



# UNESCO Chairs launched at NUST

NUST celebrated a major milestone at the launch of the UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments, as well as the UNESCO Chair for Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research.

Dr Hilma Amwele, from NUST was chosen as the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments, while Prof Dharm Singh Jat, was chosen as the UNESCO Chair on Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research. This event marks a long-term engagement in the development of Water and Agricultural solutions as well as digital services and innovations in support of socio-economic development in Namibia. "NUST is strategically positioned to take advantage of the Chairs to move beyond academia into more implementation-based policy-informing processes, aiming at the ultimate improvement of livelihood opportunities across the region and internationally," NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab said. A UNESCO Chair is a project and a team

at a university or a higher education institution that partners with UNESCO to advance knowledge and practice in an area that is a priority for all parties involved. Speaking directly to Dr Amwele, the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi emphasised that research in this area is critical to inform decision-makers on how to guide resource allocation as a priority for both the government and society. Addressing Prof Jat, Dr Kandjii-Murangi highlighted that "avenues for understanding and the use of state-of-the-art technologies at our disposal" be facilitated through this chair. Dr Naomab further elaborated that NUST's Strategic Plan is premised on three core success factors which are people, systems and sustainability, showcasing that NUST is taking bold steps to ensure institutional relevance.



Left to right: His Excellency, Prashant Agrawal, High Commissioner of India to Namibia; Honourable Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation; Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor; Prof Dharm Singh Jat, UNESCO Chair on Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research; Dr Hilma Amwele, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments; and Father Rod April, Secretary-General for the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO.



Left to right: Dr Andrew Niikondo, NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching, Learning and Technology; and Andrew Kanime, CEO of Namport and Chairman of the Namport Social Investment Fund.

## NAMPORT awards NUST Marine Engineering students with scholarships

Eight NUST students pursuing double degrees in Marine Engineering will finally commence their studies at the Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (SAMK) in Finland.

NUST's Department of Mining, Mechanical and Process Engineering made an industry call to fulfil a funding gap NSFAP recipients suffered. The Namibian Ports Authority, through its Social Investment Fund (SIF), was the only company who responded positively by availing a generous donation of N\$1,5-million to the students.

Speaking on behalf of Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Andrew Niikondo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching, Learning and Technology, noted that the graduates of this programme would contribute significantly to the National Development Goals in various roles.

"Providing young students with a valuable resource such as a scholarship ultimately proved to be the difference between the students finishing or no finishing their studies in Finland. It should be emphasised that these scholarships will change the lives

of these young people," Dr Niikondo said. Thimoteus Shilongo, one of the scholarship recipients, also expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Marine class for the scholarships bestowed upon them. Andrew Kanime, CEO of Namport and Chairman of the Namport Social Investment Fund, urged the recipients to be exemplary and mindful of the immense sacrifices done by others for them to be at the threshold of attaining these life-changing qualifications and achievements.

"The marine industry underpins the future development and realisation of the benefits presented by the blue economy and you are the front runners towards harnessing the full benefit of these plentiful resources," Kanime continued.

The sponsored students have commence with their studies in Finland as of Monday, 01 August 2022.

## HTTPS celebrates first anniversary

Exactly one year ago, the High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS) was a concept which came to fruition after NUST secured a N\$51-million partnership with Namibia's largest mobile telecommunications company and Internet service provider, MTC.

The HTTPS offers a long-term strategic initiative to enable future innovations that can be taken from academia to market by start-ups, entrepreneurs, and industry. "It is indeed a moment of great pride to see the HTTPS concept growing and embracing opportunities that create strategic alliances of like-minded institutions. The physical and virtual space has become a shining example of a functional technologically inspired ecosystem," NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, said.

The initial idea for the HTTPS was for the building to become an office space for staff with a post-graduate centre and a parking

garage. However, the initiative was revised with the aim to transform the facility into a space that drives the competitiveness through transdisciplinary research co-creation, co-development, application and transfer of specialised knowledge and technology aligned with NUST signature programmes. Current partnerships with the HTTPS include the Southern African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Land Management (SASSCAL), a tripartite agreement with MTC and Huawei, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through financing the operational framework of the HTTPS.



Left to right: Jan Sturesson, International Strategy Advisor; Nangula Uaanda, CEO at Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor; Francois van Schalkwyk, Director of Ceremonies; Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, NUST Executive Director: Research, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate; Dr Colin Stanley, NUST Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Partnerships; and Melvin Angula, Chief Commercial Officer at MTC.



## HTTPS hosts Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality Hackathon together with Namdeb



One of Namdeb's judges testing out one of the competing team's Virtual Reality design.

