



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

T: +264 61 207 2250
E: inr@nust.na
01 Johann Albrecht Strasse,
Windhoek, Namibia

International Relations News

Official Newsletter of the International Relations Unit





A WORLD UNLOCKED AND READY TO ENGAGE



After two consecutive years of unprecedented isolation, loss and uncertainty, we are delighted to share that NUST's cooperation with international partners has for the most part resumed. It tells the story of a world, after two years of being locked-in, now free and ready to engage.

In this edition of the International Relations Newsletter, we demonstrate the resilience and sincerity of our partnerships, showing how they endured the grim pandemic, and how they continue to thrive shortly after the pandemic. We also touch on areas that need more to be done, and how you can personally benefit regardless of your rank or occupation.

This is the first edition of the IR Newsletter under the newly formed Department of Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation; a merger of the International Relations Unit and the Communications and Marketing legacy departments. The rationale behind the merger is simple, to have a more unified approach to managing relationships with all our stakeholders, be they local or international.

This edition contains good lessons learned, key among them is the adaptability of the human spirit. You will read how virtual student exchanges were made possible due to the circumstances earlier in the year. You will also learn about how we, for the second year running, facilitated institutional virtual internships for students which were credit bearing, making an argument about our resilience and problem-solving capability. Much later in the year, we were able to send students as far as Spain, Switzerland, Romania, Germany, Austria and Poland.

In terms of funded staff mobility, our staff continue to benefit from visiting Germany, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, USA and various other countries. We received guests for the first

time from Slovakia, and signed various agreements for both students and staff exchanges with several universities, and corporate partners. In 2022 NUST signed an agreement with an Indonesian university, and we also hosted high-level delegation from South Korea for a familiarisation visit.

Despite an otherwise highly successful year in terms of Internationalisation, two priorities emerge; one is to diversify NUST's international footprint because the current concentration of cooperation is Eurocentric. Much of Africa, Asia and the Americas remain uncharted territory with few agreements in place and concomitantly little activity.

Secondly, academics continue to dominate as beneficiaries of our international partnerships. This is only natural. However, administrative staff could benefit just as much from the exchanges and the international exposure that come with such mobilities. This would ensure that NUST administrators are empowered to provide world class support to academics through the visits and benchmarking activities they partake in. These two commitments, sum up the unit's mission over the next few years.

In conclusion, join us and immerse yourself in the stories of our staff and students contained in this edition, which we encourage the reader to peruse carefully and should anything stand-out, be free to contact our International Relations Officers for opportunities available for your unit.

Enjoy Edition 2022

Mr John Haufiku
Director: Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation



PARTNERSHIP FOCUS: EUROPEAN UNION

NUST and EU Celebrate 20 Years of Partnership

The partnership between the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the European Union (EU) reached the 20-year mark in 2022, and the two institutions commemorated this milestone with a celebratory event in Windhoek.

The partnership between NUST and the EU began in 2002 with the latter providing development assistance to the former for the establishment of the NUST Hotel School. Since then NUST and the EU have collaborated on no less than 48 projects with a combined total value of over N\$926 million. These joint projects have focused on research, cultural preservation and institutional and individual student and staff mobilities. The partnership between NUST and the EU has seen the Namibian higher education institution collaborate

with no fewer than 14 European countries.

A significant portion of the joint NUST–EU projects, especially those focused on research, are cross cutting in nature and therefore contribute to institutional, individual and cultural development aspects. A key institutional development project between NUST and Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, focused on the former's transition from a polytechnic to a university. Titled, "Transforming the Polytechnic

of Namibia to the Namibia University of Science and Technology: Strategic Alliance towards Innovation and Management Efficiency," this initiative harnessed the strategic partnership between the two institutions to support and facilitate NUST's transformation.

Speaking at the Commemoration event, NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab cited the high number of innovative joint research projects between NUST and the EU, making the latter, as an international union, NUST's largest collaborative partner. "These projects benefit the campus community, as well as the broader Namibian nation, and in some cases the African continent at large," Dr Naomab said. He added that these joint initiatives were evidence that NUST had "evolved from its days of merely being a space for teaching and technical instruction, into a fully-fledged university of international standing."

"We believe that research creates opportunities for all stakeholders to contribute to deepen and extend the shared body of knowledge in the interest of sustainable development, peace and security," said EU Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Sinikka Antilla, affirming the EU's commitment to international cooperation in research and academic



EU Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Sinikka Antilla, Deputy Finance Minister, Hon. Maureen Hinda-Mbuende and NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, alongside the statue, "Synergy", which the EU presented to NUST.



mobility during her address at the Commemoration ceremony. She also emphasised the cross cutting and multidisciplinary nature of the EU's partnership with NUST, citing human resources development, the preservation of local languages, renewable energy, biodiversity and agriculture.

Delivering the keynote address at the

Commemoration celebration was Deputy Finance Minister, Hon. Maureen Hinda-Mbuende, who expressed appreciation on the part of the Namibian Government towards the EU for the strong and mutually beneficial partnerships. "The relationship between Namibia and the EU continues to go from strength to strength, demonstrated by your [EU] commitment to support various development projects in Namibia and

the region," she said.

In a gesture of goodwill and as a token of friendship the EU Delegation to Namibia presented NUST with a statue embodying the spirit of the partnership between the two. The statue, entitled, "Synergy" was unveiled at the Commemoration ceremony by Dr Naomab, H.E. Antilla and Hon. Hinda-Mbuende.

German Federal Parliamentary Delegation Visits NUST

A delegation of Federal Parliamentarians from the German Bundestag paid a familiarisation visit to the Namibian University of Science and Technology.

A seven-member delegation from the German Federal Parliamentary Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment visited NUST in the middle of 2022 as part of a wider excursion to Namibia. The German Parliamentarians were accompanied to NUST by German Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Herbert Beck.

Welcoming the German Parliamentarians to NUST was the Institution's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, who expressed happiness in being granted the opportunity to showcase the university to a high-level group of visitors. "NUST is proud to host such a distinguished delegation of Bundestag Members, and we revel in the opportunity to showcase what we, as Namibia's premier university of science and technology, have to offer and what we are doing," Dr Naomab said.

The familiarisation visit included presentations by NUST's Executive Deans on their respective Faculties, focussing on programmes of study on offer, as well as the research focal areas of each faculty. Dr Anna Matros-Gorases, Executive Director: Research, Innovation and Partnerships also delivered a presentation on NUST's international research partnerships.

The final part of their visit was a tour of the Namibia German Institute for Logistics (NGIL), established jointly between NUST and Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, with development assistance provided by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

NUST Staff Visit Finland

An academic and an administrative staff member from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) travelled to Helsinki, Finland during the first semester of 2022 for teaching and training staff exchanges.

Josephina Muntuomo, a lecturer in Computer Science from NUST's Faculty of Computing and Informatics, and Nico Smit, International Relations Officer, visited the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences on exchange for staff training and teaching respectively in May 2022. Their exchanges to Finland were made possible through Erasmus+ International Credit Mobilities.

During her time in Helsinki, Muntuomo lectured undergraduate students in Metropolia's Faculty of Technology, and also sat in on other classes closely related to the field of Computer Science. She also had the opportunity to engage Metropolia's students in project work, which signaled a departure from their normal studies. "I really enjoyed my time at Metropolia, it was an eye-



opening experience as I have been exposed to new ways and approaches to teaching and learning,” Muntuumo said. She added that she was impressed by Metropolia’s campus facilities, as well as that university’s focus on research, development and innovation, especially the joint projects with industry partners.

Smit was hosted by Metropolia’s International Office for



Metropolia Internationalisation Advisor, Tiina Piiponen, with NUST Computer Science Lecturer, Josephina Muntuumo.

his week-long exchange, which included workshops on processes for incoming and outgoing student and staff mobilities, as well as a detailed briefing on new Erasmus+ programmes. He also had the opportunity to meet with staff from Metropolia’s Communication Department, to learn about internal and external communication processes at the Helsinki-based university.

