



NUST setting the pace with UNESCO Chairs

The University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN) /UNESCO Chairs Programme supports the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Cooperation Programmes in higher education institutions. UNITWIN Programme, provides a platform for integrated research, training, information, and documentation activities related to diverse fields. Through the Programme, higher education and research institutions worldwide pool their resources to address pressing challenges and contribute to the development of their societies.

Launch of the UNESCO Chairs



Left to right: His Excellency, Prashant Agrawal, High Commissioner of India to Namibia; Honourable Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangji, Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation; Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor; Prof Dharm Singh Jat, UNESCO Chair on Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research; Dr Hilma Amwele, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments; and Father Rod April, Secretary-General for the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO.



UNESCO Chairs Hosted at NUST

The Namibia University of Science and Technology promotes national competitiveness by providing multiple opportunities for excellent education, applied research, innovation and service. In this regard, the University is committed to supporting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, in particular the Global Education 2030 Agenda. Hence, NUST is driving the agenda for the UNESCO Chairs to not only promote international inter-university

cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work but also to ensure that industry presence is elevated to ensure relevance and socio-economic impact.

The opportunity to establish a UNESCO Chair is a rare and prestigious honour. Only 4 UNESCO Chairs have been established in Namibia, with 3 housed at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

Our proven research, education, and outreach activities under the UNESCO Chairs programmes focus on three key interrelated areas:

1. Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments
2. Gender and Digital Technologies, and
3. Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research



Dr Hilma Amwele

UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments

UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments

The phenomenon of climate change is a reality. Food security and sustainable development of agriculture are both threatened by climate change. Namibia along with many developing countries is one of the most vulnerable to climate change that is affecting agricultural production. Sustainable food security is further affected by persistent land degradation due to salinity. In addition, changes in hydrological systems and rises in temperature and sea levels add more salinity to the soil and underground water in dry regions and coastal regions. This will further aggravate the constraints of food production. The Chairholder will therefore endeavour to address these challenges in collaboration with an established international network.

Contact detail: E: hamwele@nust.na



Prof Dharm Singh Jat

UNESCO Chair on Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research

The importance of living in a digitised 4th industrial economy cannot be over-emphasised. The Chairholder therefore aims to contribute to and accelerate the development of the Namibian society, building the foundations for technology by creating a critical mass of high-level expertise in the related field of High-Performance Computing. This will be achieved by strengthening the established focused area, in order to build institutional and national capacity for quality teaching programmes, applied research and promoting information sharing in the field of communication, big data and cyber security. The output of the work will be instrumental in informing policy decisions, establishing new teaching initiatives, generating innovation through research and contributing to the enrichment of existing university programmes while promoting cultural diversity.

Contact detail

E:unescochair-shpcher@nust.na

Website: <https://unescochair-shpcher.nust.na/>

The Research Chair for Gender and Digital Technologies aims to harness the power of Computing and Engineering to enable greater participation of women and girls in society, decision-making, and in the digital revolution. Research, innovation and development projects under this Chairholder focus on recruitment and retention of women and girls to the field of Computing and Engineering and capacity building programmes to enhance skills of women and girls in Computing, thereby also addressing gender inclusiveness in technology design. It also addresses digital solutions to mitigate maternal health challenges, digital solutions to mitigate offline and cyber gender-based violence, and increasing women and girls' socio-economic participation, especially for girls at risk.

Contact detail: E: giyawa@nust.na



Dr Gloria Iyawa

UNESCO Chair on Gender and Digital Technologies

What is the support required for the UNESCO Chairs to be successful?

The overall success of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Cooperation Programmes depends on financial and in-kind support availability. NUST is thus calling upon the support of government and affiliated agencies, local and international development partners, the private sector and industry

partners, and the Namibian society at large for financial and technical support towards to the attainment of the goals and aspirations of the 3 UNESCO Chair programmes at NUST. Together we can contribute towards the attainment of the national development outcomes as

espoused in Vision 2030: "a vibrant and internationally competitive economy; a secure and cohesive society; a healthy natural environment; a high level of human capital development; and greater opportunities for social and economic mobility and prosperity".