying on the ground and a bed for those who need to sleep.

Nabot and Marly also made good use of the opportunity to travel outside Helsinki to other cities and towns as well as beyond Finnish borders to other European countries such as; Holland, Sweden, Hungary, Estonia, Germany and Poland. The cosmopolitan nature of Helsinki and the international flavour of Aalto University also meant that the NUST students were exposed to people from all over the world. "I have made lasting friendships with people from all over the world," Nabot said. This sentiment was shared by Marly as she recounted meeting students from all over the world as well as how they shared their experiences of being in a foreign country and in the process learning to respect different cultures and ways of life.

Study abroad exchange also provide students with the added benefit of becoming integrated into a foreign society and thereby gaining exposure to cultural activities and

idiosyncrasies that one would not normally experience. Nabot and Marly gained insight into a new world by interacting with foreign students and studying abroad. "During the exchange period I had the opportunity of going to the steam baths and hot tubs once a week and I got a taste of local Finnish food such as reindeer and rye bread," Nabot said.

Their semester exchange to Finland provided Nabot and Marly with a memorable and first-time experiences, including seeing snow and ice skating and watching a live ice hockey match. Overall, both Nabot and Marly agree that the semester exchange to Aalto University was a once in a lifetime experience that has left them changed for the better. While Nabot remarked that the experience had changed his life, Marly too said that the trip to Finland has helped her become a better all-round individual.



Nabot Natanael with sled dogs in Finland

Reinventing School Buildings

The Faculty of Computing and Informatics hosted a delegation from the Finnish-based University of Helsinki during this semester. The Scandinavians aimed to entice academics and researchers at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) to collaborate with them on an innovative and multidisciplinary project.

Professor Kirsti Lonka, Director of the Research Group of Educational Psychology, and PhD student, Niclas Sandström, visited NUST to meet different stakeholders at the institution and to introduce their Sustainable Education Design (SED) Project. The SED Project is a Finnish education export concept that involves some of the best collaborators in the areas of learning, ICT, engineering, architecture and sustainable energy solutions.

According to Prof Lonka, the SED is a holistic education concept that includes the learning processes, the physical building and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that enables learning. "In this way, the SED incorporates human-centred pedagogical design processes, sustainable and modular wood building elements and efficient energy solutions for the building as well as an innovative future-ready learning platform," she said.

The excellent diplomatic relations between Namibia and Finland that developed over time through a long history of cooperation between the two countries and the extensive road and transport infrastructure in Namibia were part of the reason why the Finnish academics approached a Namibian university for collaboration on the SED pilot project. Prof Lonka added that the "Good basis of ICT skills in Namibia also makes this a good fit for our research collaboration."

The Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at NUST, Dr Anicia Peters, highlighted the significance of the multidisciplinary nature of the SED project. "The involvement of a number of stakeholders from different thematic areas to collaborate on an initiative that has real world application value is a core pillar of our research programme," she said.

The SED Project involves the establishment of a school for approximately 50 to 100 pupils that will be constructed using innovative wood material, be entirely energy self-sufficient and provide electricity and Wi-Fi to the surrounding community. The University of Helsinki would then partner with NUST in a research study on the school. Based on the findings of the study, the potential exists for similar models of school to be erected in areas where humanitarian crises are prevalent.



The Finnish visitors and their NUST hosts.

Front: Dr Guy-Alain Lusilao Zodi (HOD-Computer Science: NUST), Suama Hamunyela (DHOD-Informatics: NUST), Prof Kirsti Lonka (Professor - University of Helsinki), Niclas Sandström (University of Helsinki), Dr Nobert Jere (HOD-Informatics: NUST) and Dr Anicia Peters (Dean-Computing and Informatics: NUST) **Back:** Joel Eelu (DHOD-Computer Science: NUST), Dr Heike Winschiers-Theophilus (Professor-Computer Science: NUST), Dr Aman Dhir (Post-doctoral Researcher: Aalto University), Dr Puneet Kaur (Researcher-Aalto University), Gereon Kapuire (DHOD-Computer Science: NUST), Prof Hippolyte Muyingi (Associate Dean-Computing and Informatics: NUST).

