

# 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.



Prof Kenneth Matengu, UNAM Vice-Chancellor (left) and Dr Andrew Niikondo, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor.

## Where are they now?

...catching up with NUST Alumni



Hosea Hashili, NUST Alumnus.

Four years into his career as a Civil Engineering Technician at the Namibia Water Corporation, Hosea Hashili, has no regrets for choosing this career path. He graduated with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering 'Cum Laude,' in 2019 at NUST.

"After completing my Engineering degree at NUST, I decided not to take a breather, but to continue with my academic journey. This time around, I branched into the field of business management at another institution to diversify my skills set," he said. I am currently enrolled in an Master of Business Administration (Management Strategy) programme. I made this call after noticing how the gap between technical fields and management continues to hinder smooth consensual decision-making in

organisations. In modern day business, the need for fast and sharp business decision-making is becoming paramount to business efficacy," he said confidently.

However, a few years ago, Hashili was not the exceptional performer that he is today. He attended primary and high school in Grootfontein, where he received a number of accolades from Grade 8 to 10. However, in Grade 11, he gave in to peer pressure, and started drinking alcohol which derailed his performance. Nevertheless, he eventually pulled up his socks, set goals for himself, and now he is determined to reach for the sky and beyond.

When asked about his perception about NUST, Hashili simply said "this is the best University in Namibia," adding that "the Institution's systematic approach to dispatching knowledge is exceptional. The experience is not merely about classroom affairs. NUST was a good friend from day one to graduation day," he said nostalgically. According to the Hashili, one of the best benefits while studying at the Institution was that it sufficiently prepared him for his career. "The industry integrated learning course was of immense benefit, as theory alone is not enough to step with into the industry," he said. "NUST's system of hiring lecturers from the industry assisted me immensely with a smooth entry into the real world" he added.

Hashili advises high school students looking into furthering their tertiary education in Namibia to choose NUST, especially in fields related to science. "If you want to pursue studies in hard-core science (engineering, computer science, etc.) then is possibly your best option. However, make sure you go there armed with overflowing commitment and dedication," he cautioned.

## 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.

Countries that were represented at the conference included, *Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Ghana, Kenya, USA, UK, China, Egypt, Mauritius, Switzerland, Ireland, France*. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges in many circumstances, it gave the organisers a 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.

"The conference provided interesting and exciting insights and lessons that could be used in the further development of the field. In contrast to other years, this time, the conference had one integrated track covering a range of topics, which allowed for insightful and diverse knowledge sharing throughout

the entire continuum of research through to innovation and technology transfer," said Dr Matros-Goreses.

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.

## Next @ NUST

**Wednesday, 30 September 2020**

Applications for 2021 admissions closing date. Enquiries: [admissions@nust.na](mailto:admissions@nust.na) or call 061 202 2056

**Monday, 05 October 2020**

Semester 2 classes begin, for all except Faculty of Engineering which begins on Monday, 19 October 2020

**Thursday, 22 - Friday, 23 October 2020**

Forth Innovation Method online workshop (ZOOM). Enquiries: Mr Hasekiel Johannes, [hjohannes@nust.na](mailto:hjohannes@nust.na)