“The exchange to Metropolia has been excellent, the hospitality has been fantastic, and my exposure to key aspects of internationalization of higher education here has

been very valuable,” Smit commented on his visit to Finland. He also had the opportunity to engage with Metropolia’s International Project Week, an initiative of that university’s Faculty of Business which brings together academics and



Metropolia Internationalisation Advisor, Tiina Piiponen, with NUST International Relations Officer, Nico Smit.

students from numerous countries to teach and work on business cases in mixed groups.

NUST and Metropolia have enjoyed a longstanding partnership that has seen numerous student and staff exchanges in both directions. The two institutions will renew their cooperation again in 2022, and look to expand the academic areas of collaboration to include such fields as Medical Laboratory Sciences and Architecture and Spatial Sciences.

Academic Collaborations Heal Historical Wounds - RWTH Aachen

An eight-member delegation from the Rhine-Westphalia Technical University of Aachen (RWTH Aachen), Germany, paid a familiarization visit to NUST earlier this year, seeking to deepen collaboration between the two institutions.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and RWTH Aachen established a formal collaborative relationship in 2021. RWTH Aachen is one of the largest higher education institutions in Germany and is well

renowned as a leading university in the fields of research, teaching and technology.

The visiting delegation included senior academics from RWTH Aachen’s

Faculties of Business and Economics, Arts and Humanities, Medicine, and Georesources and Materials Engineering respectively. The RWTH Aachen group included senior staff members from that institution’s

International Office.

Led by Sara Wigger, Head of Division for International Strategy, the RWTH Aachen delegation met with senior NUST management, including the institution's Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor's, Registrar and Executive Deans. NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, welcomed the delegation from RWTH Aachen and commended them for undertaking the visit to NUST. "The formal relationship between our institutions was only established in 2021, yet you have shown a high level of commitment to our collaboration by travelling to Namibia to discuss strategic priorities for our partnership," Dr Naomab said. Wigger emphasized the need for collective action to address contemporary problems, saying, "We believe as we tackle global challenges we need each other for a better world tomorrow". She added that "through academic collaboration we hope to heal wounds and look forward to a peaceful future".



The RWTH Aachen delegation captured alongside senior NUST management. Front and centre is Sara Wigger, RWTH Aachen Head of Division for International Strategy, pictured next to NUST VC, Dr Eroid Naomab [front, third from right].

Representatives from NUST's four faculties met with their RWTH Aachen counterparts to discuss peer to peer collaboration. The two institutions agreed that their collaboration would

be most impactful through third-party funded projects in a range of fields, such as those focusing on science parks and social innovation enterprises, and funded by the European Union (EU).

NUST IR Hosts International Guests

The Department of International Relations at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) hosted four staff members from the International Offices at NUST's partner institutions in Spain and Finland, respectively, during the first semester of 2022.

The staff exchanges from the two European countries took place through Erasmus+ International Credit Mobilities and were aimed at exposing staff from counterpart departments at partner institutions to work processes and systems of their hosts. Rosario Alamillo Granados, Juan José Gómez Boulosa, and Mariluz Capelo Álvarez, from the University of Huelva, Spain, and Tiina Piiponen, from Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, all work in the International Offices of their respective institutions.

During their visit the Department of International Relations at NUST facilitated sessions on the systems in

place for processing incoming and outgoing student and staff exchanges. The guests from Huelva and Metropolia also provided input on the corresponding processes and systems in place at their home institutions. This allowed for sharing of best practices and benchmarking, as well as being exposed to innovative solutions to similar challenges experienced. The visit also provided an opportunity for staff from the International Offices at the three universities to work together on a face-to-face basis and in this way deepen the working relationships that were established remotely.



“It was indeed a pleasure for us to host the colleagues from Huelva and Metropolia, sharing experiences, practices and spending time together has brought a new dimension to our work,” said Coordinator: International Relations at NUST, Theodora Mweuta. She added that NUST was happy to once again be hosting international guests following a period of quiet during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commenting on her experience at NUST, Piiponen said, “my visit was most pleasant and very fruitful. I have gained a lot of interesting information and contacts, as well as excellent ideas to share with my colleagues and departments at Metropolia.” “We are very much looking forward to developing and deepening our strong cooperation further and for many years to come,” she added.



FLTR): Tiina Piiponen, Rosario Alamillo Granados, NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching, Learning and Technology, Dr Andrew Niikondo, Juan José Gómez Boullosa, Mariluz Capelo Álvarez.

COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts Tourism Enrolment at FH Joanneum

A visiting researcher from the Joanneum University of Applied Sciences, Austria, has indicated that the global Coronavirus pandemic has negatively affected enrolment numbers in the Tourism related programmes offered at the Austrian university.

Sandra Macher, from the Institute of Health and Tourism Management at FH Joanneum, has pointed to largescale job losses in the global tourism sector in the wake of the Covid-19 -pandemic as underlying low enrolment numbers in tourism education. “Prospective students have witnessed the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the tourism sector, and layoffs and widespread job-losses underlies fears that they could suffer a similar fate in the event of another pandemic,” Macher said.

The Austrian researcher visited NUST during the 2022 second semester on an Erasmus+ funded staff exchange. She travelled to Namibia to engage academics in NUST’s Department of Hospitality and Tourism on potential joint research projects, co-teaching and student and staff exchanges.

NUST and FH Joanneum established a formal partnership in 2010, and since then numerous staff and students have undertaken exchanges between the two institutions.



Mrs Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta, Coordinator: International Relations, pictured with Sandra Macher (from left to right).

Macher, who is based at FH Joanneum’s Bad Gleichenberg Campus, indicated that her home institution incorporated fields like Event Management and Health Tourism in its curriculum in an endeavour to boost enrollment in its Tourism Management Programme. “We have aimed to make tourism more inclusive, and have added to our Master of Tourism Programme a focus on human wellbeing, diet, exercising, sleep and mental health,” she said. In this regard FH Joanneum looks to equip Tourism managers with the skills and knowledge to cater to and provide these services.

The staff exchange to Namibia opened Macher’s eyes to the extent that operators, service providers and accommodation establishments in the Namibian tourism sector have embraced the use of technology in



their operations. "I have found that in Namibia there is a much higher uptake and use of modern technology in tourism operations than in Austria. The use of online booking tools for accommodation is not as widespread in Austria," she said. Macher

highlighted the accessibility of online systems used by Namibian businesses as very impressive.

The Covid-19 pandemic affected internationalization of higher education across the world in 2020

and 2021, bringing student and staff exchanges to a standstill. International exchanges picked up pace again in 2022, as students and academics from NUST's partner institutions in other parts of the world again began travelling to Namibia.

NUST Academic undertakes Austrian Exchange

A Human Resources Management Lecturer in NUST's Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education visited Kutstein-Tirol University of Applied Sciences, Austria, in June 2022 for a week long teaching exchange.

Ngondi Kaura-Ndjavera has been a lecturer at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) for several years, yet for the first time in her academic career she undertook a staff exchange to Europe in 2022. She was awarded an Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) for the teaching exchange to Austria.

Kaura-Ndjavera visited Kufstein-Tirol University of Applied Sciences as a guest lecturer, teaching topics related to Change Management to students visiting the Austrian university as part its International Programme. "At first I felt slightly overwhelmed, being from a small country and having travelled to Europe to teach students from all over the world, but very soon I felt right at home in my surroundings," Kaura-Ndjavera said. She added that her interaction with academics and students at Kufstein University had opened her eyes to different ways of engagement between lecturers and students.

Kaura-Ndjavera made full use of her travel to Austria to embark on cultural exploration, visiting the well-renowned Kufstein Fortress, Tatzlwurm, Innsbruck Mountains, the Alps and the Alpenzoo. She also visited the German cities of Cologne and Gundheim, further broadening and enriching

her experience.

"This opportunity for exchange to a foreign country to work with like-minded academics and teach students from different backgrounds is a priceless experience. It helps one to learn about other cultures, ways and approaches to work and teaching and learning," Kaura-Ndjavera said summarising her overall experience. "By working with people from other parts of the world, we also learn about and come to understand one another, and this new knowledge and understanding is key as we aim to collectively comprehend global issues and together develop solutions to the challenges that affect us all" she said.

NUST and Kufstein-Tirol University of Applied Sciences have been in partnership since 2015. Student and staff exchanges have taken place between the two institutions on a regular basis, as the two universities work towards developing students that are ready for global citizenship. Student and staff mobilities between the two partner institutions have been made possible through International Credit Mobilities funded by Erasmus+.



