Strengthening collaboration in tourism and hospitality management

The two Universities have previously worked closely together and the signing of the agreements that took place earlier this week formalized the cooperation. Some of the tangible achievements so far include the introduction of three degrees at NUST, namely Bachelor of Tourism, Innovation and Development; Bachelor of Culinary Arts, and Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism (Honours). Prior to the Signing Ceremony, a Symposium on Sustainable Tourism was hosted by the two universities, where topics ranging from wildlife conservation, over-tourism and climate change were addressed.

"Tourism is a vital area for growth, especially in the economic climate that we are currently experiencing," remarked Morné du Toit, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor. Tourism is a major contributor to Namibia’s Gross Domestic Product and the sector creates employment for hundreds of locals. Dr Erling Kavita, Head: Department of Hospitality and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, said "This collaboration is quite global in context as it goes beyond initiatives with Salzburg University of Applied Sciences but other European Union academic and research institutions. It also creates opportunities for other faculties to create mutually beneficial partnerships."

The CED of Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, who is also the President of Universities of Applied Sciences in Austria, Raimund Ribitsch, applauded Namibia as an ideal tourist destination.

He further urged the country to uphold the highest sustainability rationale given the fragile nature of its beautiful natural resources. This, he said, could be achieved through local capacity building and awareness, adoption of new technologies, new product innovation and the promotion of e-tourism.

NUST was approached by the Department of Disability Affairs in the Office of the Vice-President, to develop academic programmes on Disability Studies. NUST has partnered with JLU Giessen to map a way forward in this regard, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development priorities.

An analysis of the implementation of inclusive education in Namibia, conducted by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, together with UNICEF, highlighted the challenges faced by children with disabilities in the Namibian education system. These include: implementation of the curriculum, negative attitudes towards disability and special needs in education, inaccessible infrastructure, and lack of access to appropriate teaching and learning technologies and cultural practices. Several graduation congresses for Entrepreneurship Training Programme for Persons with Disabilities offered by NUST’s Centre for Enterprise Development are held annually. I am pleased to see that NUST has been responsive to addressing the needs of people with disabilities in the immediate community and beyond," remarked Deputy Minister of Disability Affairs, Hon Alexander Manombe-Ncube. She further highlighted that 87% of Namibian children with disabilities between the ages of 0-4 years have never attended early childhood development (ECD) programmes and the proportion of persons with disabilities aged from 5 years and above that never attended school is also alarmingly high.

"The symposium was well attended with NUST and JLU committing to support research and collaboration efforts going forward."

NAMIBIA INSTITUTE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY - NUST

The course is open to stakeholders working in the space field, with minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in Natural Sciences or Engineering.

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Registration Deadline: June 2019

07 June 2019

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