

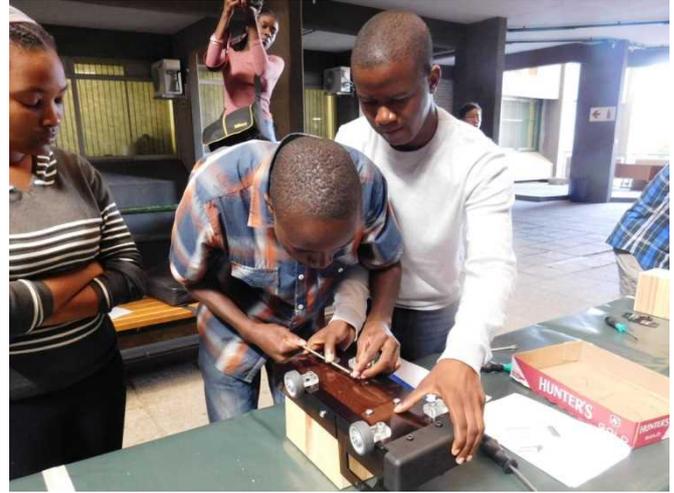
EMBASSY OF JAPAN

16 April 2018

MEDIA RELEASE



From right, Mr. Pieter van der Walt, Deputy Minister of Economic Planning, Dr. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Innovation, Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Vice Chancellor of NUST, Mr. Shiro Nabeya Resident Representative JICA Namibia Office and Ms. Rumiko Ishigami, Charge d' Affairs, Embassy of Japan



Students participating 3 days Employability Improvement Training. The dignitaries observed how the training kits handed over during the ceremony were utilised in the training.

JAPAN HANDED OVER THE EMPLOYABILITY IMPROVEMENT TRAINING KITS TO NUST

On the 12th of April 2018, handover ceremony of training kits for Employability Improvement Training was held at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Windhoek. **In the presence of Dr. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, and Mr. Pieter van der Walt, Deputy Minister of Economic Planning, and Ms. Rumiko Ishigami, Charge d'Affairs of the Embassy of Japan** who represent two governments respectively, **Mr. Shiro Nabeya, Resident Representative of JICA Office Namibia handed over the training kits to Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Vice Chancellor of NUST.**

Since year 2014, the Government of Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has been providing NUST with technical assistance of Employability Improvement Project (EIP). EIP aims to equip students with work-ready skills in order to enhance employability and productivity at the work place. EIP employs the Kaizen technique, a Japanese business philosophy of continuous improvement of working practices and personal efficiency. So far, a curriculum for Employability Improvement Training was developed and a series of trainings of trainers were conducted. Training kits handed over during the event will make NUST possible to fully conduct Employability Improvement Training for NUST students. Through the training, students are expected to acquire 7 employability improvement skills "Self-management" "Critical/Logical thinking", "Communication", "Teamwork", "Leadership", "Creativity" and "Problem identification and Solving".

In the remarks by Dr. Itah Kandjii- Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, read by Hon. Dr. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Minister on her behalf, steadily evolved bilateral relations since 1990 was highlighted. Minister further expressed appreciations to Japan's assistance, saying that the handover of the Employability Improvement Training kits to NUST is a demonstration of Japan's commitment to Namibia's development efforts. She further assured that the Government of Namibia was committed to deepen development cooperation with Japan.

Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Vice Chancellor of NUST, followed by saying that EIP is a step in the right direction to refine the education agenda and to achieve a new level of competitiveness for the new era where education is about developing competencies that are suitable for highly competitive labour market. He continued that NUST was proud to have a partner like JICA and pleased to see that NUST's engagement with JICA since 2014 were bearing fruits in the form of EIP. He welcomed continuing activities by JICA officials to ensure that this project takes off smoothly and in effective and suitable manner.

Ms. Rumiko Ishigami, Charge d'Affairs of the Embassy of Japan, stated that Japan's assistance was part of its support to Namibian Government's efforts for human resource and skills development, which are clearly accorded a high priority both in Harambee Prosperity Plan (HHP), National Development Plan (NDP) V, action plans for transforming Namibia into industrialized nation by 2030. She continued saying that the Government of Japan has assisted Asian countries in promoting productivity for industrial development, utilising its own experiences of post-war recovery towards the rapid industrialization and economic development, and further extended the assistance to African countries.

Mr. Shiro Nabeya, Resident Representative JICA Namibia explained that EIP is designed to enrich employability skills of students and to nurture human resources, meeting the demand of the industry. He showed his confidence that Employability Improvement Trainings, to be conducted by the 7 core trainers trained through JICA's assistance, will enhance the Work Integrated Programme already introduced in all the undergraduate programmes of NUST.

After the ceremony, the dignitaries visited the site of 3 day training which was attended by 20 university students, and observed how the training kits handed over were helping students learning.

For further information, contact Ms Kaoru Yokotani, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Namibia. Email: kaoru.yokotani@mofa.go.jp, Tel: 061-426-700/ FAX: 061-426-749.

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