

Strengthening collaboration in tourism and hospitality management

NUST and the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences in Austria, signed two agreements. One is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims to enable both institutions to participate in joint research and cultural programmes in the tourism and hospitality field, whilst the other is an Erasmus Plus Mobility programme that facilitates staff and student exchange.

The two Universities have previously worked closely together and the signing of the agreements that took place earlier this week formalised 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, were 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 CEO 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.



Raimund Ribitsch, CEO: Salzburg University of Applied Sciences and President of Universities of Applied Sciences in Austria (centre, front row); Prof Pramanathan Govender, NUST DVC: Research and Innovation (third from left, front row); Morné du Toit, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor (third from right, front row); Dr Erling Kavita, HoD: NUST Department of Hospitality and Tourism (far left, front row), pictured with other senior staff from the two universities.

Bettering the education system for disabled children



Hon Alexia Manombe-Ncube, Deputy Minister: Disability Affairs (centre); Prof Alinah Segobye, Dean: NUST Faculty of Human Sciences (second from left), flanked by senior staff from the two universities.

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 ceremonies 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 Alexia 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 supporting research and collaboration efforts going forward.

Expression of Gratitude

...to NUST Charity Golf Day sponsors

The Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Morné du Toit, and the entire University community, would like to express gratitude to all the sponsors who pledged their support for the NUST Charity Golf Day. The event, which is the primary fundraising mechanism for the newly established Student Welfare Fund, was a resounding success. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to differently abled and deserving students, who are pursuing their studies at the University. Therefore, we would like to give recognition to the following:

19th Hole Omeya; A to Z Sourcing Solutions; Avani; African Monarch Lodges; Am-Weinberg Hotel; Centre for Enterprise Development (NUST); Celebrations Events; Checkers; Cipla Medpro; COBE Investment cc; Coca-Cola; Distel; Dr Weder, Kauta & Hoveka inc (WKH); Duan Jansen; Epiroc; Erongo Mountain Winery Namibia; Ernest and Young; Feed Master; Frank Fredricks; Heinz Gilge; Leonard Beukes; Lithon Project Consultants; Multi-Tyre; Martha Khoeses; Momar; Namibian-German Centre for Logistics; Namibia Olympic Committee; Nampower; Nashua; NUST FM; NUST Hotel School; NUST Staff; Omeya Golf Club; Omuara Investment cc; Papa Shikongeni; Perillo Investment cc; PJ Woest; Pupkewitz Megabuild; Red Bull; Ricoh; Rössmund Golf Resort and Lodge; Sanlam Namibia; Spice Corporate; Taste Buddies; Tate Village; The Yoga Shala; Trip Travel; Toni Did It; Tweshi Katonyala; United Africa Group; Windhoek Lager; and Zena Giertz.

Students get insight into modern-day mapping

Eighteen (18) students and staff of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, recently participated in a two-day Mapathon event. The event was facilitated by the Earth Observation Satellite Application Centre (EOSA), under the Skeleton Coast-Iona (SCIONA) project.

A Mapathon is a coordinated online mapping event, based on using the Open Street Map (<https://www.openstreetmap.org>) web platform. It is designed to improve baseline geographical data for areas which have limited or unavailable maps. Such spatial data is of vital use to researchers, tourists and managers for the purpose of planning visits and/or effectively managing an area.

The focus of the Mapathon was on mapping an area in the northern Kunene region and southern region of the Iona National Park in Angola. This data will contribute to the creation of the Geographical Information Systems database which is set up by SCIONA project which aims to strengthen cross-border management and wildlife law enforcement by co-designing and implementing conservation monitoring technologies. This is done in partnership with communities within the Iona-Skeleton Coast Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA).

The participants found the experience insightful, saying that they gained a wealth of knowledge into the process of modern-day mapping and about relatively uncommon parts of Angola and Namibia. To further brighten up the event, the students received a Certificate of Participation and airtime vouchers courtesy of mobile telecommunications company, MTC.

Namibia Institute of Space Technology (NIST) - SHORT COURSE - International Space Law

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