Kufstein-Tirol University Rector, Mario Döller, Head of Kufstein-Tirol University International Relations Office: Nouredine Rafli, NUST Lecturer: Ngondi Kaura-Ndjavera and Managing Director: Thomas Madritsch [from left to right].



Kufstein-Tirol University staff member, Karin Stein, with NUST academic, Ngondi Kaura-Ndjavera in the Austrian countryside [from left to right].



Department of Architecture and Spatial Sciences Hosts Finnish Academic

A senior lecturer in Urban Planning from the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, visited the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) during the first semester of 2022 as a guest lecturer on an Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility.

Kaisa Kanerva initially planned to visit NUST on an academic staff exchange in 2020, however, as was the case with most things planned for that year, this had to be postponed due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. Fast-forward to 2022, and with international travel by and large returning, planning for the Finnish academic's visit to NUST could go ahead.

During her visit to NUST, Kanerva participated in studio reviews for students in the Master of Architecture programme, and she delivered a guest lecture to staff and students in her host department on the U!REKA Lab: Urban Commons. The U!REKA Lab:

Urban Commons is an international and interdisciplinary blended learning collaborative research project of the U!REKA partner universities in Amsterdam, Ghent, Frankfurt, Helsinki and Lisbon that deals with urban commons and focuses on different co-creation initiatives in these cities. The Metropolia academic also delivered a public lecture on "Experimental Urban Planning in Finland," and delivered a workshop on "Urban Planning Using the Futures Frequency Tool."

Kanerva's visit was the first undertaken by an academic from Metropolia University of Applied Sciences to the Department of Architecture

and Spatial Sciences at NUST, and has therefore paved the way for broadening the collaboration between the two institutions. Towards this end, Kanerva and her counterparts at NUST held extensive talks to develop joint projects that would involve students and staff at the two universities.

"I have had a very enjoyable and productive stay at NUST. The hospitality of the Department of Architecture has been outstanding and I have received excellent support from the Department of International Relations," Kanerva said. She added that driving the initial meetings between herself and NUST faculty during her visit, that a firm foundation had been laid for joint and collaborative projects. Dr Phillip Lühl, Head of NUST's Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning, was upbeat following Kanerva's visit, saying that her activities in his Department had shone light on different perspectives and approaches to urban planning. "It has been fantastic to host Kaisa, We have a lot from her and look forward to working with her and her colleagues at Metropolia on developing and implementing joint projects.

During her time at NUST, "Kanerva also paid a courtesy visit to the Finnish Embassy in Windhoek, where she met briefly with the Finnish Ambassador, H.E. Leena Viljanen and Deputy Head of Mission, Matti Karvanen



Dr Phillip Lühl, HoD: Architecture and Spatial Planning, Senior Lecturer: Urban Planning at Metropolia, Kaisa Kanerva, Dr Laudika Kandjinga, Undergraduate Coordinator: Spatial Planning [FLTR].

CREDIT MOBILITY IN THE COVID-19 ERA

Erasmus+ Student Exchange to Austria

Shirley-Ann Clarke, Bachelor of Entrepreneurship student at NUST

My semester at Joanneum University of Applied Sciences in Graz, Austria was arguably the best experience I have ever had in my life. I learned a lot about myself, other cultures and grew in many good ways, both emotionally and spiritually.

I sincerely believe that I am a different person, in the best possible way. I have made so many great friends from many different countries and backgrounds and cultures. I hope and trust to always stay in contact with them. I fell in love with Europe and want to live there again someday. I am now aware of other cultures and very grateful for that.

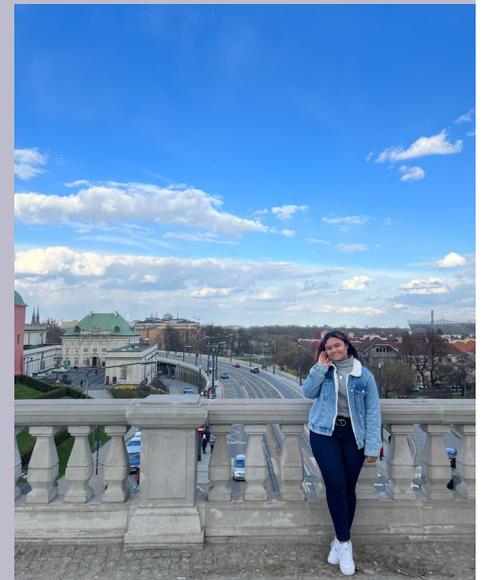
Assuming one is contemplating coming to Graz, don't reconsider. Being a student from abroad in this city is an amazing experience! One can find numerous enchanted places that will

change your perspective and make you live differently. Meeting people from all over the world has transformed me. Getting to know people from different cultural backgrounds, spending time and making memories with them and overcoming the language barrier is an eye-opening and deeply enriching experience.

Night life is very good in Graz, as the city has a student population of more than 40 000. One can find parties, catering to every taste, on any night of the week. There are also a lot of advantages for students, such as,

discounts for students buying tickets, opening a bank account, buying online stuff, eating out etc. Transportation is also not a problem and visiting neighbouring countries such as Italy, Germany, Croatia, Slovenia is easy and inexpensive.

Overall Graz is an incredibly good city to live in because it is neither cheap nor expensive. It is in the middle spectrum of affordable lifestyle. Anyway, I would recommend living there just for the experience.



Above Shirley-Ann is pictured at Eisenerz [Austria], Paris [France] and Warsaw [Poland].



JLU Giessen Student Embarks On Namibian Exchange

Jonas Müller, a student from the Justus Liebig University (JLU) Giessen in Germany

My first semester of 2022 on exchange to the Land of the Brave.

My time in Namibia and especially in Windhoek was great. I quickly made friends with local as well as international students. The weather in Namibia is fantastic and Namibians are very friendly people. I received a warm welcome at NUST from students in both the courses I took there. An excursion to Keetmanshoop and a visit to the Waldorf School in Windhoek were the highlights of my trip to Namibia. It was during these two trips that I had the opportunity to really get to know other students. I had a fantastic time in Namibia, and would definitely recommend to other students from my home university to visit this amazing country.

I took modules from the postgraduate Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management programmes offered at NUST. These programmes are quite different from the Master programme I am enrolled in at JLU Giessen. The smaller class sizes at NUST means that I had closer contact with my fellow students and our lecturers. The style of teaching at NUST is more practically-orientated and there are quite a few excursions worked into the curriculum. These aspects were new to me, but I believe this is because I started the Master programme in Germany at the peak of the global Covid-19 pandemic.



Jonas Müller hiking in the Waterberg Plateau National Park.



Jonas hiking with Greta Rossmann and Tabea Schüssler at Avis dam.



Jonas posing with Greta in front of the Namibian flag in Maerua Mall.



Fascinated by the cracked soil in Sossusvlei.

International Training Week in Huelva

Yatva-Ashande Hinda, International Relations Officer at NUST

I finally went on an International Training Week (ITW) in April 2022! This Training Week was hosted by the University of Huelva (UHU), in Huelva, Spain. Many of NUST's partner institutions in the European Union annually host similar events as part of activities related to internationalisation of higher education.

The host university specifically requested staff from the Department of International Relations and the Department of Library Services to participate in the week-long event, alongside representatives from 24 universities from across the world. The purpose of the week was to discuss challenges and opportunities in internationalisation of higher education, as well as lessons learned from Covid-19. The goal was to establish

best practises moving forward. It was also an opportunity to network and establish new relationships with UHU's partner institutions.

Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, it has been two years since the last international staff or student mobility took place to the university, therefore UHU was in the unique position to host two international training weeks, one in April and one in July. In total, six NUST staff members participated in these two events.

My personal highlights from week were the cultural exchange activities such as learning Spanish and learning how to dance the *Flamenco*. Furthermore, through the discussions, I have a newfound appreciation for NUST, as it is on par with most international partners in terms of its internal systems and structures. Mrs Chriszelda

Tlhabanello, who accompanied me on the same trip, indicated that the Cultural Day was the highlight of her trip as well as leaning how to dance the *Flamenco*. She also enjoyed the interaction with the other partner institutions and making new friends.