NUST's Department of Computer Sciences (DCS) hosted a two-day hackathon aimed at creating an interactive platform that virtually illustrated the unique Namdeb Diamond Corporation (NDC) mining process in Oranjemund.

The Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR) Hackathon was initiated by NUST's High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS) and the NDC. The platform afforded students an opportunity to network and get hands-on experience with AR/VR design and development. "Participants were able to develop VR applications in less than 24 hours," Dr Lameck Amugongo, a lecturer from DCS, said.

The judges, which included two representatives from NDC, selected two winning teams – the Eagles and GEN-I. "The winning teams will have two more weeks

to finalise their virtual design. Each team member will then be awarded with 'tech' prizes by NUST and NDC," Delia Maasdorp, a Project Analyst at NUST said.

She also added that the winning teams will showcase their final design at the Namibia Mining Expo.

A Hackathon is a co-creation activity that aims at bringing developers and designers together to improve or build a new solution within a short period of time. "Benefits include the exploration of the viability of ideas while strengthening technical and soft skills of participants," Dr Amugongo added.

## Former NUST graduate manufactures own cleaning products

A former NUST Applied Chemistry honours degree student, Johannes Shiwombolo, started manufacturing cleaning products and opened his own company, Absolute Cleaning Solutions.

After being retrenched as a graduate in training from Rosh Pinah for four months, Shiwombolo initiated his venture by manufacturing dishwashing liquid. "My inspiration was prompted after reading an article in a newspaper stating that Namibia imports cleaning products worth N\$750-million each year," he explained. Absolute Cleaning Solutions produces more than ten different cleaning products. Shiwombolo also said that mixing and handling chemicals professionally is not a daunting task since he acquired the relevant

skills and knowledge from being an Applied Chemistry student at NUST. "As a chemist, NUST educated me effectively on how to handle chemicals, thus my interest lies in the manufacturing of cleaning products," he elaborated. Shiwombolo concluded with an inspirational message to all young graduates to be persistent in reaching their goals, even throughout discouraging times. "Not all of us are going to get employed, some of us were meant to create employment," he said.



Johannes Shiwombolo, owner of Absolute Cleaning Solutions.



### Theme: Revitalize Social Contract in STEM Education and STI Stewardship

All companies in the private and public sectors, ministries, banks, and embassies, are hereby invited to book a stand at the SANLAM | NUST Career Fair 2022 scheduled for 17 and 18 August 2022, before 09 August 2022.

The Career Fair is a free resource and an ingenious way to meet the needs of both employers and potential employees. It aids in the recruitment, application, and networking process, and it affords students and learners an opportunity to discover which potential employers are interested in their skills set in a cost-effective and efficient manner, as well as offering a chance to make connections with faculty staff, mentors and peers.

We would thus also like to invite all schools to send their Grade 10 and 12 learners to the SANLAM | NUST Career Fair by confirming their participation to attend the event.

**When:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 and Thursday, 18 August 2022

**Time:** 08:30 until 16:00

**Venue:** Engineering Basement, NUST Lower Campus, Wagner / Haydn / Beethoven Streets (entrances)

**Enquiries:**  
Mr. Michael J. Kisting  
Career Guidance Practitioner  
T: +264 61 207 227 1  
M: +264 81 283 7596  
E: mkisting@nust.na  
www.nust.na

Ms. Susan Dietlik  
Office Administrator, Hostel Support  
T: 207-2070, Fax 207-2070  
E: sdietlik@nust.na

sponsored by



## NUST implements the JICA Employability Improvement Programme

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Employability Improvement Programme (EIP) kicked off with its Training of Trainers programme at NUST through the Cooperative Education Unit (CEU). The training focused on the introduction and intermediate components of the EIP Training of Trainers programme to capacitate lectures from various NUST faculties, departments and centres.

The EIP is tailored towards developing and enhancing the employability amongst students before they are placed for Work Integrated Learning (WIL). The training is made up of theoretical components and includes a practical aspect of simulating a car assembling workplace. "The training demonstrates critical thinking skills, continuous improvement and patience. It also touches on elements of interpersonal skills and how to effectively work in a team,"

one of the participants explained. CEU is working together with faculties to implement the EIP as a compulsory aid for WIL preparation, and for all students to undergo the programme before they are placed for employment. "The EIP is not only fit to prepare students for the labour market but is also suitable to capacitate employees with the necessary skills to function as a team," CEU Acting-Director, Martha Namutuwa elaborated.



Various trainers and trainees at NUST. From left to right (front row): Jordaania Andima, WIL Coordinator; Gerard Cloete, Lecturer; Martha Namutuwa, Acting-Director: CEU; Rie Shinozakie, JICA: Industry Human Resources Expert; Rejoice Quest, Lecturer; and Valentine Nel, CED: Office Manager.