Student News

Third Annual B360 Alumni Event



B360 Education Partnerships held its third annual Alumni Association meeting in Windhoek in March 2016, bringing together current and former NUST students who had participated in the organisation's internship programme.

For a third year in a row, B360 Education Partnerships hosted an event that brought together former and current NUST students for presentations and discussions around career-related issues.

B360 Education Partnership Founder and President, Ms Sabina Balmer, was present at the Alumni Association event. She highlighted the significance of the event stating that it reinforces the B360 network. "This event is all about the B360 Alumni. Their on-going growth and development, both personally and professionally. It is important for our objectives. We aim to make a long-term and lasting impact in knowledge transfer and skills development. We also want to support the building of networks among young professionals in Southern Africa," Balmer said.

The career-related presentations were delivered by high-profile Namibians occupying senior roles

in national organisations and businesses. NUST Lecturer in Spatial Sciences and former Head of Town Planning at the City of Windhoek, Mr Brown Mutrifa, spoke to the B360 Alumni about the focus areas for employers when hiring new staff. Ms Albertina Ngurare, General Manager for Business Support at the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) delivered a presentation on women in the corporate world while Mr Marthinuz Fabianus, Deputy Managing Director at Retirement Fund Solutions Namibia provided a comparison on 'job-hopping' and remaining with one employer for a prolonged period of time. The Executive Director of the Namibia Non-Governmental Organisations Forum Trust (NANGOF), Mr Ivin Lombard, ended the presentations with a talk on whether or not there is room for good citizenship in today's working world.

The B360 Alumni posed questions to each of the speakers, and this formed the basis for

discussion during a roundtable session. The Alumni Association meeting was also attended by B360 Experts who were visiting NUST as guest lecturers at the time. They too joined in the discussions. This session also allowed the B360 Alumni to share their experiences at work as well as recount memories from their internships at Swiss-based companies.

The Internship Programme selects and facilitates the placement of tertiary students from southern Africa for industry attachments with organisations and businesses in Switzerland for a three month period. During these internships, students do not only work in Swiss companies, but are also placed with host families. This allows for better integration into Swiss society and ensures that students gain a holistic experience of what it means to live and work in Switzerland. Since 2009, 26 students from Namibia and five from Zambia have undertaken internships in Switzerland.

Internships broaden Student Mindset

Three students from the Faculties of Engineering and Health and Applied Sciences travelled to Switzerland last year for work placements with Swiss firms under the B360 Education Partnership Internship Programme.

Rosalia Nangula and Daniela Mouton from the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, and Thomas Shikongo, an engineering student, departed for Switzerland in August 2015. The three students took a leap of faith into the unknown, as they embarked on an adventure of a lifetime far from the familiar comforts of Namibia. The B360 Internship Programme facilitates the placement of students from southern Africa with Swiss firms for a three-month period allowing them to fulfil the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) component of their curriculum while abroad.

Rosalia spent her internship working in the Microbiology and Analytic Laboratories at HACO AG, a large food production company that produces soluble coffee, food seasoning, processed foodstuffs and a range of other products. Swiss Quality Testing Services (SQTS), the largest provider of laboratory services in Switzerland, hosted Daniela for her internship. SQTS' range of services cover testing of food products, chemicals and packaging.

During the three month period, Daniela worked in various departments including, chemistry, microbiology and molecular diagnostics. Thomas was the first engineering student to be offered an internship through B360 at Ferrum AG, a global firm specialising in the production of can seamers for beverages, food and can- making industries. Working as a service engineering trainee, Thomas was part of a team that assembled and manufactured can seaming machines.

The B360 Internship Programme also places the students with Swiss families ensuring that they are well integrated into society and have the necessary support when needed. Rosalia, Daniela and Thomas were all placed with families living close to their places of work and they all had opportunities to see and experience local places of interest. The three NUST students also explored beyond the towns where they stayed as they took trips to the Swiss capital city of Bern and beyond the Swiss borders to Germany and France. They were also involved in sporting activities during their time in Switzerland, Thomas

played indoor soccer, Daniela participated in Judo and Thai Kickboxing and Rosalia went on hiking trips.

