Enhancing knowledge of Pumped Solar Thermal Systems

NUST’s Namibia Energy Institute (NEI), conducted a three-day training course to equip artisans and students with various skills to boost their knowledge of Pumped Solar Thermal Systems.

The main focus of the training was exploring the commercialisation of solar water heaters, as part of implementing the Solar Thermal Roadmap and Implementation Plan for Namibia. The plan aims to provide a practical, independent and objective analysis of pathways to achieve a low-carbon economy in Namibia, in line with the universal energy goals.

The workshop was conducted under the SOLTRAIN project, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB). SOLTRAIN is a regional initiative project that was launched in 2009 with a focus on capacity building and demonstration of solar thermal systems in the SADC region.

It is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Opec Fund for International Development (OFID) and recently, it entered its fourth phase, which runs until 2022.

The workshop was conducted under the SOLTRAIN Project, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB). SOLTRAIN is a regional initiative project that was launched in 2009 with a focus on capacity building and demonstration of solar thermal systems in the SADC region.

It is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Opec Fund for International Development (OFID) and recently, it entered its fourth phase, which runs until 2022. The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Honourable Kornelia Shilunga, officially opened the training course.

In her welcoming remarks, she said: “We are grateful that another phase of the SOLTRAIN project was approved and that it includes the support of implementation of the Solar Thermal Roadmap and Implementation Plan.” The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr Samuel John, reiterated the University’s commitment to the project, highlighting its relevance in supporting the country’s energy goals.

More than 40 participants from solar thermal companies, institutions of higher learning, regional electricity distributors, municipalities, amongst others, attended the course that was facilitated by Dr Werner Weiss, Managing Director: AEE-Institute for Sustainable Technologies (INTEC), an Austrian Research Institute.

Another training course is scheduled to take place in the near future which will focus on the process of conducting energy audits for companies, amongst others.

Industry 4.0 in the African context

The Faculty of Engineering recently held its Research Day, an event that gives researchers the opportunity to present papers under a particular theme, in this case: ‘Industry 4.0 in the African Context.’ This is in line with the NUST’s theme for the current academic year, which accentuates the importance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Danie van Aswegen, Portfolio Manager: Strategic Projects, Debmarine Namibia, delivered the keynote address. He gave examples of the current technologies being explored by the company, in order to stay on par with the demands of the this era of accelerated technological progress. Debmarine Namibia was the main sponsor of the event.

Additionally, a panel discussion was held providing a platform for researchers from various disciplines to come together to discuss topics relating to the theme of the day. The papers that were presented include: Engineering Education 4.0 Challenges – Prospects and Implications for NUST; Fourth Industrial Revolution – An Opportunity for Power Engineering Research; Job Creation by De-Mechanisation: The Case of Namibia’s Bush industry; and Enhancing Sustainability of the Minerals Industry through Embracing the 4th Industrial Revolution.

2019 NUST Cultural Festival

Date: 05 - 09 August

THEME: ‘Preserving Cultural Wealth for Future Generations’

Monday, 05 August: Flea Market
Tuesday, 06 August: Official Opening
Wednesday, 07 August: International Cuisine Day
Thursday, 08 August: Potjiekos
Friday, 09 August: Mr and Miss NUST

Enquiries: Department: Student Services, T: +264 61 207 2165