NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
An award-winning university

NUST BRIEF

Namibia University of Science and Technology
NUST_Namibia
@NUST_Namibia
@official.nust.na
www.nust.na

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EU-funded Smart Energy Solutions for Africa Project Launched

Smart Energy Solutions for Africa (SESA) is a collaborative four-year project of a 29 member consortium with partners from Europe and Africa, including NUST, funded to the tune of approximately 10 million Euros by the European Union Commission.

NUST, in collaboration with Aalborg University in Denmark, is the local SESA Project Custodian under the stewardship of Prof Heike Winschiers-Theophilus from NUST's Computer Science Department.

The SESA Project aims to explore the provision of energy access technologies and business models that are easily replicable, while generating local opportunities for economic development and social cohesion in Africa. "Our community will benefit tremendously from this project since we have a lot of difficulties with basic necessities such as constant electrical and water supply. This project has the potential to offer solutions to these difficulties. We can also start new businesses with the energy solutions proposed," Shorty Kandjengo, a Donkerbos community member said.

Living Labs will also be established in two remote rural villages in Namibia, namely; Otjisa in the Kunene region and Donkerbos in the Omaheke region. This will be done for the co-development of scalable and replicable energy access innovations.

Research teams from NUST and Aalbourg University, the latter led by Dr Kaspir Rodil, recently travelled to Donkerbos to formally discuss the project with the community and to establish site characteristics. "Through the SESA Project, NUST will enable and support the co-development, introduction and integration of unconventional energy alternatives to under-resourced and remote rural sites in Namibia, which are cut off from the national energy supply grid," Prof Winschiers-Theophilus explained.

In turn, this will create new business opportunities for rural communities and facilitate the development of concepts that can directly contribute to low-carbon expansions.

NUST and Aalborg University researchers discussing the SESA project with the Donkerbos community.

NUST student scoops first runner up price for best presentation

Hendrietha Hendricks, a NUST students in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics participated in the recently concluded. She took part in the recently concluded 2021 Sub-Saharan African Network (SUSAN) in conjunction with the International Biometrics Society (IBS) Conference, hosted in Kenya. She received a first runner-up award for the best Masters student presentation at the Conference. She also received an invitation to join the IBS community and took part in their mentee-mentor programme.

NUST hosts 7th Namibia National Cybersecurity Competition

The Digital Forensics and Information Security Research Cluster (DFISRC) in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at NUST recently hosted the 7th Namibia National Cybersecurity Competition (NNCSC).

The competition took place in hybrid mode and was hosted under the theme, *Cybersecurity to Curb Remote Working Risks*. The competition works in an attack-defend model, and allows students and learners to defend their systems from experienced cybersecurity experts from the Namibian IT industry.

"With remote work and study being the new normal for many, there is a need to innovate in the way in which organisations protect themselves from cybercriminals. This competition is part of our efforts to train cybersecurity specialists that are capable of defending systems from malicious users," NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Erold Naomab remarked.

The NNCSC Patron, Honorable Emma Theophilus, the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology highlighted the immeasurable benefit of hosting such a competition for all sectors to all sectors of the economy, and will contribute to the progress and development of an ICT enabled industry in Namibia in a secure way."As proposed in the Harambee Prosperity Plan, Namibia, as a knowledge-based economy supporting the 4th industrial revolution through Vision 2030 and a digital nation, will strategically align towards the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by developing the needed skills for the cyber-physical space," she added.

In total, seven teams participated in the competition, namely, Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL), India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in IT (INCEIT), Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), University of Namibia (UNAM), the International University of Management (IUM) and two high School teams; DHPS and Delta secondary school.

The winning teams were:
1st Prize: NUST Team
2nd Prize: UNAM Team
3rd Prize: NAMCOL Team

Social Engineering Award:
NAMCOL Team
NUST Team

Attackers Award:
NAMCOL Team

Judges Award:
DHPS High School

From left to right, the NUST winning team: Richard Mutambisi, Owen Uchezuba, Prof Guy-Alain Zodi from NUST's Department of Computer Sciences, Marcheline Matroos and Adriaan Grobler.

NUST EENHANA CAMPUS APPLICATIONS EXTENDED UNTIL 17 JANUARY 2022. FOR MORE INFO, VISIT https://www.nust.na/?q=eenhana-campus