Strengthening partnerships in water resources management

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 2% 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 Moolaafliri, 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 Erold 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 BRIEF

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) recently hosted the first ever International Conference on Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (ICMSS-1), bringing together more than 200 collaborative authors providing over 120 presentations focusing on the field of mathematics and statistics.

Various studies conclude that mathematics and statistics are fields of great importance, and the Conference drew 103 papers from more than 200 collaborators to discuss the latest findings and trends in the field. The Conference aimed to discuss new developments and the future of mathematics and statistics.

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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 Attilde 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 project’s goal is to present students with an actual intercultural experience by collaborating with peers worldwide to solve real-life client problems.

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 IOMs on the horizon and is slated for 24 July 2023.