On the Cultural Day, all the partner institutions were invited to set up a stall and showcase their country and university to the UHU student population. Namibia had a stall that offered students a taste of our country through "eembe," which are a popular dried berry snack. Furthermore, UHU students could win corporate gifts for correctly answering any question about Namibia

Overall, the week was successful and it strengthened the relationship between the two institutions.



The NUST stand at UHU Cultural Day.



Flamenco performance.



Spanish 101 lessons with training week participants.



UHU students at NUST stand the Cultural Day.



Dance classes at UHU Training Week 2022.



Taz goes to Graz

Taryn Uys, Bachelor of Business Management student at NUST

My four-month long exchange to Joanneum University of Applied Sciences (FH Joanneum), Austria, was loaded with so many excursions, experiences, culture shocks, horrors, laughter, languages, culinary explorations, embarrassments, home sickness, lessons and friendships.

Having never been on an international exchange before, I was under the impression that I would be studying as I would at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), but amongst Austrians in a foreign place. I'd have a few modules that would last for the entire semester, which would conclude in examinations.

The Erasmus Plus Global Business Program (GBP) was structured completely and amazingly different. A collection of students from all over the world (Mexico, Burkina Faso, Thailand, Pakistan, Russia, Finland, Vietnam, Spain) gathered in the same, well equipped lecture room every second week, anticipating a new module led by a new lecturer from a different country (Australia, USA, India, Turkey, France, Lebanon). The GBP program itself was meticulously well thought out with a very clear emphasis on imparting skills for using cultural nuance to conduct business internationally.



With our University's President, Doris Kindl [second from right] and visiting Nepalese professor [third from left].

To my surprise, the expectation of a highly modernised "Wakanda" was crushed by a vintage store that did not accept card payments and rural towns with streets the width of one horse-drawn carriage. These streets, lined with Swiss Chalet-style farmhouses, reminiscent of my favourite childhood animated television show, Heidi, housed Austrians who could not speak a word of English. They would unashamedly eye the African (no comprehension

when I'd mention Namibia) with suspicious curiosity while serving traditional home brewed Viennese Hot Christmas Orangenpunsch. Time also passed more slowly in certain Austrian places, and I will never ever forget travelling through parts of Europe. Holding a resounding first place on my highlight list is taking trains, trams, taxis, flights, buses, and boats through Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

Devouring delicious Trudls (and fumbling through pronouncing the name), boat-cruising the Vltava River underneath the Charles Bridge in Old Town and watching Spanish fans drunkenly sing their favourite soccer anthems from the Apostles' Window in the Astronomical Clock Tower made Prague top the list as my favourite European city. Strolling the cobble stoned streets, past the Kindlifresserbrunnen (Child Eater Water Fountain) enroute to the Bärengraben (Bear Pit) made me imagine a horrific past where bears terrorized families farming along the Aare River loop in Bern. Snapping a picture with a random statue of Albert Einstein sitting on a bench is branded into my mind forever!



Strategic Innovations in Emerging Markets module with Prof. Rahul Singh (India)[somewhere in the middle].

My number two highlight is undoubtedly the friendships made that allowed me to glimpse places I would never have seen. I saw how my German-speaking friend could offend my South Korean flatmate and I felt transparent through my French friend's cold scorn. I laughed when

my 23-year-old Pakistani classmate was called “Mother”, guffawed when my 29 year old Finnish classmate was called “Grandmother”, and winced when they turned to me with “Great grandmother”. My “proudly Baster” fellow Namibian comforted me when I retorted at least I’m “great” while my Mexican friend rolled with laughter. I helped a Nigerian student scrub out the singes on the floor, caused by his many failed cooking attempts, and I excitedly explained to a Slovenian person how I fried and ate a sheep’s testicles. I acquired said testicles from a Turkish Market during a heavy bout of home sickness, after watching a documentary on how Herero men castrate a bull and braise the “product.”

And because I went to Austria to study, I must include the incredible standard of instruction as my last highlight. The hand-picked lecturers curated an amazingly relevant and well delivered program with efficiency and efficacy. The content spoke directly to the diverse group of international students and the focus of collaboration of various cultures gave hopes of a future of alliances despite differences. This is something that Europe desperately needed to believe in in the wake of Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine.



Birthday braai (left to right); Sofia [Ukraine], Shirley-Ann [Namibia], Yeoluem [South Korea], Åse [Norway], Sunniva [Norway], Mareike [Germany], birthday girl [Namibia].

Advice to future exchange students

The most important piece of advice that I can offer is that everyone feels as insecure, afraid, lonely, and home sick as you do. You are not alone in your anxieties. Reach out,

make connections. Do not be afraid to ask people to be in a group with you, change group members often, go to student events, plan outings and be with and amongst people. You could be a source of comfort for another, and you will benefit from feeling connected. Being away from one’s support system is traumatic at first, but you can build another up if you open yourself up to fostering new relationships.

Other than that, collect quick and easy recipes that use pastas, sauces, legumes, and vegetables because meat in Europe does not fit in a student’s budget. Visit ethno markets to shop for a touch of home.

Make sure you allow more than two hours for a connecting flight and book your luggage straight through to your destination because terminals are far apart, and travelling is stressful.

Lastly, be patient and slow to anger with your flatmates. We are all from different backgrounds and cultures with different ways of skinning the same cat. Be open-minded and accepting for your own peace of mind. Pick your battles because you will only live together for a short, emotional,



Grünersee with (left to right), Hiba [Pakistan], Elina [Russia], Emilia [Finland], Elif [Turkey], myself and Shirley-Ann [Namibia].

and impactful period of time so keep it peaceful. Have fun! It will be one of the best and vividly memorable experiences of your entire life!

New Beginnings

Samantha Schultze, Bachelor of Architecture student at NUST

It all started with a flyer pinned on a notice board in the Architecture Building at the Namibia University of

Science and Technology (NUST). I went from having an interview to sitting in front of my laptop in the middle of the

night, constantly refreshing my emails with the hope of being selected for the semester exchange programme



to RheinMain University of Applied Sciences, Germany. And I was! A year later I found myself at the airport with my family, bidding them an emotional farewell.

A few days after my arrival in Germany I was so excited for my first class, ready to learn. After the first 10 minutes of sitting in a class with the lecturer teaching in German, I raised my hand to tell him I do not understand. In fact, all four of us exchange students from NUST could not understand a single word. Yes, he was unaware that we were in his class, but he refused to teach in English and said that the university's language of instruction was German. I sat there for the remaining 30 minutes of the lecture wondering what the next few classes would be like. And indeed, the rest of the day was not very different.



An outing organised by the international students coordinators for a number of other exchange students to join, make new friends and see more of Germany.

As the semester continued and I felt like I wasn't learning anything. I would not have gone through all the trouble of putting the finances together so that I could come to a foreign country for what I thought would be an amazing opportunity. I was afraid that I was going to be an embarrassment to NUST. And I was also afraid that the investment my mother had made to get me to Germany would be wasted. My understanding was that we were supposed to be taught in English.

Nevertheless, it was too late to turn back, and I didn't want to disappoint

NUST, my mom or most importantly myself. After all, I have never been the type of person to give up easily. I then took a conscious decision to persevere and make the most of my situation. Perhaps, I might have not made NUST proud by being an "A" student, but personally, I am proud of myself. I really pushed hard and tried my best to understand and deliver work of quality, and to the best of my ability. After a lot of hard work, I was able to successfully complete my summer semester at Hochschule Rheinmain.

After three long months of emailing architectural firms, I finally managed to find an internship. I am learning a lot and really appreciate my colleagues for being very understanding and patient. Even though the office is a little small, I consider myself very lucky to work in a female-owned firm with a group of very kind and supportive women. It feels very empowering. Additionally, and academics aside, this year has been a very difficult. Moving away from my family and support system was something I overlooked. I never thought I would feel as home sick as I did. I was missing the familiarity of my home country. The traditional food, the weather, my family, and my friends. I have never felt this alone before. Through this year, I really learned that no one really has your back as much as yourself (or your mom).

