

PROPOSED SCHOOL OF MARINE ENGINEERING HOLDS SUCCESSFUL STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

UNAM to introduce Under- and Postgraduate programmes for the "Blue Economy"

Namibia is a maritime nation, with a rich ocean due to the upwelling Benguela Current system. The South Atlantic Ocean is an important resource for fisheries, tourism, transport and logistics as well as mining. It is recognised, in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063 as well as Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) 2050, that maritime nations like Namibia need to embrace the blue economy concept as an approach to sustainable development. The Fisheries sector in Namibia, not only is it the third largest income earner after mining and tourism, and contributes 15% of the country's exports and employs more than fifteen thousand people, but its importance is also well-emphasised in the national planning documents and the country's Vision 2030.

For that reason, a Stakeholder Conference on the establishment of

the School of Marine Engineering and Maritime Studies of the University of Namibia was held from 28 – 29 May, in Walvis Bay. When realised, the School is envisioned to be based on a site availed by the Municipality of Walvis Bay. Although UNAM currently provides education and training in the field of fisheries and aquatic sciences at its Sam Nujoma Campus at Henties Bay, there are no under- or post-graduate programmes related to marine engineering and maritime studies. Thus, in order to address this gap, UNAM is proposing to establish an institute or School of Marine Engineering and Maritime Studies within the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.

While welcoming the stakeholder conference delegates, UNAM Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Frednard Gideon explained the reasons for holding the consultation: "The stakeholder conference should

take this opportunity to critically and constructively discuss the needs analysis report prepared and make use of the information provided." He is urged participants to deliberate on academic, training and research programmes which would help contribute to the development and growth of marine and maritime sectors through the programmes which would be mounted by the School.

Delivering the keynote address, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Mr Bernhard Esau commended the University of Namibia for the consultative approach undertaken: "This consultative conference is the first of its kind, with international participations from Germany, Finland, Japan, Norway, China, Indonesia and South Africa, to deal with issues related to human resource capacity development needs of Namibia in marine and maritime engineering sectors." He also



encouraged the proposed School to play a role in providing quality higher education and training, beyond to what is currently being offered in the market.

The Stakeholders Conference was conducted, in partnership with the Chamber of Mines of Namibia,

supported by Debmarine Namibia and the Namibian Ports Authority as key stakeholders. A similar consultative conference is slated for 31 May – 01 June in Windhoek, to deliberate on the proposed establishment of a Centre for Mining and Metallurgical Research & Training.

UNAM PRESS' LATEST TITLE WRITING NAMIBIA: LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

Since the country's independence in 1990, Namibian literature has blossomed with new writers in all genres being published. It is important to make this known and to also critically review the progress as well as the themes and styles of this literature. The latest UNAM Press title Writing Namibia: Literature in Transition has successfully provided this valuable information.

The book was officially launched mid-April 2018 by Dr Ellen Ndeshi Namhila, UNAM's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Administration, Finance & Resource Mobilization who noted that Namibian writing has come a long

way and encouraged the growth of a reading culture.

The 22 chapters cover literature of all categories in Namibia with contributions from scholars and authors including Laurinda Olivier-Sampson, Nashilongweshipwe Mushaandja, Nelson Mlambo, Sylvia Schlettwein, Petrus Mbenzi, Alfeus Tijjoro, Juliet Pasi, Jane Katjavivi, Henning Melber, Margie Orford, Andree-Jeanne Totemeyer and Helize van Vuuren, to name but a few.

The book is for sale with a recommended retail price of N\$350 and is available from bookshops



Laurinda Olivier-Sampson

in Windhoek and Swakopmund or for order from UNAM Press and its distributors email: unampress@unam.na, or call 061 206 4714.

PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES FLY THE UNAM FLAG HIGH IN AFRICA

The first African Positive Psychology Conference (APPC) was recently held and hosted by the North-West University in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, in South Africa. Delegates included researchers, academics, students and practitioners from different disciplines such as psychology, nursing science, languages, medicine, pharmacy, social work, education, art and economics.

The Conference under the theme: "Embracing well-being in diverse context" attracted delegates from Namibia, South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Island, Portugal, Italy and USA.

The Conference emphasised the importance of doing research and working in diverse context. Therefore, this calls for relevant, context specific research and interventions to be developed and applied within diverse context, more specifically Africa.

Representing the University of Namibia at the Conference was Dr Manfred Janik, Professor Cilas Wilders and Mr Wesley Pieters.

As part of the UNAM delegation, four Industrial Psychology graduates presented individual presentations, as well as form part of the student symposium focusing on the relevance and experiences within positive psychology education.

Among the graduates that put up a sterling presentation was Ms Clara Hasheela who presented on the challenges faced by police officers.