



Project to improve students' employability launched

The launch of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Employability Improvement Project (EIP), and the handover of training kit materials to students, took place last week during a colourful event at the University. The project aims to equip students with relevant soft and applied skills that will enhance their employability in the highly competitive labour market.

NUST has had several cooperation initiatives with the Japanese government and universities dating back to 1998. The most recent collaboration involved a JICA team of experts working closely with Namibian officials and NUST staff to develop a curriculum for Employability Improvement Training.

This resulted in NUST staff receiving training that will help them to equip students with hands-on knowledge. Training kits were also handed over to the trainees, who received certificates of competency.

"Human resource and skills development is one of the core areas for the government of Japan in its assistance to Africa, under the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development," remarked Ms Rumiko Ishigami, the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan.

Statistics indicate that Namibia's youth unemployment is currently pegged at over 40%.

As one of the measures to address this, the Deputy-Minister of Higher education, Training and Innovation, Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, said: "One of the highest priorities of my Ministry is to ensure that our youth receive all the support they can get to improve their chances in life. Improving their employability is therefore, a critical and welcome intervention."

Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor said that higher education is increasingly being judged through the lens of graduate employability.

"In this endeavor, we have created partnership networks with other higher education institutions, industry and communities globally. Such cooperation is vital to our efforts to address the myriads of developmental challenges facing Namibia," he added.



FROM LEFT: Rumiko Ishigami, Deputy Head of Mission: Embassy of Japan to Namibia; Shiro Nabeya, Resident Representative: JICA Office Namibia; Dr Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor: NUST, Hon Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Minister Higher Education, Training and Innovation; and Hon Piet van der Walt, Deputy Minister of Economic Planning.

Transport and Logistics Public Lecture

The Department of Marketing and Logistics in the Faculty of Management Sciences held a public lecture that examined the positive connection between value supply chain reliability and trade transport and logistics in the SADC region. The lecture was presented by Johny Smith, the CEO of TransNamib, who spoke about the major weaknesses along the transport logistics corridors within the region. These include port costs and processing fees, high dwelling times for inbound containers, poor transport services with long transit times, as well as poor clearance and quality of transit infrastructure.



FROM LEFT: Ishmael Mubwandarikwa, Head: Department of Marketing and Logistics; Johny Smith, CEO: TransNamib Holdings; Bianca Tjizumaue, Lecturer: Department of Marketing and Logistics; Dr Asa Asa, Associate Dean, Research and Innovation: Faculty of Management Sciences; Efgenia Semente, Deputy Head: Department of Marketing and Logistics; Gloria Karita, Sectional Head: Department of Marketing and Logistics.



Shiro Nabeya, Resident Representative: JICA Office Namibia, and Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor, posing with a prototype training truck kit.

NUST and NAMFISA sign agreement

The University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) recently signed an agreement with their sights set firmly on providing continuous on-the-job training to students.

The Agreement was signed under the aegis of the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme, an internship module that is compulsory for all third-year students at the University, in preparation for future jobs in the financial sector.

NAMFISA will mainly accommodate students from the Faculty of Management Sciences.

"Students who take full advantage of internships are able to get first-hand experience of the adaptability and creativity skills required in today's world," remarked Kenneth Matomola, the NAMFISA Chief Executive Officer.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs, Dr Andrew Niikondo, reiterated the commitment of the University to aligning its educational goals, research objectives, training strategies, programmes and services to best global practices and standards.

"I urge the implementers of this Agreement to work together and to promote authentic learning experiences that will sufficiently equip students for the workplace," he said.

Through the Cooperative Education Unit (CEU), the University has formed WIL partnerships with more than 100 companies in various sectors to accommodate students from the Institution's six faculties.



Dr Andrew Niikondo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs, and Kenneth Matomola, NAMFISA Chief Executive Officer.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Theme: **Human Resource Management (HRM): Mitigating the Nations' Turbulence Amidst Global Economic Challenges.** The forum will bring together academics in the field of human resource management, as well as practitioners, managers and leaders from industry to participate in sessions that will emphasise the integrating role of HRM in alleviating organisations' challenges during global economic turbulence.

DATE: 22 - 23 May 2018

VENUE: Health Sciences Auditorium (NUST)

International / Local presentations:

-Prof René Schalk from Tilburg University, The Netherlands.

-Prof Bennie Linde from North-West University, South Africa, and others.

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<http://hrm-symposium.nust.na>