When asked about their experience, all three mentioned how enriching and rewarding, both professionally and personally, the trip had been. "I have gained a lot of practical knowledge and experience. The internships make a great impact on our lives, because not only does it give us an interesting experience, but also exposes us to professionalism at work," Rosalia said.

Four students from NUST have departed for Switzerland earlier this year for internships, and four more have been selected to participate during the second semester of 2016.



From left: Thomas, Rosalia and Daniela shortly after their arrival in Switzerland.

DRC Society Launched



The NUST DRC Student Society Executive committee consists of (Left to Right)- Axel Mwez, External Vice-President; Lydie Mwanza, Secretary; Joe Kinzunga, President; Fiona Lobandji, Treasurer and Joel Nzeka, Internal Vice-President. All, except Nzeka, are second year students.

In March 2016, students launched the NUST DRC Student Society, an organisation which aims to unite and be a support system for students from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Society is the only active student organisation composed of international students. With nearly 60 members, most of them second year students, the NUST DRC Society has a promising future. The leadership of the organisation also mostly consists of second years, with four of the five members of the executive committee being second year students.

The launch of the Society took place at the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC) on a Saturday afternoon, with a programme full of events. Performances by the NUST Choir and NUST Drama Society as well as

remarks by the President of the Congolese Community in Namibia and the DRC Ambassador to Namibia were some of the highlights. The event was well attended and the messages were positive. Students were urged to focus and not to forget that their purpose in Namibia is to study.

In addition to participating in the Annual NUST Cultural Festival in August, the Society has planned other activities and events such as; debates, public lectures and DRC independence day celebrations. The Department of International Relations welcomes this student Society and looks forward to working together in our mutual goal of promoting internationalisation on campus.

My Experience at NUST

By Yasmin Peggy Simbi from the DRC
Bachelor in Logistics and Supply Chain Management
NUST Graduate 2015



Yasmin with her mother at her graduation.

Being a student at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) was uplifting, fun, life-changing and learning experience. I first enrolled in 2012 at the Faculty of Management Sciences, Department of Marketing and Logistics and chose to study Logistics and Supply Chain Management, which was offered as a Bachelor degree. Although Logistics and Supply Chain Management is perceived to be a very easy course in Namibia, it requires a lot of focus and hard work. Coming from a French-speaking country, the first semester of my first year was quite challenging, because I had to adapt to English as well as the Namibian education system.

Being aware that the English language was my weakness, I decided to be very diligent and spent most of my time reading books, articles and research papers provided by the NUST Library and the Internet. Through my years of studies, I had the chance to partake and deliver research paper presentations at different conferences organised by diverse tertiary institutions such as; the University of Namibia (UNAM), Namibia German Centre for Logistics (NGCL), Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT in South Africa) and many more. These opportunities enabled me to develop my public speaking skills and created a professional network. All this was possible, because I pushed

myself to go the extra mile and knew how to grab opportunities offered by my institution.

It will always take enormous effort to be a student. Many sacrifices and sleepless nights, but the reward at the end of the road is immeasurable. I was not 'the best' student, but I worked hard and did my best to achieve my goals. I have built strong relationships with my lecturers, which has added value to my life.

Having completed my undergraduate studies, I now have a passport to the world since the degree I have earned is internationally recognised.

Students intern in Thailand

The Cooperative Education Unit (CEU) recently sent two students from the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at NUST, Prisca Indileni Shimwooshili and Albertina Amadhila, to Western Digital Company (WDC) in Thailand for a four month internship.

The CEU encourages students to do their internships abroad as “work experience in an international setting stands out on your CV and gives you a definite boost in the job market,” says Victoria Kangombe, Industry Liaison Officer at the CEU.

According to Nico Smit, International Relations Officer in the Department of International Relations at NUST, “interning abroad is a unique opportunity to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds, to learn a new language, to broaden your views of the world and to be exposed to a workplace in a different country.”

