

PIR e-News

Department of Planning & International Relations e-Newsletter

PoN and UFS Partnership Extended

by Kazembire Zemburuka

Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN) and the University of Free State (UFS) have capped their five year old relationship with an extension of the Memorandum of Un-

derstanding between the two SADC partners aimed at increased collaboration in agricultural sciences.

The extension comes hot on the heels of a series of activities between

the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agriculture Sciences at UFS and the School of Natural Resources and Tourism at the PoN. Highlights include assistance rendered by UFS in

2/...



back: Prof. Leon van Rensburg (UFS), Neavera Olivier (Director: PIR), Prof. Schalk Low (UFS) and Prof. Wijnand Swart (UFS);
middle: Prof. Johan du Preez (UFS), Prof. Damas Mashauri (SADC-Waternet Professorial Chair in IWRM), Polytechnic, Dr. Victor Kamara (HOD: Civil Engineering), Ms. Cherly Lombard (UFS, Dr. Ingrid Dennis) and Prof. Isak Groenewald (UFS);
front: Dr. Willem Jankowitz (HOD: Nature Conservation), Mr. Salomo Mbai (HOD: Agriculture) Prof. Maitland Seaman (UFS), Dr. Tjama Tjivikua (Rector), Prof. Neil Heideman (Dean: Natural Resources and Agricultural Science, UFS) and Mr. Lameck Mwewa (Dean: Natural Resources and Tourism)

Content

- 1 PoN and UFS Partnership Extended for Another Five Years
- 3 KTH and PoN forge Ties
- 4 Importance of Networking in Higher Education Institutions Highlighted
- 5 First SAFRI STEP Alumni Reunion
- 6 PoN bids Farewell to 2010 International Exchange Students
- 7 Pioneers Entrepreneurship Cohort Complete Course
- 8 Prof Heideman Impressed by E-Haus Renovations
- 10 Editor's Desk Note

.../1

the development of an honours programme in Agricultural Management at PoN; joint consultancies, guest lecturing and short courses conducted for a number of entities including the Meat Board of Namibia, and First National Bank of Namibia.

However, the relationship is also accentuated by the fact that a number of PoN faculty call UFS their alma mater, including long-serving academic and former Dean of School of Natural Resources, Dr. Willem Jankowitz and current Head of Agriculture, Mr. Salomo Mbai.

This fact was not lost to Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of PoN, when he met Professor Neil Heideman, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agriculture, with his eight (8) member delegation at Elizabeth Haus.

“...our relationship is deeper than the activities presented: 40% or four out of the ten faculty in our Department of Agriculture obtained either their Master or Ph.D qualifications from the University of the Free State.”

These academics, Dr. Tjivikua related, are expected to play a vital role as Namibia gears to increase agricultural output and ensure food security. About 70% of Namibians rely on the

Agricultural sector to put bread on the table.

“As a result of a lack of innovation in the sector, Namibia imports more than 90% of foodstuffs’ and 100% agricultural implements, mainly from South Africa. This alone is evidence

“...our relationship is deeper than the activities presented: 40% or four out of the ten faculty members in our Department of Agriculture obtained either their Master or PhD qualifications from the University of the Free State.”

that there is little research, agribusiness and agri-tech development to reduce this trade imbalance and achieve self-sufficiency.”

To tackle these inherent challenges, Polytechnic has introduced a training programme with strong emphasis on land management, agriculture, nature conservation, community-based natural resource management and tourism.

Professor Neil Heideman, enthused that the relationship with Polytechnic is a mutual one. He pointed out that the model should be emulated elsewhere on the continent and ensure the academe continues to be responsive to the needs and challenges of

African countries.

Professor Heideman also shared, with his counterpart, the rich research history of UFS in the agricultural field. Their approach to research places strong emphasis on multi-disciplinary teams which cover areas such as water management for water-scarce areas and technologies for sustainable crop industries in semi-arid regions.