Although it was difficult, I can finally see light at the end of the tunnel. This year I learned the true definition of what it means to get out of one's proverbial comfort zone. I have grown so much as a person. I am more self-aware, confident, punctual, patient and observant. I have set new goals for myself, and I am happy with how I have evolved. I also learned to make more informed decisions, and to be less impulsive with my actions.

I have made friendships that will last a lifetime, and my knowledge of the German language has improved by leaps and bounds. I understand the

language a lot better now, and have the confidence to speak to people in public. I have a deeper understanding of German culture, the way of living and the German people. During this year I have experienced so many different cultures, many that I never expected to be exposed to in Germany or in general. I have proven to myself that I can overcome any challenge and that I can succeed at any task. The sense of independence and self-assurance I have acquired from being alone and outside of my comfort zone is something I would've never gained had I stayed in Namibia. Not to mention my German getting this good. After all that has happened, I am happy to say I do not regret coming to live here.



Exploring my new neighbourhood.

Advice to future exchange students

In conclusion, I would like to offer some advice to someone offered the same opportunity as mine, and it is this... it is easy to get lost in the world when you haven't set clear goals for yourself. The opportunity is amazing but you should know that it comes at a price. You don't need to feel pressured to leave home, life abroad is not that amazing. The living standards are higher, but when it comes to exposure the internet can do so much for you and it's free. Your greatest asset is your ability to learn and that is not defined by where you come from.

INTERNATIONALISATION AND PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

International Relations commemorates International Education Week

The International Relations (IR) Section in the Department of Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation celebrated International Education Week (IEW) in 2022 with a return to in-person activities taking place on the NUST campus.

The national Covid-19 prevention measures in place for much of 2020 and all of 2021 meant that activities planned in celebration of IEW during those years took place entirely virtually. With the lifting of these measures and a return to in-person activities on the NUST campus, the IR Section once again set out to organise and host activities to commemorate IEW as it had done prior to the arrival of the Coronavirus pandemic.

"We were very excited by the prospect of once again being able to plan and host in-person activities for IEW," recounted International Relations Coordinator, Theodora Mweuta. She added that the hosting IEW virtually had been successful in 2020 and 2021, but that the IR Section looked forward to the human contact factor which is often lost in virtual interaction.

IEW is scheduled annually for the first week of September, typically taking place over two or three days, that are filled with informative, engaging and interesting activities aimed at raising awareness around internationalisation of higher education. This year IEW was held under the theme, "Promoting Innovation and Sustainability in Higher Education Through Internationalisation."

A mainstay of past editions, the 2022 IEW Public Lecture took place on 07 September 2022. The Public Lecture was delivered by Prof Manfred Meyer, a senior academic in Business Informatics at the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Prof Meyer's lecture, titled, "Getting Students Prepared for the Global World: Concept, Implementation and Lessons Learned from the GIPE

Project," focused on a multi-year project between NUST, FH Westphalia and universities in Indonesia and Peru. The Global Intercultural Project Experience (GIPE) brings together students and academics from four continents to work remotely on projects provided by real clients in each of the participating institutions' home countries. The "Study Abroad, Taste the World" initiative, which



Department of International Relations hosted a networking event for all international academics and experts at NUST.

combines an international street food festival with an information sharing session, also made a return to the 2022 IEW agenda. This year's event saw participation from the Indian High Commission, European Union (EU), Gernam Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), British High Commission and the Finnish Embassy all sharing information about study abroad opportunities to those countries. International exchange students to NUST set



up booths offering international cuisine from their host countries. An outside broadcast by NUSTfm created a lively and energetic atmosphere on the NUST lower campus.



DAAD stall at the Information sharing event.

The IR Section also hosted an International Staff Networking Event on the evening of 08 September 2022 at the NUST Hotel School. This activity brought together international staff, visiting academics, guest lecturers and development partners as the IR Section sought to acknowledge those contributing to internationalisation of higher education at NUST and in Namibia.



NUST students enjoying the Information Sharing and Taste The World events of International Education Week.

IR Section Administrator, Ms Chriszelda Tlhabanello, expressed her satisfaction with the 2022 rendition of IEW. "The IR Team has once again pulled together and worked hard to pull off IEW with resounding success," she said. Tlhabanello added that IEW, as a platform to promote



Embassy of Finland sharing information about funded study opportunities in Finland.

internationalisation of higher education, had achieved this objective as the IR Section had experienced an increase in student inquiries about study abroad and international exchange opportunities



Spain stall as part of the Taste the World activity.

IR Important Dates for 2023

APPLICATION DUE DATES

NUST Applications and Enquiries: **01 April 2023**
 Application deadline: **15 June 2022**

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

NUST First Semester: **06 Feb - 09 June 2023**
 Exchange student registration is facilitated by the Department of International Relations
 International Student Welcoming Function: **To be confirmed**

NUST Staff & Students Attend First GIPE Summer School in Germany

A group of eight students and one staff member from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) travelled to Germany to attend a two-week summer school organized as part of the Global Intercultural Project Experience (GIPE) initiative.

Officially started in 2020, the GIPE Project is collaborative initiative between NUST, the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Germany, Universidad Católica San Pablo, Peru, and Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, Indonesia. GIPE brings together students from the four partner institutions to work, remotely and across numerous time

zones, on real-life projects provided by businesses in the home country of each institution.

The foundation of GIPE is that each project undertaken has a real client, and the participating students are tasked with developing a workable solution. The multidisciplinary and project-based approach to learning,

which GIPE offers, provides for an enriching experience as students develop and apply holistic solutions to challenges. Furthermore, GIPE participants are also exposed to cultural exchange as they work alongside other young people and mentors from different countries.

Funded by the German Academic



The GIPE Summer School Participants and their mentors at the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Gelsenkirchen.



Exchange Service (DAAD), GIPE has since 2020 made provision for the hosting of a Summer School in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. However, the 2020 and 2021 editions of the Summer School could not take place due to travel restrictions imposed as a result of the global Coronavirus pandemic. The re-opening of international borders meant that in 2022 the GIPE Summer School could go ahead.

So, it came to be that eight NUST students and one academic travelled to Gelsenkirchen to meet up with their GIPE counterparts from Peru, Germany and Indonesia. The NUST students attending the Summer School, from 13

– 24 June 2022, were from the Faculties of Computing and Informatics, Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences and Engineering and the Built Environment respectively. They were accompanied by Computer Science lecturer, Dr Attlee Gamundani.

During the Summer School the GIPE participants worked to complete their solutions and final products for the 2022 GIPE Project Client, Colegio San Juan Apostol, located in Peru. They were also treated to some more relaxing activities, such as a tour of historical buildings and sites in Gelsenkirchen, as well as a visit to the Bocholt campus of Westphalia

University of Applied Sciences.

“This has been a fantastic experience. Our students worked remotely with those from Germany, Peru and Indonesia for many months, and now had the opportunity to meet their counterparts in person and work with them to put the final touches on their products,” said Dr Gamundani. He added that the experience had been very rewarding for students and staff alike. “The continued success of GIPE projects since 2020 have created a reference model that acts like a potential building block for collaborative partnerships that NUST can leverage,” he said.

Nust Co-Hosts International Mining Conference

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Southern Africa Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) jointly hosted the 32nd Society of Mining Professors (SOMP) Annual General Meeting and Conference in Windhoek, Namibia, in September 2022.

The organisation and hosting of the 32nd SOMP Annual General Meeting and Conference fell upon NUST following the election of Professor Harmony Musiyarira as the 2021 – 2022 SOMP President. Prof Musiyarira is the Executive Dean of NUST's Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment.

The 2022 iteration of the SOMP Annual Conference took place from 12 – 14 September 2022. The event's official opening ceremony was attended by Erasmus Shivolo, Deputy Executive Director: Mines in the Ministry of mines and Energy, and Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor. The opening

day saw delegates receive a briefing on the overview of the Namibian mining industry by Mr Veston Malango, Chief Executive Officer of the Namibian Chamber of Mines.

This year the SOMP Conference was held in hybrid format, with delegates attending the event virtually from



SOMP Conference delegates.

remote locations and in-person. Numerous technical and non-technical papers were presented on Day One of the SOMP Conference, and the hybrid format of the event made for real-time interaction between participants and presenters.