“Finding an internship abroad does not have to be difficult. There are online resources on international internship opportunities while some universities have administrative offices mandated to secure such opportunities for its students. The CEU and the International Relations Office are good examples of such avenues at NUST,” says the Director of the CEU, Carva Pop.

Sharing her excitement on being admitted in the WDC Internship Programme, Albertina observed that “students tend to avoid such opportunities, because they are afraid of the costs and having to be away from home, but these opportunities come once in a while. You must grab them.”

Prisca shares Albertina’s sentiment and advises fellow students to make the best of resources such as the CEU. “You not only get to broaden your horizons, you also get to be an ambassador for your institution and for your country. I am really grateful for the CEU and the work that they are doing to create such opportunities for us.”

The internship opportunity is made possible by the World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE) through the collaborative efforts between NUST, Suranaree University of Technology in Thailand and the WDC.



From left: Prisca and Albertina at the offices of the computing electronics giant, Western Digital in Thailand.

Visitors and Travellers

Spanish Ambassador visits NUST



The Spanish Ambassador, Her Excellency, Mrs Concha Figuerola (front on the right) and Mr Pablo Martín (in dark suit and tie) with some of the NUST staff who attended the presentation.

Collaboration between NUST and Spanish institutions of higher education dates some years ago. During the past five years, the University of Barcelona and University of Alicante have been partnering with NUST in expanding the infrastructure of the Hotel School and developing a tool to translate European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to NUST credits as part of the UNIQUE project respectively. Given the success of these partnerships, it is the wish of NUST as well as the Government of Spain that there should be broader cooperation between Spanish institutions and NUST. This desire for further collaboration is evidenced by the visits to NUST by the Spanish Ambassador, Her Excellency, Mrs Concha Figuerola.

The Ambassador also met with the Namibia Energy Institute (NEI) to learn about NUST's undertakings in renewable energy. During the meeting, Dr Zivayi Chiguvare, Director of NEI and his colleagues

presented the roles of the various NEI Centres and their current projects. Before her meeting with NEI, she toured the Hotel School, which was extended with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

Her Excellency, Ambassador Figuerola also accompanied Mr Pablo Martín González, Director of the Spanish Service for Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE) under the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. Mr Martín delivered a presentation to the NUST extended management on the Spanish higher education system, expertise in renewable energy, infrastructure, tourism and transport management among others. The presentation was well received by the academics and other senior management staff immediately identifying possible areas of collaboration based on their needs and the identified areas of expertise.



The Spanish Ambassador, Her Excellency, Mrs Concha Figuerola and her husband, Prof Tjama Tjivikua: NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Erling Kavita, Associate Dean: Faculty of Management, Ms Liesl Liebenberg: Hotel School Manager.



Dr Rudolf Schmitt with NUST Environmental Health Science students

B360 education partnership is a Swiss Non-profit Organization focused on contributing to capacity building in Southern Africa.

To reach its goals, B360 collaborates directly with institutes in higher education in Southern Africa in areas that can make a significant change to mid- and longterm economic and social development. With quite a unique approach:



Leena Shipanga and Jason Kaindume with their Credit Suisse mentors

Volunteer Expert Program

We send senior European experts south to teach at institutes of higher education on a volunteer basis. They share their knowledge and work experience with students and give them insights into how learned theory is translated into the working world. They also have many tips for students on how to get started in their careers and be successful young professionals.

Internship Program

We offer three month internships in Swiss companies to highly



Tomas Shikongo with his mentor Daniel Voss



NUST Vice Chancellor Tjama Tjivikua with B360 President Sabina Balmer

motivated and top students from our partner universities in Southern Africa. These are unique opportunities and a fabulous stepping stone into the career world. The result is a positive return on investment for both sides of the equation.

