

Polytechnic, Angolan delegation discuss collaboration

By Pedro Teca*

An Angolan Delegation sent to Namibia by the Angolan Ministry of Education in order to create partnership with the top tertiary education institutions in Namibia, in line with the bilateral relations between the two countries, met with members of the Polytechnic Management on 13th May 2009.

According to the Head of the Delegation, Dr. Jesus Joaquim Baptista, three Angolan public Universities will be directly involved in this process, namely the Agostinho Neto University (UAN), Mandume ya Ndemofayo University, and Jose Eduardo dos Santos University.



In Namibia, the Delegation aims to create partnerships at the tertiary education level with the Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN), The University of Namibia (UNAM), and the International University of Management (IUM).

“The Polytechnic of Namibia is currently home to one hundred-and-fifty five Angolan students, and is looking forward to cementing this partnership,” said Ms. Neavera Olivier, the Polytechnic’s Director of Planning and International Relations.



The Delegation consisted of three members of the Angolan Institute of Scholarships (INAB), including the Director of the Angolan Institute of Scholarships, Dr. Jesus Joaquim Baptista, the Head of the Scholarship Department, Mr. Moises Kafala Neto, and Mr. Joao Damiao, the Head of the Juridical Department and International Relations.

The Polytechnic of Namibia was represented by Ms. Neavera Olivier, Director of Planning and International Relations, Mr. Donovan Weimers, Director of the Institutional Development and Fundraising, Mr. Lameck Mwewa, the Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Tourism, Mr. Samuel John, Deputy Dean of the School of Engineering, Ms. Magda Saaiman, who represented the Dean of the School of Communication, Mr. Bill Torbitt, who represented the Dean of the School of Information Technology, and Ms. Theodora Nandjaa, Internations Relations Officer.

The Polytechnic representatives gave a brief description of the institution and its admission requirements according to every department, and advised the Delegation about the procedures that can be taken during the student exchange programme.

Dr. Jesus Baptista explained that the Angolan Government is willing to officially send their first group of students next year.

Like many other Angolan students in Namibia, the exchange students may be required to spend time during the first year studying English, while also familiarizing themselves with the environment and the Namibian educational system.

"The School of Communication will provide an intensive English course for any Angolan students," said Ms. Magda Saaiman, on behalf of the Dean of the School of Communication.

After the meeting with the tertiary institutions, which ended up with promises of feedback, the Delegation returned to Angola to report back to the Angolan Government.

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