The second day of the SOMP Conference continued with presentations of technical papers on education, member's development, and emerging trends in curriculum development. An Awards Dinner concluded Day Two. The Michael Karmis PhD. Fellowship and Tim Shaw awards were presented at this occasion. Alexandra Radl, of RWTH Aachen University, Germany, received

the Michael Karmis PhD. Fellowship Award, and Dr. George Barakos, from Curtin University, Australia, received the Tim Shaw Award. The former award is presented to a SOMP member in recognition for their endeavour to pursue a career in academia, usually underpinned by the achievement of a doctoral degree in the fields of Mining Engineering or Mineral Processing. The Tim Shaw Award recognises distinguished achievements in Teaching and Learning Innovation to improve the quality of Mining Engineering education.

The SOMP Conference concluded with sessions on Research, Development and Industry, Capacity Building,

Information Technology, and a focus on Post Mining on the final day of the event. The SOMP Presidency was transferred from Prof Musiyarira Prof Oliver Langefeld of Technical University Clausthal (TU Clausthal), Germany. Prof Serkan Saydam, of the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia, was elected as President-Elect and Prof Vladislav Kecojecic of West Virginia University, USA, was re-elected as SOMP Secretary General. The 33rd SOMP Annual Meeting and Conference will be hosted by TU Clausthal, in 2023. The 34th SOMP Annual General Meeting and Conference taking place in 2024 will be held in Sydney, Australia

NUST Attracts High Caliber Fulbright Scholar

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) hosted renown Fulbright Scholar, Prof Tanya Karp, for a year-long attachment to its Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment in 2022.



From Left, Prof Tanja Karp, Dr Andrew Niikondo – Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Executive Dean Engineering and Spatial Sciences ; Prof Harmony Musiyarira , Ms Yatva Hinda; International Relations Officer for Engineering and far left Mr Kalaluka Kanyimba Deputy Head of Department Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Prof Karp, an Associate Professor at Texas Tech. University, Lubbock, in the American state of Texas, is a highly acclaimed academic and researcher in the field of electrical and computer engineering. She has been attached to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at NUST since February 2022 as a Fulbright Scholar.

During her time at NUST, Prof Karp lectured undergraduate students, supervised the research components of numerous postgraduate students, and engaged in research activities of her host Department. In February 2022, Prof Karp participated in the "Women and Girls in Science" STEAM Workshop as a Guest Lecturer. This event, organized by the Namibia Scientific Society in collaboration with Mindsinaction Namibia and the UNESCO Namibia Country Office, was attended by roughly 40 girls from schools across Windhoek. Furthermore, Prof Karp also became involved in community engagement activities organized by the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, which saw the US-based academic teach robotics to INSTEM teachers and students, as well as high school learners.

"I love Namibia and NUST has kept me quite busy teaching a big programming class and doing all the grading myself" she elaborated. Prof Karp added that visiting Namibia, the opportunity to teach at NUST and all other activities that she became involved in had been an eye-opening and deeply rewarding and enriching experience. "Even for a well-travelled and seasoned academic such as myself,



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Prof Karp's research interests include Multirate Signal Processing, Multicarrier Communications, STEM and Engineering Education. She is also part of the Biomedical Integrated Devices and Systems (BIDS) Research Group at Texas Tech University. Prior to her appointment at the US-based university, Prof Karp worked as a Post-doctoral Research and Teaching Associate at the University of Mannheim, Germany, and a Research Scientist at the Hamburg University of Technology, Germany.

NUST Hosts Summer School for International Students

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) breathed new life into its Summer School for International Students, offering the 4-week programme in 2022 following Covid-19 enforced absences in 2020 and 2021.

The hosting of the annual Summer School on the NUST campus stems from a longstanding agreement between the institution and the Organisation for African-European Culture and Educational Exchange (VAEA). Organised by VAEA, the Summer School aims to promote cultural integration by exposing European students to Namibia, and more broadly Africa. This is achieved by way of tailor-made modules taught during the Summer School, as well as excursions to Namibian industries and businesses. Modules taught at the Summer School include, "A Profile of Namibian Economy, State, Government and Politics" and "Doing Business in Africa," with specific focus on Namibia and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

International travel restrictions and Covid-19 prevention measures implemented across the world meant that the Summer School could not take place in 2020 and 2021. However, the return of international travel and the lifting of prevention measures meant that the planning and hosting of the international event could resume at full pace. The Summer School took place from 23 July 2022 to 20 August 2022, and was attended by students from Germany, the

Czech Republic, Switzerland and France.

Speaking at the closure of the Summer School was Ms Theodora Mweuta, International Relations Coordinator at NUST, who expressed happiness at the return of the Summer School. "It is indeed heart-warming to note that the NUST Summer School has returned in full force following its absence the past two years. This initiative is a key component of internationalisation of higher education at our university," She said. Mrs Mweuta added that initiatives such as the Summer School contributes to cultivating global citizenship, understanding of and tolerance towards cultural differences among different people of the world.

Reflecting on their experiences the Summer School participants all shared similar sentiments pointing to the eye-opening nature of their trip to Namibia. "We have encountered a different way of life and approach to business that we would not have experienced, much less understood, had we not participated in the NUST Summer School," one student said.

Nust Students Awarded DAFI Scholarship

Two of the three recipients of the 2022 DAFI Scholarships in Namibia are students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST).

The Albert Einstein Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) Scholarship Programme offers qualified refugee students the possibility to study towards and earn an undergraduate degree in their country of asylum. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN refugee agency in Namibia, through a tripartite agreement with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration (MHAISS), and Society for Family Health (SFH), implements the programme in Namibia.

Oda Ngabirano, Mutonj Ali and Sakina Malumalu are the three new DAFI

scholarship holders. They join nine other beneficiaries of this initiative in 2022. Mutonj and Sakina are enrolled in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at NUST. The other DAFI beneficiaries at NUST are studying Cyber Security, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology. The eight remaining DAFI scholarship holders are enrolled in medicine, biochemistry, and civil engineering programmes at the University of Namibia (UNam). Apart from the academic scholarships, the 2022 DAFI beneficiaries also received desktop computers.

A diverse selection committee

reviews DAFI scholarship applications, interviews and selects beneficiaries. This year the selection committee included representation from The Society for Family Health, The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Namibia, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security and NUST.

The DAFI was established in 1992 and has supported over 13 500 refugees globally. In Namibia the DAFI Scholarship Programme has been active since 2020.



Sondaha Sakeus, Education Officer at SFH with Osire learners who attended the NUST career fair event on 17-18 August 2022.



Education Officer sharing DAFI scholarship insight with learners from different schools.



Nust Welcomes International Students

The Department of International Relations at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) hosted an orientation session for all international students to welcome them to the institution and Namibia in general.

The International Student Orientation was attended by roughly 100 foreign students from Germany, Finland, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Botswana, Angola, Malawi and South Africa. These were a mix of students that had joined NUST for only one semester as international exchange students from partner institutions abroad, as well as first year degree seeking international students.

The event included presentations on a diverse range of topics focusing on services provided by the Department of Student Services, the role of the NUST Students' Representative Council (SRC), immigration issues, and safety in Windhoek. The international students were also given a glimpse of Namibia as a tourist destination and an overview of the Department of International Relations.

Speaking at the orientation session was Coordinator: International Relations, Theodora Mweuta, who explained the role of the Department of International Relations as to promote NUST's internationalisation agenda, and to position and build the reputation of the University internationally.

"Having international students on our campus is part of the Institution's internationalisation at home agenda because, international students bring with them different views and cultural experiences that help local students and academics alike examine their own opinions and world views", Mweuta said.

Windhoek City Police Superintendent, Cillie Kapolo, briefed the international students about safety in the capital city. "Crime occurs when the victim creates an opportunity, hence the need for you to always be responsible for your own safety and security by being conscious of your surroundings", she said.

Following the orientation session, the international students were treated to a Windhoek City Tour visiting historical sites and points of interest in and around Windhoek in order to familiarise themselves with their new environment.



Staff from NUST's Department of International Relations along with the group of international students that attended the International Orientation Session.

NUST Hosts Korean Business Delegation

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) welcomed a delegation of South Korean Captains of Industry to its campus in July 2022 for a familiarization visit.