B360 education partnerships

Founded: 2009

Founder and President: Sabina A. Balmer

Partner Universities: NUST Namibia University of Science and Technology; UNZA University of Zambia; TSIBA Tertiary School in Business Administration; CPUT Cape Peninsula University of Technology

No of B360 volunteers sent to partner Universities	125 *
No of volunteering hours of experts	22'500 *
No of students exposed to B360 experts	10'450 *
No of internships in Switzerland	23 *

* 2009-2015

B360 education partnerships, Baarerstrasse 78, CH-6300 Zug, Switzerland

www.b360-education-partnerships.org

NUST Hosts Regional Training Workshop

The Monitoring of the Environment for Security in Africa (MESA) programme, which focuses on various aspects of earth observation recently hosted a training workshop at NUST under the MESA - SADC THEMA project. The workshop attracted ± 200 delegates from 18 universities across the SADC region.

The MESA SADC THEMA project is implemented by the Botswana Department of Meteorological Services (BDMS) and SADC Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC) in partnership with the Agriculture Research Council, the Botswana College of Agriculture, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Meraka Institute, NUST and the University of Zimbabwe. The emphasis of the project is on user-related activities such as strengthening regional and national policy frameworks, building earth observation user capacity in SADC Member States and improving access to earth observation data. The three year project began in 2013 and aims to develop monitoring services four project thematic area namely: agriculture, drought, flood, and wildfire.

During the opening of the week long training workshop, NUST signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Botswana Department of Meteorological Services and the SADC Climate Service Centre. The Agreement will improve the quality of education and research by upgrading the EUMET Cast Satellite Data Receiving Station to facilitate access to earth observation data. The EUMET CAST Satellite is part of EUMETSAT, an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1986 to supply weather and climate-related satellite data, images and products to EU member states and other clients.

Throughout the week, attendants participated in training and discussion sessions within the four project themes.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Tjama Tjivikua (right) and Mr Isaac Kusane, Project Manager: MESA SADC THEMA signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

20 Years of Partnership



Prof Tom Veldkamp (left), Dean and Rector of ITC pictured with Prof Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor sign the Agreement to continue a two decade-long partnership

NUST and the University of Twente, Faculty of Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) recently renewed their long standing Memorandum of Understanding.

The Agreement with the Dutch institution was initially signed in 1996 as a project funded by the Royal Dutch Government. It focused on capacity building in Land Management as part of Namibia's land reform programme.

The project evolved into the Department of Land Management at the then Polytechnic of Namibia, awarding certificates, diplomas and degrees in Land Management to more than 60 Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLRR) staff members. The project also boasted an additional 60 graduates from South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia in the first five years. To further develop expertise, funding was made available for academic and MLRR employees to study for their masters and doctoral qualifications at ITC in the Netherlands. Over the years, NUST has delivered several refresher courses, held capacity development trainings within the SADC region and along with ITC, created the first regional Global Land Tool Network for decision makers.

Housed in the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, the partnership continues to merge geospatial information with communication technologies while expanding the fields of collaboration to include specialisations such as Geomatics, Geo-information Technology, Town and Regional Planning, Regional and Rural Development, Agricultural Management, Natural Resources Management, Land Administration, Property Studies, Architecture, Spatial Science, Earth Observation and Agribusiness.

The renewed MoU reflects the evolution and success of the partnership, moving away from capacity building to focus on knowledge creation and dissemination through applied research and innovation. The Dean and Rector of ITC, Prof Tom Veldkamp, led the delegation, which consisted of Mrs Erna Leurink, Managing Director of ITC; Mr Tom Loran, Coordinator for External Cooperation; and Ms Lyande Eelderink, Senior Project Officer.

B360 Expert Network grows

NUST welcomed three new Swiss experts to Namibia under the B360 Education Partnerships in the first half of 2016, as the skills and knowledge transfer programme between the Namibian Higher Education Institute and the Swiss non-profit organisation continues to flourish.

Dr Hans Keller, Professor Armin Hollenstein and Dr Markus Schuppler visited NUST for the first time in 2016. Their respective visits to the institution were through the partnership between NUST and B360 Education Partnerships, which facilitates guest lecturing by Swiss experts to higher education institutions in Southern Africa. The partnership between NUST and B360 Education Partnerships dates back to 2009 and to date more than 125 expert assignments have taken place with 90 experts coming to NUST.

