ICTechHub joins UNDP to improve public service delivery

Last month, more than 68 teams of young innovators registered to take part in a Virtual Hackathon aimed at improving public service delivery. The hackathon, a first of its kind locally, was initiated by the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), in partnership with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), ICTechHub, and Green Enterprise Solutions. The ICTechHub is housed at NUST and is responsible for talent scouting, mentorship, sponsorship and product development in the ICT sector.

The ten-day event called on young innovators, tech-bodies, solution designers and service delivery experts to go head-to-head and compete in developing and presenting innovations and ideas that address challenges experienced by the government in service delivery.

“This way of contributing to public service improvement through citizen-driven innovation. It allows the country to benefit from the creative energies of its young people,” said Ms Josephina Muntuumo, a Computer Science Lecturer in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FCI). The winning teams were all led by female innovators, a remarkable achievement in an industry that is male-dominated. The prizes were as follows:

First Prize (US$5,000) Pro Food Challenge App - a team that developed a multi-stakeholder e-commerce platform
Second Prize (US$3,000) E-passport system - a team that showed a multi-Functional E-passport Service for the Ministry of Home Affairs
Third Prize (US$2,000) Traffic Tickets System - a team that showed a Traffic Ticket Management System for the Ministry of Transport and Safety. The innovators expressed their gratitude to the organisers for acknowledging their hard work. Their solutions will be incubated at a local IT company to provide support to reach sustainable levels of implementation before handing them over to the custodian government agencies.

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