



# From the DVC's Desk

Research, Innovation and Partnerships

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## Wrapping Up 2024: The Year in Review

As we wrap up the year, I am delighted to present the [2023 Research and Innovation Matters Report](#) (albeit delayed) to our vibrant Research and Innovation community. This report serves as a reflection on the remarkable outputs of the past year, highlighting the strides we have made together. Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to advancing research information management systems to better align with SDG-linked activities, driving impactful decision-making and fostering innovation that genuinely makes a difference. Thank you for your unwavering dedication—let this report inspire us to achieve even greater heights!



### Expanding Global Horizons

Through strategic global partnerships, research and innovation internationalisation is vital for enhancing the University's global impact. NUST has extended its influence by addressing challenges through collaborations worldwide.

Highlights include ICT advancements in India, systems thinking and immersive labs in Norway, assisted living technology in Malta, and green hydrogen and TVET initiatives in Germany. Partnerships in Nigeria, Kenya, and Rwanda focus on entrepreneurship and technology, while engagements in South Africa and Ireland strengthen technology transfer and entrepreneurial ecosystems. Research management is enhanced in Pretoria, while Russia's phygital research and Korea's innovation initiatives explore new frontiers. Work in Uganda on water modelling underscores a commitment to sustainability.

These connections enable NUST to drive innovation, foster knowledge exchange, and contribute to socio-economic development, solidifying its global position.

### UNIVERSITY RANKING - TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

NUST has signed a three-year collaboration with [Times Higher Education](#) (THE), from January 2024, to enhance its research impact and global reputation by aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the THE Impact Rankings.

The partnership will be rolled out in three phases, with Phase 1 in 2024 including an Impact Research Strategy Review, Academic Network Analysis, and Online Brand Review.

NUST submitted data on the following SDGs:

- SDG 1 – No Poverty
- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 15 – Life on Land
- SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

The ranking results will be released next year.

## THENSA-J-WEL Collaboration Update

The partnership between THENSA and MIT's Jameel World Education Lab (J-WEL) provides a unique opportunity for NUST to access cutting-edge educational innovations and resources. However, attendance at paid seminars has been notably low, with minimal participation from NUST staff.

Ms Helena Imene, the project manager, is coordinating efforts to improve engagement, with presentations scheduled for early January. This initiative aims to maximise the benefits of this collaboration and encourage greater involvement from the NUST community.

## Strengthening Partnerships through Research and Innovation

On 9 December 2024, I delivered a guest lecture at Universitas Negeri Surabaya on fostering impactful university-community partnerships through research and innovation. Watch the full lecture [here](#).

### Signing 🖋️ out!

I would like to express my gratitude to our partners, researchers, and supporters. Your contributions have been integral to our shared success. In 2025, we will continue to implement key Research, Technology, and Innovation policies, while striving to achieve our KPIs and advance NUST's mandate as an innovative, research-led entrepreneurial university. Let's celebrate the small wins along the way, as they pave the path to larger achievements.

Wishing you a restful holiday season filled with inspiration and joy. Together, let's make 2025 even more impactful!

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## Strategic Achievements and Key Priorities for the Year Ahead

The research output for 2024 is on a positive trajectory. However, we must pay special attention to postgraduate graduations, as well as innovation and technology outputs.

I encourage colleagues to collaborate with the DRIP Directorate regarding actionable disclosures of intellectual property arising from research and development activities.



### Celebrating DRIP Success Stories

2024 marked exceptional achievements within the Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Partnerships [DRIP]. At the DRIP Awards, we celebrated staff excellence:

- Research Innovation Services Excellence Award: Ms Kuda Brandt
- DRIP Values Award: Dr Petrina Mabuku
- Collaborative Efforts Award: Dr Bas Rijnen

Congratulations to Luiza Mazazire, Research Grants and Contracts Advisor at NUST, on attaining Research Management Professional [RMP] status in November 2024—the first Namibian to achieve this milestone and a significant accomplishment for the Institutional Research and Publication Committee (IPRC).