Dr Keller, a seasoned expert in management with global experience, arrived in March for a two-week visit. During this time, he lectured third and fourth year students in the Department of Health Sciences in Management Practice. "This was a great experience for me. The students were eager to learn, and I am happy to have made an impact," Dr Keller commented when asked about his experience at NUST.

Professor Hollenstein, a retired academic from the University of Bern, spent a few days at NUST, working with Ms Ilana Malan, the Coordinator of the INSTEM Programme. He also assisted Ms Elizabeth Hugo, a Mathematics and Statistics Lecturer.

Professor Hollenstein is part of a team developing a mathematics eLearning course for engineering students at NUST. He also met with the Head of the Department for Education and Languages, Dr Leena Kloppers.

Based in the Laboratory of Food Microbiology at ETH Zürich, Dr Markus Schuppler arrived in Namibia in April for a two-week visit. He also lectured students in the Department of Health Sciences in Microbiology and delivered a public lecture titled, "Listeria Monocytogenes – Different Lifestyles of a Foodborne Pathogen."

Heeding the old adage about all work and no play, the experts took some time to enjoy the beauty of various Namibian places. Professor Hollenstein and his wife, Barbara, spent close to two weeks travelling in Namibia. They visited Sossusvlei towards the south of Namibia, the towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay along the coast, and the picturesque Spitzkoppe Mountains. Once his lecturing assignment was completed, Dr Schuppler and his family also took the road to do some exploring. They too travelled to Sossusvlei and the tourist-popular coastal towns.

"Namibia has been a fantastic place to visit. I have had such excellent and productive

engagements with the staff at NUST, and I look forward to the work ahead, especially the prospect of returning later in the year," Professor Hollenstein commented on his time in Namibia.

Andreas Kilchör, Marianne Egli, Dr Peter Schmuki, Christian Merz, Rudolf Schmitt, Thomas Lüthi and Claude Ramseier all returned to NUST during the first semester of 2016 for expert assignments as part of B360 Education Partnerships. These experts taught in fields including, Marketing and Logistics, Health Sciences, Accounting, Economics and Finance.



Dr Markus Schuppler



Dr Hans Keller with students from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences



Prof Armin Hollenstein next to the beautiful dunes of Namibia

San Youth empowerment continues

The Participatory Development for the Youth (PARTY) Project has moved into phase two as NUST played host to academics and researchers from Finland, Italy and England earlier this year to further the work done in 2015 with the San youth.

Alessandro Medici and Valentina Salvi arrived in Namibia in March this year with twelve other academics from European-based universities to participate in the international and inter-sectoral cooperative PARTY project. The initiative, which began in January 2015, includes the University of Lapland in Finland as the coordinating partner and the University of Leeds in the UK, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa and NUST. The objective of the project is to support human development and contribute to reduction in youth unemployment through the involvement of young people in service development in Namibia and South Africa using participatory and explorative service design tools.

Alessandro, a PhD student at the University of Leeds, is currently carrying out research on how cultural differences are revealed through co-design activities as well as how people from different cultures engage and collaborate on co-design activities. Valentina is a Masters

student at the Italian Politecnico de Milano, and she is investigating co-design with children from disadvantaged communities in an attempt to find local solutions to local challenges. Their involvement in the PARTY project included working with the San Support Organisations' Association of Namibia (SSOAN), specifically San youth in Windhoek. Th purpose is to understand their needs and develop ways to assist them in empowering themselves.

For both Alessandro and Valentina, this was their first visit to Namibia, and their stay has been slightly longer than other PARTY Project participants namely, two and four months respectively. The extended period in the country afforded them ample opportunity to travel beyond Windhoek and explore Namibia, something which they grabbed with both hands. They travelled to Sossusvlei in the south via Sesriem and Solitaire as well as to Etosha National Park in the north-central part of Namibia. Beyond this, they also travelled

as far as Opuwo in the Kunene Region where they encountered Ovahimba people as well as to one of Namibia's tourism hotspots, Swakopmund.

