

UNAM pilots seawater desalination for agriculture in Henties Bay

A first-of-its-kind in the world desalination plant, which is entirely and directly operated by solar power, was recently launched at the University of Namibia Sam Nujoma Campus, in Henties Bay. The plant can produce 3 000 litres of drinkable water per hour, at almost no operational cost.

The seawater desalination pilot plant is a joint initiative between the University of Namibia and the University of Turku in Finland, and was installed by Solar Water Solutions (Finland). UNAM will use the plant to turn brackish and saline water into suitable water for human consumption, as well as for agriculture. The impact the research plant aims to achieve is to



contribute to food security, increase energy supply while at the same time combating and mitigating the effects of climate change. As a start, UNAM has identified a section of its own land on the Sam Nujoma Campus

for immediate agriculture (olive farming) using drip irrigation supplied from the desalination plant. The two-hectares allocated will take some 10 000 trees, from which research will be undertaken.

The plant was launched by Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Nation, in the presence of Dr Nangolo Mbumba, UNAM Chancellor; Prof Kenneth Matengu, UNAM Vice Chancellor; Mr Alpheus !Narusseb, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangiri, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, as well as key stakeholders from the Erongo Region.



Rutherford fellows build on new Africa partnership

Fellowships awarded to two researchers from the University of Namibia are set to build on a new strategic partnership between UNAM and Aberystwyth University.

At the end of March 2019, Dr Frans Persendt and Dr Eliakim Hamunyela completed a short term Rutherford Fellowships at Aberystwyth where they have been working on research projects related to the management of water resources in arid environments. Based in the Geography Department at the University of Namibia, Dr Persendt has been at Aberystwyth since November 2018 and Dr Hamunyela since January of this year.

At Aberystwyth they are being mentored by Professor Chris Thomas in the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, working with Professor Stephen Tooth, Professor Andrew Thomas and Dr Andrew Hardy in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences.

In addition to developing collaborative research ideas, the team is working to explore the links between malaria risk and hydrological and geomorphological processes in the 'wetlands-in-drylands' of northern Namibia.

Dr Persendt said: "These habitats form vector breeding habitats that needed to be identified and eradicated to

enable Namibia to scale up its malaria control intervention programme that is entering the elimination phase."

Dr Persendt and Dr Hamunyela have been exploring the application of remote sensing technology - both satellite based and unmanned aerial vehicles such as low-cost drones - to identify these habitats at very high spatial and temporal resolutions.

Dr Hamunyela said: "Together with scientists from the Aberystwyth University, we are exploring new ideas to develop scientific research proposals to conduct challenged disciplinary and interdisciplinary research with a special focus at the interface of global change and One

Summit to improve Project Management in Namibia

The Namibia Project Management (PM) Summit will bring together various project management community members on 7 June 2019.

Over twenty experts in project management will deliver sessions on a broad range of topics from project management innovation, to project management office performance. According to Professor Grafton Whyte, Namibia Business School Director, "Anyone involved in project management in Namibia should not miss this event."

The theme of the PM Summit is "Pursuing Peak Performance." There are two tracks during the PM Summit: one for project managers in general and one for staff of current or future PMOs.

The Project Manager track includes sessions for seasoned project managers, as well as those who would like to enter the project management field. A session on project management certifications gives an overview of certification options and the pathway to attain them. Another session introduces agile project management methodologies, a trend that is gaining momentum in Namibia. There are several more sessions designed to equip attendees with knowledge needed to improve project performance.

According to research recently published by Namibia Business School, Namibia has very few project management offices (PMOs) - a trend that is very different from the rest of the world. The Namibia PM Summit hopes to change this fact. Nerago Ndoroma (PMP) one of the PMO experts speaking at the Summit, explained that, "A PMO is charged with standardising project management practices within the organisation and in doing so increases the likelihood of project success." The PMOs in Namibia research was conducted by Katrina Simon-Agolory (PMP) and Ndilimeke Shityeni over a year and a half, in 2017 and 2018. "The sessions in the PMO track are very practical. Attendees will leave with a better idea of how to start or improve their PMO," Ndilimeke shared.

Interested attendees may register for the PM Summit at any Pick-n-Pay store or online at www.webtickets.com.na. For additional information about the PM Summit, please contact via email: pmdiploma@nbs.edu.na or WhatsApp: 081 425 4593.



NAMIBIA PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUMMIT



Health." Aberystwyth University and the University of Namibia are looking to develop collaborative research projects in areas such as remote sensing, forage crops, veterinary diseases and marine resources.

Professor Chris Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation, said:

"The Rutherford Fellowship scheme has been a great success here at Aberystwyth and hosting Frans and Eliakim as our final two Rutherford Fellows, will not only lead to exciting collaborative research proposals, but has also greatly enhanced the development of our new strategic institutional partnership with the University of Namibia.