



## NUST-MTC hosts first-ever High School Game Design Jam

The Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FCI), in collaboration with MTC, hosted its first-ever High School Game Design Jam (HSGDJ) competition. The competition was held online under the theme "Gamifying Mathematics".

The aim of the competition was to initiate a new wave of game developers. This was achieved by connecting Namibian learners with designers, game developers, and scriptwriters across the country to motivate them to design and build mathematical games. "Although challenging, it was quite educational. The event was very constructive and it was well organised," Lavinia Nghimwatya, one of the parents said.

Learners did not only have fun while designing games, but they were also exposed to various career opportunities in the Game Development Sector. The design jam further created opportunities for our industry partner, MTC, to raise service and product awareness among their clientele through gamified service advertisements.

The competition attracted 34 teams from seven regions that comprised of learners from Grades 8-12, as well as those improving their results at various colleges and schools. The activities included board, card and computer games. During the competition, learners were mentored in aspects such as game design, effective video creation and pitching and presentation training sessions facilitated by FCI staff, the Muhoko Student Society and Chubo Zeko, a Junior Software Developer at Global Programmes for Research and Training.

Each team's submission was rigorously judged by a panel of judges from industry experts, mathematics teachers and University Academics by presenting their games online. Out of the ten teams, the top six progressed on to the second round.



A screenshot of the DON'T BE LATE game by Konita Games

The best game designs were then selected as the winners. The *Don't Be Late!* game by Konita Games won first place, scooping a prize

of N\$ 12 000. *The Download* came second followed by *Trigonometric Dash*, winning N\$ 9 000 and N\$ 6 000 respectively.



Photo for illustrative purposes.

### Namibia Women in Engineering hosts first national Science Quiz

In an effort to curb the COVID blues, the Faculty of Engineering (FE) through the Namibia Women in Engineering (NAMWIE) initiative, hosted a first of its kind online Science Quiz for female learners from grades 8 to 10 across Namibia.

Funded by NamPower, the event focused on diverting traditional norms in order to stir up some excitement amongst female youth. Out of 23 registered school teams, a total of nine schools competed against each other.

"NAMWIE aims to promote awareness in Engineering as a career choice for the girl child and provide a support platform for women engineers in the country," Dr Smita Francis, Chair of NAMWIE said.

The participating schools included Duinesig High School, Outjo Secondary School, Oshikuyu Combined School, David Shingo Combined School, Nanghonda Combined School, Linus Shashipapo Secondary School, Flamingo Secondary School, Amazing Kids Private School, and Sunshine Private College.

The schools competed for four hours,

uninterrupted. Oshikuyu Combined School, Amazing Kids Private School, Flamingo Secondary School, and Linus Shashipapo School all made it to the second round. During the third, and final round, the Amazing Kids Private School and Oshikuyu Combined School found themselves in a tie, while Flamingo Secondary School and Linus Shashipapo School went on headstrong.

"Eventually the Amazing Kids Private School was declared the winner of the Science Quiz, followed by the first runner-up, Oshikuyu Combined School, and the second runner-up, the Flamingo Secondary School," Dr Francis elaborated. The winning schools will be awarded with trophies, while each individual participant will be awarded a medal.

### Researcher launches COVID-19 books for SMEs

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of the modern world, and its impact is felt by all. The global pandemic has in particular had a significant impact on businesses. As such, many businesses, especially small ones faced detrimental losses.

Governments and stakeholders across the world, therefore, need to formulate strategies and interventions to mitigate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the context of small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The *Handbook of Research on Strategies and Interventions to Mitigate COVID-19 Impact on SMEs* is a comprehensive premier reference source that encapsulates the overall effect of COVID-19 on SMEs. It discusses a variety of strategies to overcome the negative effects and create more sustainable policies and organisations moving forward by global researchers.

"This handbook is one of the first premier reference publications on a topical issue in the global COVID-19 scenario for SMEs' sustainability and survival," Prof Neeta Baporikar, Director at the Harold Pukewitz

Graduate School of Business, and author of the book, explained.

The publication offers a thorough overview of interventions and tactics to help organisations, entrepreneurs, and institutions of higher learning to overcome the negative impact of COVID-19 while preparing policies for a more effective post-pandemic world.

Covering topics that include *sustainable practices for development, interventions to lessen the impact of COVID-19, and psychological resilience for SME employees*, this book is ideal for entrepreneurs, managers, executives, small businesses, family firms, academicians, scholar-practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and students.

This publication is available at a list price of USD\$365 on IGI Global, Google and Amazon.



Prof Neeta Baporikar and her newly launched books.