

## Science Forum yields global Partners for Namibia

UNAM successfully completed several international agreements that are expected to enhance industry links, innovation and entrepreneurship in Kyoto, Japan, during the 15th annual meeting of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum.

One of the agreements was completed with Global Gene Corp. This partnership aims to bring precision medicine to Namibia. Moreover to develop a national genomics initiative, aiming to study the genetic makeup of the Namibian population. Data will then be used to develop relevant precision medicine approaches and build a Centre of Excellence in Genomics in Namibia.

This will improve skills and training in this fast-growing area of healthcare research. Through this initiative, UNAM joins a network of 51 leading healthcare and genomics institutions, based at the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton, Cambridge UK - with other offices in Boston, Singapore and India.

UNAM representative at the STS Forum, Dr Eroid Naomab, the Assistant Pro-Vice Chancellor, at the Southern Campus remarked that "Namibia needs industry savvy academia if we are to compete successfully in the new era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) which is characterized by globalized open innovation". He was accompanied by the Minister of Higher Education

Training and Innovation (MHETI), Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi.

According to Dr Naomab "One of the key objectives of the mission was to engage relevant global Science Technology and Innovation (STI) institutions and networks in order to find synergies that would particularly enhance national efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including food security and poverty eradication". The STS forum attracted more than 1400 global leaders from nearly 80 countries. The forum's Ministers' Roundtable had more than 25 ministers responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation from around the world.

UNAM also managed to clinch a



FLTR: CEO of INM Prof Arzt with Hon. Dr Kandjii-Murangi and Dr Naomab.

partnership with the globally renowned Leibniz Institute for New Materials (INM) based in Saarland, Germany. This project aims to develop new industrial innovations using nanocomposite technologies. The project is expected to produce new types of construction

materials, whilst establishing a Material Science Institute in Namibia. Other potential agreements includes agricultural technologies to advance food security, artificial intelligence, cybercrime, robotics and ICT.

## DAAD Alumni Meet in Windhoek

*"Building sustainable networks, tackling social responsibilities and fostering empowerment" was the motto of this year's DAAD Alumni Meeting.*

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) organised a first-in-a-long-time alumni meeting for former and current DAAD scholarship holders in Windhoek, Namibia.

Mr Cay Etzold from the DAAD Head Office in Bonn talked to UNAM about DAAD's scholarship programmes for Sub-Saharan Africa. He was accompanied by various speakers who travelled all the way from Germany and Uganda to contribute to the meeting.



The objective was to help alumni build sustainable networks, tackle social responsibilities and foster empowerment. The meeting also aimed at establishing a sustainable DAAD alumni platform for Namibia, where graduates and researchers can network, interact and reach out to other institutions, companies and the community.

DAAD is one of the world's largest funding organisations for the international exchange of students and researchers. Each year,

DAAD provides more than 130,000 scholarships to both German and international scholars. DAAD offers scholarships for postgraduate and doctoral studies, as well as for postdoctoral research.

Furthermore, DAAD also promotes various programmes for international co-operations that focus on capacity building, staff and students exchange, curriculum development and research. More information on DAAD and their programmes can be obtained at

[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de) or [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de).

If you are a DAAD alumni, but did not know about this event, please do get in touch with the DAAD representative in Namibia either via e-mail [daad.namibia@gmail.com](mailto:daad.namibia@gmail.com) or Facebook "DAAD Lektorat Namibia". DAAD Namibia looks forward to engaging with all alumni in this newly created network! The planning of a follow-up alumni event for 2019 is already in process and we look forward to seeing you there.

## Deadline Extended Still CALLING ALL POETS

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANTHOLOGY OF NAMIBIAN POETRY

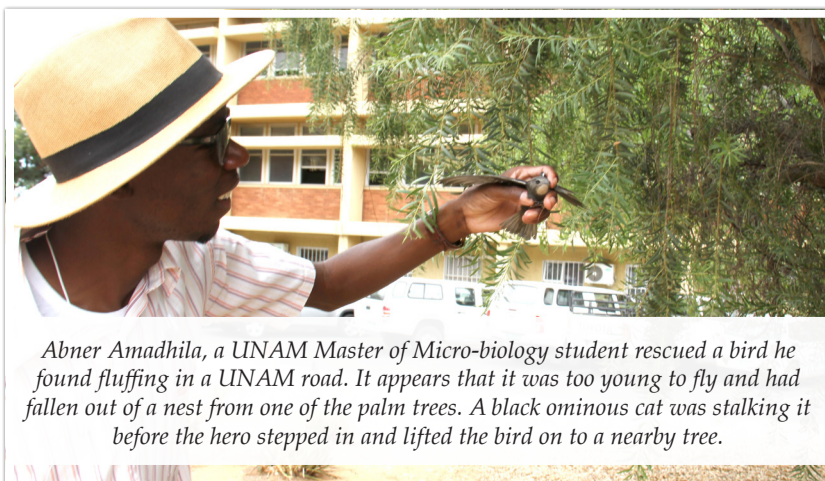
UNAM Press, in partnership with the National Arts Council of Namibia (NACN), calls on all established and new poets to submit unpublished poems to UNAM Press for an anthology of Namibian poetry. Send us well-crafted poems that employ skilful and imaginative use of language, metre and rhyme and experiment with texture and form. We are looking for conscious, thought-provoking poetry which generates questions. The poems may be about anything and all things Namibian whether people, events, places or experiences.

For submission guidelines please go to: [www.unam.edu.na/unam-press](http://www.unam.edu.na/unam-press) or visit the UNAM Press Facebook page [www.facebook.com/UNAMPRESS/](http://www.facebook.com/UNAMPRESS/)

**Deadline for submissions: Friday, 11 January 2019**

For enquiries contact: [unampress@unam.na](mailto:unampress@unam.na) or 061 - 206 4714

## Just your friendly neighbourhood student



Abner Amadhila, a UNAM Master of Micro-biology student rescued a bird he found fluffing in a UNAM road. It appears that it was too young to fly and had fallen out of a nest from one of the palm trees. A black ominous cat was stalking it before the hero stepped in and lifted the bird on to a nearby tree.