"For a first-time experience to Africa, Namibia has been fantastic and fascinating," Valentina said, adding that working with disadvantaged youth had been the highlight of her trip. Alessandro pointed to the enriching experience of working with people from different cultural backgrounds as well as being able to travel across and explore Namibia.

The PARTY Project will continue until 2019 and the next group of academics coming to participate in the initiative will visit South Africa in 2017. The project is worth approximately N\$15 million and is funded by the European Commission, Horizon 2020, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Scheme.



Alessandro Medici (front right) and Valentina Salvi (back, middle) along with other PARTY Project participants and some of the Namibian youth that they have been working with.

Teaching English around the World

At the age of 29, Rebekah Ewing has already taught English in four continents. Ms Ewing has been an English Language Fellow, teaching Language in Practice at NUST since October 2015.

Previously, she has taught at Gunam Secondary School in Korea, Yachay Tech in Ecuador and at Le College Billingue in Senegal. The vibrant teacher believes that teaching is interesting and can function as a gateway to the world.

"I always make sure that throughout my teaching career, I have a good time and I love meeting interesting people". She explained that she enjoys learning about different cultures and customs from around the world while teaching English. Her teaching career began when she was 22 years old and later earned her Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at Michigan State University, USA.

"In the classroom, I encourage students to share their home town activities and festivals", she explained her method of teaching. "It's important for students to take ownership in the classroom and be part of the story." Expressing her fondness of students, she states



Ms Ewing [4th from the left] with some of her students.

that her experience at NUST is unique and more fun since English is the official language. "Students at NUST have no problem with aural comprehension", she stated, adding that they are enthusiastic and eager to learn.

Ms Ewing credits her passion to learn new languages and different cultures for her teaching success. She learned French in school, but believes that having taught Business English to students from Francophone countries such as Burkina Faso, Niger and Congo DRC while in Senegal enriched her French vocabulary. "I cannot claim to be fluent in my students' languages, but I pick up words here and there", she said. She also picked up some Korean while teaching there and is working on a collection of expressions from the various Namibian languages.

Ms Ewing's Fellowship ends in July 2016, and she admits she will be leaving Namibia with a heavy heart.

Energy Policy for Namibia

"Namibia is well positioned to make the transition from old polluting energy generation methods to renewable and cleaner energy sources", stated Mr Kevin Reuther, a Fulbright Scholar currently hosted by the Namibia Energy Institute (NEI). Mr Reuther is the Director of the Minnesota Centre for Environmental Advocacy, an organisation that advocates for compliance with energy related regulations. He also teaches Environmental and Energy Law at Minnesota University. During his attachment to NEI, he will participate in energy policy research formulation and conduct research on enabling legislation regarding the inclusion of independent power producers in Namibia and Southern Africa.

Mr Reuther, said NUST's focus on innovation is timely as the energy sector in Namibia can only be transformed through innovation. "All that the country needs is to build its own energy generation resources in the forms of solar plants and wind turbines". This should be supported by national energy policies and legal obligations, adds Mr Reuther, who is an environmental lawyer.

His tenure at NEI is welcomed by colleagues such as Helvi Iлека, Project Officer at NEI's Centre for Renewable Energy. "He is currently assisting the Institute in identifying areas where the law should be strengthened".



Kevin Reuther [right] with NEI interns Fabian Junker [left] and May Phoo Mon and NEI Projects Officer, Helvi Iлека

She says, an example of some of the policies he will review are two energy policies that are currently being developed by the Electrical Control Board namely, the Integrated Energy Resource Policy Plan and the Demand Side Management Policy. In both policies, NEI will provide feedback. The Integrated Energy Policy is aimed at giving the energy forecast needed during the next 15 years while the Demand Side Management Policy is aimed at guiding and compelling consumers to use energy efficient utilities. In the absence of these policies, both consumers and developers have been doing as they please.

"The recent Mass Housing project could have pioneered renewable energy usage, had there been a policy to compel builders to install water geysers heated by solar energy", he noted. Mr Reuther is, however, optimistic that eventually the renewable energy revolution will materialise in Namibia.