



NUST and UNDP Reaffirm Ties for National Development



Photo: UNDP

The Centre positions itself as a national initiative that integrates research, skills development, and enterprise support for sustainable energy solutions.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) has reaffirmed its leadership in advancing Namibia's green energy transition during a follow-up strategic partnership meeting with the new leadership of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Namibia. The discussions focused on continuing the operationalisation of the Namibia Centre of Excellence for Green Energy Innovation (N-CEGEI).

The engagement was led by NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Niikondo, and UNDP Namibia Resident Coordinator, Amanda Serumaga, and brought together senior officials from both institutions. The visit underscored

the high-level commitment to driving the initiative forward. Positioning the Centre as a flagship national initiative, NUST takes pride in spearheading a platform that integrates research, skills development and enterprise support to drive sustainable energy solutions. The collaboration with UNDP builds on a strong foundation of partnership, which has already delivered tangible outcomes through the University's Namibia Energy Institute (NEI). "Notably, previous joint efforts have enabled significant investments in infrastructure and capacity-building, including the installation of a state-of-the-art solar photovoltaic training suite valued at over N\$900 000. This equipment is actively used by students and professionals for hands-on training in renewable energy technologies, strengthening Namibia's technical expertise

in the sector," remarked Dr Andreas Elombo, the NEI Director.

Through N-CEGEI, NUST is scaling these efforts into a coordinated national hub, one that not only advances green energy innovation but also fosters entrepreneurship, supports youth skills development and deepens collaboration with industry partners.

The Centre reflects the university's strategic vision to translate knowledge into practical solutions that respond to Namibia's energy needs while unlocking new economic opportunities.

This collaboration places emphasis on NUST's commitment to driving climate action, accelerating green energy adoption, and positioning Namibia at the forefront of inclusive, innovation-led development.



Prof Andrew Niikondo, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor (left) pictured with the UNDP Namibia Resident Coordinator, Amanda Serumaga.



Dr Andreas Elombo, NEI Director.

Higher Education Postgrad Programme ...Ten Years On, Still Learning Forward

Since its establishment in 2016, the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education (PG-DHE) has contributed to excellence and the professional development in higher Education teaching in Namibia.

What began in 2016 as a modest Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE) has grown into one of the University's signature academic development programmes. The inaugural intake of 23 NUST lecturers was the result of careful planning and collaboration, grounded in the University's mandate to strengthen teaching and

learning. From the outset, the programme was designed to deepen lecturers' understanding of pedagogy, assessment, and the purposeful use of technology in higher education, while responding to the realities of diverse disciplinary contexts.

Housed initially in the Teaching and Learning Unit, the programme adopted a flipped classroom approach long before blended learning became commonplace. Participants engaged with recorded lectures and readings on the eLearning platform ahead of weekly contact sessions, al-

lowing face-to-face time to be dedicated to discussion, application, micro-teaching, and feedback.

Dr Katherine Carter, who has been a facilitator since the programme's inception, explains that the emphasis was always on learning by doing. "Participants were encouraged to reflect critically on their own teaching practice and to implement what they learnt in real classrooms," she said. Weekly reflections became a central feature, capturing both challenges and growth.



The third intake of the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education.



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY

NUST Research and Innovation Matters

Research and Innovation Matters is a podcast series that highlights research, innovation and leadership shaping Namibia's development and connects academic work with real-world impact. Scan the QR Code to watch the recent episode with Prof Colin Stanley, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Partnerships.



The Circular Economy Dialogue: From Policy to Practice

The Circular Economy Dialogue: From Policy to Practice, organised by the Embassy of Finland together with NUST and the Namibia Investment Promotion Development Board (NIPBD), was held recently as an official side event of the World Circular Economy Forum 2026 (WCEF). WCEF is a global initiative by Finland and the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra that brings together business leaders, policymakers and experts to showcase leading circular economy solutions from around the world.

Key takeaways from the discussions:

- The circular economy can generate economic value, jobs and innovation, with strong potential for local value creation. Namibia is well positioned to benefit, particularly in sectors such as mining, agriculture and energy.
- Circularity represents a system-wide transition across sectors, not only an environmental issue but a transformation of the broader economy and society.
- Supportive policy and regulatory frameworks are essential. Finland's circular economy roadmap developed by Sitra provides valuable lessons for enabling this transition.
- Circular solutions must create value for local communities and build on local knowledge and engagement from the grass-roots level.
- Collaboration across sectors and international partnerships are key to developing new solutions and accelerating the transition.



Source: Embassy of Finland in Windhoek

