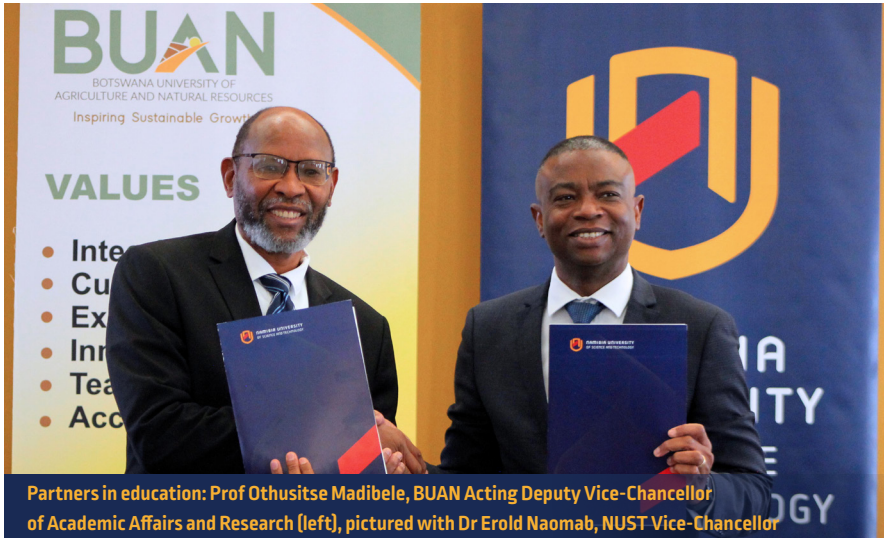




NUST BRIEF

Strengthening partnerships in water resources management



Partners in education: Prof Othusitse Madibele, BUAN Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Research (left), pictured with Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) have formally established a partnership that will harness their skills and resources in the field of water resources management.

Fresh water makes up only 3% of all water on planet earth, and of this very small percentage, not all of it is accessible. Furthermore, both Namibia and Botswana have arid climatic conditions which make them among the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. These are the reasons why NUST and BUAN have joined forces to play their part in ensuring that the limited water we have is available in sufficient quantity and quality.

The two institutions recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), setting the stage for an exciting partnership. The NUST-BUAN partnership's primary aim is operationalising the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) Research Chair in Water Resource Quantity and Availability. BUAN's Prof Ditiro Benson Moalafhi, a renowned academic in the water sector, has been awarded the Research Chair

position.

"I am reliably informed that the Chair promotes an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation on Water Resources Quantity and Availability. This supports development and deployment of innovative, excellent and collaborative education and research at Doctoral degree level complemented by selected tailor-made training programme for decision-makers and industry. This speaks to our mandate of capacity development and ongoing professional development," NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab remarked. Prof Othusitse Madibele, the BUAN Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Research, also expressed his institution's commitment to ensuring the success of this partnership.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior management from NUST, BUAN, SASSCAL, and doctoral candidates.

NUST welcomes international math and stats titans

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) recently hosted the first ever International Conference on Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (ICMSS-1), bringing together leading academics to discuss new developments and the future of these fields.

The NUST campus played host to an intellectual rollercoaster as the world's foremost mathematicians and statisticians united from 12 different countries. Presentations on, and discussions around mind-bending research and explosive collaborations emerged from the highly anticipated Conference.

"With the need for big data and advanced statistical analyses to fully monitor and predict extreme events in spheres as diverse as climate studies and the global economy, a conference of this nature on Mathematical and Statistical sciences is of great importance," said NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, speaking at the official opening of the ICMSS-1. Through advanced mathematical modelling techniques, primary and fundamental tools are formulated to help seek patterns in

various studies. These models are used to make predictions linked to seismic events and tsunamis.

The Conference drew 103 papers from more than 200 collaborative authors providing technical expertise that can be applied in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Speaking on behalf of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Director, Natalie Russmann, was KAS Senior Programme Manager, Dennis Zaire, who urged aspiring mathematicians and statisticians not to be intimidated by the numbers game as it is an essential field in a world that edges ever more towards technology and digitisation.

NUST is determined to host the ICMSS-1 on an annual basis to shape a future where mathematical and statistical sciences continue to thrive.



Co-Chair of the first International Conference on Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Prof Rakesh Kumar officiating the opening ceremony.



From home ground to foreign land

A two-week Summer School in Germany has laid the foundation for great aspirations amongst a group of eight NUST students, who have gone from humble beginnings to participating in a global project that spans four continents.

Under the stewardship of NUST's Prof Attlee Gamundani, the group embarked on a transformative experience in the heart of Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia, as participants of the Global Intercultural Project Experience (GIPE) project. Selected from various fields of study in Communication, Computer Science, Business Informatics, Software Engineering and Software Development, students were offered an enriching learning experience. They collaborated with individuals from various cultural backgrounds allowing them to participate in a distributed interdisciplinary learning programme. "The project offers numerous opportunities for students to develop a range of skills that can be beneficial for their day-to-day

interactions with other individuals," Prof Gamundani added.

This year the GIPE partner universities collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Accelerator Labs in Peru, Namibia, and Indonesia to develop working solutions to facilitate the sharing of learnings. The goal of the project is to present students with an actual intercultural experience by collaborating with peers worldwide to solve real-life client problems. Overflowing with gratitude, Kachana Beatrice Ndabeni, a Bachelor of Communication student, professed, "Being part of this international project, fostering collaboration between academics and cross-cultural working groups, is an extraordinary honour. It has

been a dynamic and captivating experience that has enriched my learning journey."

The project stands as a testament to the remarkable collaboration between the four partner institutions (NUST, the Westphalia University of Applied Sciences, Universidad Católica San Pablo, and Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia). From the outset in 2020, the coordinators and lecturers from the partner universities had to contend with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative is also a shining example of the potential of project-based learning coupled with virtual collaboration across multiple time zones and involving participants from numerous cultures. The final project handover to the UNDP looms on the horizon and is slated for 24 July 2023.



Top: NUST GIPE students pictured with NUST Vice-Chancellor.
Bottom: All four university GIPE students in Germany.