



Strengthening Namibia's TVET Skills Agenda

Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), through its Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, hosted the 2025 NUST TVET Conference under the theme "Advancing Technical and Vocational Education for a Sustainable Future: Innovation, Partnerships, and Skills Development." The hybrid event, held in Windhoek from 22–24 October 2025, brought together over 150 in-person delegates, while many others joined virtually.

A Collaborative Effort Toward a Skilled Namibia

In his remarks, Prof Andrew Niikondo, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor, reaffirmed the University's pivotal role in shaping Namibia's skills development landscape. He

capacity through curriculum enhancement, staff development, and international collaboration.

Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, paper presentations, and practical showcases, the conference

to enhance the quality, relevance, and impact of technical and vocational training in driving Namibia's socio-economic transformation.

Aligning Skills with Labour Market Needs

Delivering the ambassadorial address on behalf of the German Ambassador to Namibia, Hauke Brankamp, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy, reaffirmed Germany's commitment to supporting Namibia's 2021 TVET Policy. He highlighted ongoing collaboration through GIZ, the implementing agency of the Promotion of Technical Vocational Education and Training (ProTVET) project, which aligns national training initiatives with current and future workforce



Dr Lisho Mundia, Deputy Executive Director of Research, Innovation and Training from the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture; and Prof Andrew Niikondo, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor pictured with delegates at the event.

demands. Brankamp further noted that GIZ ProTVET III works closely with NUST to strengthen institutional capacity for gender-responsive education, training, and staff development. This includes diversifying programme offerings, introducing more practice-oriented approaches, and promoting upskilling and reskilling initiatives for instructors. He also emphasised the growing focus on research and

innovation in the sector, supported by dedicated funding for such initiatives. This partnership, he said, remains central to addressing Namibia's skills shortages and promoting sustainable economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Namibia's First NQF Level 8 Qualification in Renewable Energy

In a landmark announcement, and with the support of GIZ ProTVET, NUST introduced

Namibia's first Bachelor of TVET (Honours) in Renewable Energy (NQF Level 8), specialising in solar technology.

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expressed appreciation to the ProTVET III Programme, the main sponsor of the conference, for its continued support in strengthening the country's training and education

created a platform for policymakers, educators, and industry leaders to exchange insights.

It also provided an opportunity to deliberate on strategies

NEI Hosts Solar Water Heating Symposium

The University's Namibia Energy Institute (NEI), through the Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN+) project, recently hosted the SOLTRAIN+ & IEA SHC Task 69 Joint Symposium at NUST. The event was organised in partnership with AEE INTEC and the International Energy Agency's Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (IEA SHC) Task 69: "Solar Hot Water for 2030". The four-day hybrid event brought together international experts, policymakers,

researchers, and renewable energy practitioners to deliberate on the advancement of solar thermal technologies, standards, certification, and gender mainstreaming within the solar thermal sector.

Prof Colin Stanley, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Partnerships at NUST, reaffirmed the University's commitment to renewable energy research and innovation, noting its role as a regional hub for research and capacity building.

"The establishment of the solar thermal comparative study

facility at NEI is a tangible example of NUST's dedication to practical technology demonstration and applied research," he stated.

The Austrian Ambassador to Southern Africa, H.E Romana Königsbrun, highlighted the United Nations' goal of ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy by 2030. She expressed Austria's pride in supporting renewable energy initiatives in the SADC region that advance the energy transition.

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Prof Colin Stanley, NUST Acting DVC: Research, Innovation and Partnerships (fourth from left); Dr Andreas Elombo, NEI Director (fifth from left); and John Titus, Director of Energy, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (sixth from left), pictured with the symposium attendees.



Divundu Village Councillors, Representatives from NHAG/SDFN, the Community Land Information Programme (CLIP) Team in Divundu, NUST staff and students.

Future Urban and Regional Planners Head to Kavango

Each year, students from NUST's Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning Honours and Bachelor of Regional and Rural Development Honours programmes in the Department of Architecture, Planning and Construction embark on a joint field excursion designed to bridge theory and practice.

This year, 19 students accompanied by their lecturers, Dr Jennilee Kohima and Geraldine van Rooi, journeyed to the Kavango East Region, focusing on the Divundu Village Council and Mukwe Constituency from 15 to 19 September.

As part of their Spatial Planning Practice and Regional and Rural Development Practice courses, the students were tasked with developing a Local Structure Plan for the Divundu Village Council and sector-based development plans for Mukwe Constituency. These projects required extensive field engagement and data collection to ensure that the outcomes are sustainable and contextually relevant.

Throughout the week, the group interacted with various stakeholders, including the Kavango East Regional Council, GIZ-Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development Project, Ndiyona Settlement Office, Divundu Village Council,

and Mukwe Constituency Office.

They also explored Namibia Berries, Mahango National Park, and the Okavango River, and participated in a community mapping exercise in Divundu alongside the Namibia Housing Action Group and the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia.

"This excursion exposed the students to the natural richness of the Kavango East Region and the spatial growth of Divundu Village, which is driven by transit, tourism, and agriculture, two of Namibia's key economic sectors," said Dr Kohima.

Loide Shikongo, a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning Honours student, described the trip as "extremely insightful," noting the value of engaging with multiple levels of governance. Her classmate, Mbute Shaningwa, added that "the beauty and environmental richness of the area helped us understand what must be incorporated or preserved when planning."

The final plans developed from this fieldwork will be presented to the Divundu Village Council and Mukwe Constituency, marking another milestone in NUST's commitment to producing graduates with impact-driven expertise.

