The National Youth Service (NYS) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) have joined forces to address youth unemployment by rolling out specific Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes.

This collaborative endeavour is testament to the commitment of both NUST and NYS to revolutionising education and enhancing the prospects of the Namibian youth. Through a shared vision the two institutions are poised to redefine the educational landscape, offering a comprehensive platform for youth development, skills enhancement, and increased employability.

The agreement encompasses a wide array of joint research endeavours, and the facilitation of TVET programmes, research, and innovation, creating a hub of excellence that not only benefits our institutions, but also propels Namibia’s youth towards green hydrogen and oil-related economic opportunities.

“Today’s signing signifies a monumental step toward our goal of democratising higher education. Through our partnership with NYS, the Rietfontein Satellite Campus will equip Namibian youth for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, driving economic transformation and sustainable development,” Dr Naomab said. He added that NUST has a strong history of collaborating with international and national partners towards achieving national development objectives.

The partnership’s key aspect is that it will allow NUST to establish a comprehensive faculty at the NYS Rietfontein Training Centre. This collaborative move is set to enhance educational opportunities for the youth, especially in TVET, with a distinct focus on agriculture. The agreement encompasses a wide array of mutual undertakings, including the expansion of TVET programmes, the optimal utilisation of the Rietfontein Centre’s infrastructure, joint research endeavours, and the facilitation of internships and industrial attachments for students from both institutions.

The cultural festival kicked off with an Official Opening Ceremony on the NUST Lower Campus on Wednesday, 30 August 2023. The air buzzed with excitement as students and visitors gathered in anticipation of the festivities. The Keynote Address was delivered by NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Erold Naomab, who emphasised the importance of a cultural festival in serving as a catalyst for a cultural festival in serving as a catalyst for fostering science, technology, innovation, and sustainability.

This is our opportunity to gather data from various indigenous groups across Namibia, including the San and the Damara. The researchers collected cultural expressions and created data for a repository. They will further co-design contemporary cultural products, raise cultural awareness, and advocate for the integration of indigenous cultures under study in national policy documents and development plans.

NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Finance and Operations, Miriam Dikuua, explained.

The annual NUST Cultural Festival marked a triumphant return to normalcy following the social distancing protocols imposed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was a celebration of culture, heritage, and resilience that unfolded over three unforgettable days under the theme, Roots Revival: Celebrating Cultural Heritage. The festival kicked off with an Official Opening Ceremony on the NUST Lower Campus on Wednesday, 30 August 2023.

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Under the leadership of NYS Commissioner, Dr Erold Naomab, the two institutions solidified their commitment, and will collaborate on multifaceted programmes and projects. The aim of these joint initiatives is to amplify the prospects of the country’s young population while bolstering their employability in an ever-evolving job market.

Dr Musukubili hailed the historic agreement, stating, that “through this MoU, a promising future unfolds, marked by increased collaboration in TVET programmes, research, and innovation, creating a hub of excellence that not only benefits our institutions, but also propels Namibia’s youth towards green hydrogen and oil-related economic opportunities.”

Taste was left unsatisfied. The Cultural Festival reached its grand finale with the Mr & Ms NUST Beauty Pageant, which took place on the evening of Friday, 01 September 2023. As contestants strutted their stuff the audience marvelled at their poise, talent, and charisma.

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Leena Mugena and Erasmus Endyala were crowned as Miss NUST and Mr NUST respectively. Mugena and Endyala were also voted as winners in the Public Choice category.

The Miss Photogenic titles went to Azor Hiz and Kabalo Kakena, respectively. Mugena and Endyala were also voted as winners in the Public Choice category.

The Mr Personality and Miss Personality titles went to Azor Hiz and Kabalo Kakena, respectively, while Thierry Katjindji and Kandje Katjahanja were chosen as Mr Photogenic and Miss Photogenic.

As the curtain fell on the 2023 NUST Cultural Festival, the air was filled with a sense of fulfillment and unity. It was more than just an event, it was a testament to the resilience of culture, the power of unity, and the beauty of diversity.

2023 NUST Cultural Festival lights up campus

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