The 11 – member delegation from the east Asian nation visited NUST on the recommendation of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), as they sought to explore cooperative and business opportunities in numerous sectors, including energy, agriculture, and education. Former Parliamentarians, representatives from non-profit organisations and the private sector made up the South Korean delegation.

Welcoming the South Korean delegation was NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, who emphasized the Namibian university's role as a national and regional leader in innovation. "Here at NUST we have the High Technology Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS), which is a functional technology-inspired ecosystem focused on harnessing cutting-edge digital technologies, converging the physical and the virtual environments, to deliver a space where research projects with industry, government and development partners are undertaken." Dr Naomab invited the east Asian guests to partner with NUST through the HTTPS, which is ideally located to develop new and innovative products and enhance existing concepts.

The NUST Vice-Chancellor expressed pleasure at hosting the South Korea delegation, explaining that the majority of NUST's partners are located in Europe. Historically NUST has partnered with institutions and organisations located in countries with whom Namibia has close bilateral ties or shared history. "We are however very mindful of Asia's rise and the continent's unprecedented development over a relatively short span of time, its contribution to advancements in technology and the strength of their [Asian] education systems. It therefore only makes sense that we cast our gaze to the

East as we search for partners in our endeavour to develop new and innovative solutions to the collective challenges facing all people of the world," Dr Naomab said.

The discussion between NUST's management and the South Korean delegation centered on the development of a Health Tourism Curriculum for offer at the tertiary education level, setting up of Technology Parks in Namibia, collaboration in the field of Sport Management, and the potential hosting of a South Korean-Namibia Cultural Festival in the future.



NUST Vice Chancellor and staff pictured with the South Korean delegation.



Nust And Inland University Establish Collaborative Relationship

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and Inland University of Applied Sciences (INN), Norway, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2022 formally establishing a collaborative relationship between the two institutions.

The agreement between NUST and INN seeks “to explore and develop collaborative research activities and to jointly look for external research funding opportunities.” Furthermore, the MoU provides for the exchange of staff and students between NUST and INN, encourages cooperation between academic departments, and lays the foundation for collaboration at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The signing of the MoU took place in Windhoek during a visit to NUST by a high-level delegation from INN. The Norwegian university’s Vice-Chancellor, Mr Peer Jacob Svenkerud, Pro-Vice chancellor of Research, Mr Arild Hovland, Head of Research Department, Mrs Marte Tøndel, Dean: Faculty of Applied Ecology, Agricultural Sciences and Biotechnology, Mrs Maria Hornell Willebrand, and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs. Mrs Ine Wigernaes made up the visiting delegation.

Welcoming the INN delegation to NUST was the institution’s Vice Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, who emphasized that human interaction determines the quality and depth of

partnership between institutions. He urged researchers from both NUST and INN to work together and jointly solve societal challenges.

In June 2022, Dr Naomab joined a delegation led by Namibia’s Vice President, His Excellency Nangolo Mbumba, on an official visit to Norway. This delegation visited INN. Dr Naomab found INN’s Norwegian Film and Game School, and that university’s Faculty of Audiovisual, Media and Creative Technologies particularly impressive. “It is my hope that our two institutions will explore cooperation in these areas,” he said, expressing a desire to see INN assist with the establishment of a TV and Game School at NUST.

Mr Svenkerud, alluded that INN’s TV School offers highly renowned study programmes such as Television Direction, Television Technique and Television Management. He added that graduates from this field of study are highly sought after by Norwegian and international film and television industry.



Dr Naomab and Mr Svenkerud signing the agreement.



Nust Broadens Partnership Network To Indonesia

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) welcomed the first higher education institution from Indonesia to its network of international partners when it established a cooperative relationship with the Bandung-based Telkom University (TEL-U).

NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, and TEL-U Rector, Prof. Dr. Adiwijaya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June 2022 at a hybrid ceremony, being both virtual and in-person, and stretching across six time zones and almost 10 000km. The MoU concretised the relationship between NUST and the southeast Asian TEL-U, and will enable student and staff exchanges, joint research projects and hosting of conferences, industry internships, and building and strengthening innovation and technology capacity.

Speaking during the ceremony, NUST Vice Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, said there is “synergy between TEL-U and NUST as they share goals in internationalisation of research, teaching and learning and enterprise development”. He added that the two partners share areas of interest such as economics and business, engineering and inter-cultural and social exchanges. “Through this agreement we are going to strengthen our respective institutional capacities and bilateral ties”, Dr Naomab said.

Visibly excited at the occasion, TEL-U Rector, Prof. Dr. Adiwijaya expressed gratitude towards NUST for its collaborative spirit. “We (NUST and TEL-U) have the same vision in educating younger generations, and offer to them the opportunity to see the world from many perspectives, through the implementation of education, research and outstanding achievements”. The TEL-U Rector and his team participated in the ceremony virtually.

Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Namibia, His Excellency, Wisnu Edi Pratigny, delivered the keynote address at the ceremony and commended the efforts of the Indonesian Embassy to forge ties between higher education institutions in Namibia and Indonesia. “This is a concrete output of our efforts to promote bilateral cooperation”, he said. The Indonesian Ambassador urged NUST and TEL-U to commence with student and staff exchanges in earnest. TEL-U has approximately 30 000 students, seven academic faculties, 44 study programs and 38 research groups. The Indonesian university boasts an innovation centre, the Bandung Techno Park. TEL-U is regarded as a highly modern university, with an active role in the development of science-based information technology. NUST and TEL-U enjoy significant overlap with respect to academics and research, the most significant being in the fields of electrical and industrial engineering, computing, economics, business management, communication, creative industries and applied sciences.

The partnership between NUST and TEL-U will enable the Namibian institution to leverage its Indonesian partner’s advancements in technology transfer in the areas of telecommunications, energy, transport, mining and manufacturing. This would be realised through the development of the technology park concept in Namibia, and the realisation of such an initiative locally



Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Namibia, His Excellency, Wisnu Edi Pratigny seated next to NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab.



Ambassador Wisnu Edi Pratigny and Dr Eroid Naomab pictured with NUST management

B360 at NUST

B360 Experts in First Semester 2022

Faculty of Health, Applied Sciences and Natural Resources hosted 3 B360 Experts following the suspension of in-person guest lecturing by B360 experts for 2020 and 2021 due to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

B360 Experts Dr Rudolf Schmitt, Prof Corinne Gantenbein and Dr Stephanie Baumgartner undertook guest lecturing assignments to NUST's Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences in the first semester of 2022. In 2021, Dr Schmitt was the only B360 Expert to visit NUST as a guest lecturer.

Dr Schmitt lectured in the fields of Food Safety and Food Microbiology, Prof Gantenbein taught in the Food and Meat Hygiene course and Dr Baumgartner lectured in Human Nutrition. The three B360 Experts have all visited NUST in the past, and they all found the return to NUST and Namibia very welcome. "For the past twelve years I have regularly volunteered at NUST as a guest lecturer. It has been interesting to observe the developments at NUST over the past decade and to share my knowledge and experience," Dr Schmitt said.

"I particularly appreciate the contact with these young students who are eager to learn. At the beginning, some of them rated the learning objective as quite challenging. But all of them made great progress in the competencies to be achieved," said Dr Baumgartner of her visit to NUST. Prof

Gantenbein, speaking on her assignment to NUST, said, "It was a highlight to be back in Namibia and to meet NUST colleagues and also students back on campus. It is a large win-win to share with the students the experience as a lecturer and as an expert in the field of food microbiology. Seeing that the students were highly motivated and that I could provide them with new knowledge boosted my personal motivation."

The guest lecturing assignments by Swiss-based industry professionals are made possible through an agreement between NUST and B360, that was first signed in 2009. To date well over 200 Swiss professionals have undertaken volunteer guest lecturer assignments to NUST. Three of NUST's four Faculties have hosted B360 Experts.

In the wake of the disruption to international travel and guest lecturing exchanges caused by Covid-19, B360 launched its Virtual Volunteering Programme through which Swiss experts undertake guest lecturing virtually via Zoom or MS Teams. Dr Baumgartner and Prof Gantenbein participated in such remote guest lecturing activities with NUST students during 2021



Prof Corinne Gantenbein during a practical session with NUST students.



Dr Stephanie Baumgartner with the group of students she taught during her recent assignment to NUST.



