

Graduates add value to tourism industry

Dr Günzel welcomed the participants and a Spanish delegation to the seminar on “Tourism and Hospitality Training in Namibia: A stakeholders’ perspective.”

He said the Polytechnic’s commitment was guided by its vision of becoming a premier university of science and technology at national, regional and international level and was also in line with its mission to promote national competitiveness by providing multiple opportunities for excellent education, applied research, innovation and services.

With regard to the Polytechnic’s contribution to the development of the tourism sector, Dr. Günzel said the Namibia Hotel and Tourism School (NHTS) has, since its inception in October 2003, doubled enrolment in degree, diploma and certificate programmes in the hospitality, travel and tourism fields. Theoretical knowledge was supported by practical work, thus imparting hands-on experiences.

The Department recently overhauled its programmes in consultation with the industry and introduced new programmes with flexible short courses. All this was done, according to Dr. Günzel, in response to the need for enhanced quality of human resources available to the industry. He added that the success of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism of the Training School over the years has had a very important ingredient – the ongoing support of the industry and cooperating partners.

“Our curriculum provides our graduates with the knowledge, progressive learning experiences and business skills required in entry-level positions while also positioning them for long-term success in the global hospitality and tourism industry.



Dr. Günzel is pictured with Maria Abellanet and Prof. Damia Serrano of the University of Barcelona.

As a result, the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management has seen a steady increase in the number of international and regional students. This growth signifies the relevance and growing reputation of our programmes,” the Vice-Rector said.

He acknowledged the extent to which internships in the hospitality and tourism industry had helped to develop the Polytechnic’s students by having sharpened their job skills and having exposed them to possible job opportunities after they graduated.

“The Department places great emphasis on the ability of its graduates to apply their academic training and the scientific principles they’ve been taught in a way that is relevant in and adds value to the hospitality industry and thus enhances client satisfaction,” Dr. Günzel concluded.