NUST and UNAM sign Memorandum of Understanding

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), and the University of Namibia (UNAM), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently. The agreement will see the two institutions collaborating in various areas to the benefit of students, staff and the Namibian nation at large.

The parameters of this MoU vary in scope and levels of implementation. It will be at discipline level - computer science, engineering, medicine; at the level of service provision - libraries, science laboratories; and at institutional level - research corporation and quality assurance.

This MoU will enable the two universities to share resources and to sustain high-cost programmes and facilities, strengthen constituent services, and penetrate new markets.

“In some instances, the national and international funding agencies encourage strong partnerships among local universities as evidence of economic collaboration to eliminate unneeded expenditures and achieve economies of scale and cost savings. In these cases, our collaboration objectives are to reduce duplication and redundancy, gain access to NSFAP funding, recruit international students, engage in advanced research, and utilise high-cost facilities,” remarked Dr Andrew Niikondo, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor.

NUST and UNAM already have existing joint collaborations in areas such as agriculture therefore, this MoU is an extension of this partnership.

“We also have collaboration related to innovation such as the partnership with the Namibia Business Innovation Institute in manufacturing of respirators and surgical masks. We encourage more projects in product development and market place innovation,” said Prof Kenneth Matengu, the UNAM Vice-Chancellor.

Broadening the Scope of Research

Over 400 international delegates representing over 13 countries attended the Annual Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) Conference, which was held last month. The event was held virtually for the first time.

The conference was held online from 19 to 21 October 2020. Doris Hembrey, the Chair of the conference organisation.

The conference achieved its purpose of bringing together professionals to network, share their experiences and keep abreast with the latest developments in the field. The conference provided interesting and unique opportunity to test the waters and go virtual.

The conference is a yearly opportunity for Research Management and Innovation professionals to network share their experiences and keep abreast with the latest developments in the field.

This year’s theme was ‘From Support to Strategy to Impact – Broadening the Scope of Research and Innovation Management’. Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, the Director of Project Services at NUST, was the Chair for the conference organisation.

“NUST staff members from the Projects Services Unit and the Library Services hosted a number of sessions. The topics included: Research Capacity Architecture Development through Strategic Internships based on the EU funded Strengthening of Collaboration, Leadership and Professionalisation in Research Management in SADC and EU Higher Education Institutions project; Research Data Management Systems; Core Skills needed in an Office of Research Support; Research Grant Administration; Community Impact of Research; and Open Access Publishing – Opportunities and Challenges.

The conference achieved its purpose of networking and sharing of cutting-edge information. It was made possible by an innovative organising committee and the SARIMA management team, under the guidance of a renowned South African conferencing company known as Conference Partner.