Dr Rudolf Schmitt with the class of NUST students he lectured during his visit to NUST.



Prof Corinne Gantenbein, Dr Rudolf Schmitt and Dr Stephanie Baumgartner on excursion to Swakopmund during their Volunteer Guest Lecturing Visit to NUST.

Four NUST Students Complete Virtual Internships

The B360 Education Partnerships (B360) Virtual Internship Programme continued in 2022, following a successful pilot project in 2021, as four Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) students undertook internships working remotely for Swiss-based companies.

NUST and B360 developed the Virtual Internship Programme in response to the disruption caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic to international staff and student exchanges. The uncertainty experienced globally in the Covid-19 era meant that students selected for the B360 Internship Programme in March 2020, could only embark for Switzerland in May 2021. NUST students selected for the Virtual Internship Programme undertake internships with Swiss-based organisations, while physically remaining in Namibia.

B360 and NUST's Department of International Relations held selection for the Virtual Internship Programme in November 2021. Four students from the Department of Communications and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences in the Faculties of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education and Health, Applied Sciences and Natural Resources respectively, were selected to undertake their virtual internships in the first semester of 2022.

Queen Pieter and Letisia Petrus, from the Department of Communications and Erah Nehale and Sophia Atshipara from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences were selected for the programme. Their internships began in April 2022 and concluded three months later in June 2022.

The Virtual Internship Programme is indicative of an emerging trend in internationalization of education that involve virtual exchanges or collaborative online working between participants in geographically remote locations. This type of exchange makes use of information and communication technologies which are not new per se, but have been applied to work, teaching and learning more extensively since the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The virtual internship was a very interesting and rewarding experience," said Pieter, adding that being physically remote from her colleagues and supervisor placed new demands on



[FLTR]: Queen Pieter, Erah Nehale, Letisia Petrus and Sophia Atshipara along with B360 President, Sabina Balmer, shortly after the start of the Virtual Internship Programme intake for 2022.



her and required her to develop a sense of self-discipline and commitment almost instantly. “I can say that I have grown a lot through this virtual internship, because now I know that I am able to stay focused and on track with work without a supervisor looking over my shoulder,” Petrus said.

“We are incredibly proud of our students, for the commitment, hard work and dedication that they have shown throughout their virtual internships,” said NUST International Relations Officer and local B360 Coordinator, Nico Smit. He added that this programme is important for NUST as it allows the institution to expose its students to a new trend in the world of work, namely remote work.

NUST & B360 Host Career Starter Week Workshops

The International Relations (IR) Section at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and Swiss-based B360 Education Partnerships (B360) hosted career readiness workshops for unemployed university graduates in September and October 2022.

The Career Starter Week (CSW) Workshop is a relatively new, joint initiative between NUST and B360. First implemented in 2016, the CSW is a five-day workshop that equips young Namibians with the knowledge and skills to enhance their employability and ensure readiness for the world of work.

The workshop participants undergo an intensive week of “hands-on”, practical training, with a focus on developing their knowledge of project management, presentation skills, understanding of financial planning, and business idea development. Employment applications and interview preparation are also covered, and all participants have the opportunity to attend a mock job interview.

The CSW Workshops are facilitated by B360 Experts who visit NUST on a volunteer basis. These international industry professionals are supported by Namibian professionals who deliver content on certain modules in the CSW programme. This gives the CSW an international flavour, yet it remains contextually relevant with its blend of local and international presenters sharing their knowledge and experience.

The NUST IR Section and B360 hosted four CSW workshops in September and October this year. The CSW Workshops were planned and hosted with the support of FNB Namibia, who sponsored the initiatives. During September, the workshops were facilitated by B360 Experts, Matteo Veriani and Karusha Moonsamy, who are based in Switzerland and South Africa respectively. The CSW workshops that took place in October were facilitated by Lichtenstein-based

B360 Experts, Thomas Weber and Cathrin Kratzla. A host of Namibian professionals from organisations such as FNB Namibia, Chase and Associates CC, Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), Meatco, Cymot, the Capricorn Group, Nedbank, Sanlam Investment Management (SIM) and NUST delivered content at the four workshops.

The CSW participants shared similar feedback when asked about their experience of the workshop, saying that the initiative had been “life changing,” “super impactful,” and “on another level”. The international experts facilitating the CSW found their time in Namibia and work at NUST to be very rewarding. “It was really fantastic to watch the development of the students. It was very clear to see that



B360 Experts Karusha Moonsamy (left) and Matteo Veriani (second from left) share a light moment with two workshop participants during the Career Starter Week held in September on the NUST Campus.

the people who started the course were not the same people who finished it," Veriani said.

NUST and B360 have enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership since 2009. Which has seen a significant number of students undertake internships in Switzerland, and Swiss-

based industry professionals visit NUST as volunteer guest lecturers. As the partnership between NUST and B360 has grown from strength to strength, the CSW Workshops have been developed and added to the joint activities. A more recent development in the partnership has been the introduction of the B360 Virtual Internship Programme.

NUST Students Head to Europe for Internships

Ten Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) students participated in the B360 Education Partnerships Sending North Programme in 2022 as they undertook industry internships at companies in Switzerland and Lichtenstein.

NUST students have since 2011 had the opportunity to undertake internships in Switzerland through an agreement between NUST and B360 Education Partnerships (B360). The latter is a Swiss-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that contributes to skills and knowledge transfer and capacity development in Southern Africa. The partnership was established in 2009, and to date more than 100 NUST students have undertaken internships in Switzerland and Lichtenstein through the B360 Sending North Programme.

Desmond Somseb, Aina Nepaya, Chimango Chihana, Titus Jafet and Tarohole Niipare were selected for the B360 Internship Programme in September 2021, and travelled to Switzerland for their three-month internships in February 2022. Siegfried Skeper, Lydia Kaupitwa, Matthew-Leen Hanghome, Paulus Nanguti and Shahied !Khabeb were selected for the B360 Sending North Programme in March 2022, and travelled to the central European countries for their internships in August 2022.

Nepaya, Chihana, Jafet, Niipare and Nanguti are all students in NUST's Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education, while Somseb and !Khabeb study in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics. Hanghome and Kaupitwa are students in the Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences.

Somseb spent his internship with Swiss financial services provider, bob Finance AG, and Niipare was placed with Swiss bank Julius Bär. Nepaya, Chihana and Jafet undertook their internships at the Swiss banking giant, Credit Suisse. Kaupitwa became the first NUST student to undertake an internship at Motorex-Bucher Group AG, a chemicals company specializing in the development and production of lubricants, metalworking fluids and technical cleaning

and care products. !Khabeb and Nanaguti also became the first NUST students to be placed with LGT Bank, Lichtenstein, for their internships. Hanghome was placed with the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, and Skeper undertook his internship at Zweifel Pomy-Chips.

The NUST students were placed with host families in Switzerland and Lichtenstein for all round integration into Swiss life. During their time abroad they travelled extensively throughout Switzerland and visited famous cities such as Lucerne and Geneva, and some even travelled further afield to Paris, France. A notable excursion was



NUST students Paulus Nanguti, Siegfried Skeper, Matthew-Leen Hanghome, Lydia Kaupitwa and Shahied !Khabeb during their internship in Switzerland and Lichtenstein.



NUST Students Tarohole Niipare, Chimango Chihana, Aina Nepaya, Titus Jafet and Desmond Somseb on excursion during their three-month internships in Switzerland.

Commenting on his internship, Jafet said, "It was a great experience working at Credit Suisse, they gave me an understanding of the industry, and I will always appreciate that." Somseb added that the tasks allocated to him during his time at bob Finance AG aided in the development of soft and hard skills. "Along with that, I gained valuable insight into the IT industry and its operations," he added. Echoing Jafet's sentiments was Hanghome, who said that the internship abroad was one of the greatest experiences of her life. "It was truly everything that I envisioned it to be. I will always treasure the experiences, memories and moments, and the people I have become acquainted with," she said.



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International Relations Unit
Department of Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation
Namibia University of Science and Technology
Private Bag 13388
Windhoek
NAMIBIA

T: +264 61 207 2250
F: +264 61 207 9250
E: inr@nust.na
W: www.nust.na