After two days of constructive discussions, the Rector and Dean signed an agreement that will run over a period of five years (2010 – 2015). The agreement covers a wide range of activities under

the following core areas:

1. Academic Clusters in Water Management and Sustainable Agriculture;
2. Joint Research;
3. Joint Curriculum Development;
4. Student and Staff exchanges
5. And joint delivery of workshops and seminars.

The UFS team consisted of distinguished professors and researchers in the water management for water-scarce areas and ground water studies, environmental management, plant and soil sciences, entomology, and technologies for sustainable crop industries in semi-arid regions.

KTH and PoN forge ties

by Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta

The list of PoN's international partners continues to expand. The Vice President of The Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden (KTH) Dr. Magreta Norel Bergendahl and Associate Professor in the Department of Machine Design Dr. Lars Hagaman, engaged Engineering academics to explore possibilities to strengthen the existing partnership opportunities.

KTH offers programs in Architecture, Computer Science and Communication, Electrical and Industrial Engineering, Chemical Science, Technology and Sciences.

For the past two years, KTH has been sending students to Namibia to do research in various fields. The PoN has been facilitating the process. The projects, which forms part of the students' Master thesis, requires students to live with rural community, study their way of living; and propose a product to be designed or developed which will enable them to ease their way of living.

To ensure the reciprocity or partnership, Prof Hagman suggested that in future, Polytechnic Engineering students be integrated in the project, the proposal was welcomed by School of Engineering and the modalities are being finalized.



Mr. Samuel John (HOD: Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Lars Hagaman (Associate Professor: KTH) and Dr. Magreta Norel Bergendahl (Vice-President: KTH)

At the end of their visit, the KTH delegation left impressed with programmes on offer by PoN and a commitment for collaboration in Engi-

neering, Information Technology and with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute.

Importance of Networking in Higher Education Institutions Highlighted by Dioné Izaks

Successful networking among Institutions of Higher Education led to an exchange and reflection of experiences, knowledge and concepts during a five days workshop held at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in November. The workshop, which focused on Management and Leadership in Higher Education in Southern and Eastern Africa was jointly organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Oldenburg in Germany and NMMU.

Elaborating on the types of network -- exchange, developmental, transfer and co-operation -- Prof. Dr. Heinke Robken from the Bergische University, Wuppertal, Germany, said each institution has to choose a network type which adds value to its operations. She further explained that the goals of exchange networks are de-

finied by the partners and is in most cases voluntarily. Development networks are aimed at achieving a common product such as a joint degree program or striving towards the development of a technical innovation.

Dr Robken noted that in Cooperation Networks, however, partners do not develop common products, the objectives is to change local or regional arrangements and develop a common identity. This, she added, leads to better management of students transferring within the region and the better adaption to regional needs.

Countries represented at the workshop were Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia.

The workshop provided intensive and practical learning opportunities to the attendants by combining lecture and experiential components

and assisted middle and senior manager with practical skills-based solutions to continue dealing with challenges they face on daily basis.

Almost all participants realized that they share similar challenges at their respective institutions while administering networking and internationalization programs.

Apart from Network Management in Higher Education, other topics discussed included Systems In Higher Education, International Perspectives in Higher Education, Internationalisation in Higher Education, Quality Management for Developing Countries and Institutional Planning in Environments with Resource Scarcity.

The Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN)'s participation at the workshop was partly funded by NMMU, thanks to the recent partnership signed between the two institutions in October 2010.



Ms Dioné Izaks, International Relations Officer at PoN in the front row, third from left with the rest of the delegates

First SAFRI STEP Alumni Reunion

Ten Namibians who participated in the popular Southern Africa Initiative of German Business' Student Experience Programme – STEP -- in Germany attended the first ever STEP Alumni Reunion held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In total 33 of the 56 who have participated in the programme since its establishment in 2005 were all eager to share their experiences with their counterparts.

The STEP Alumni were from Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The highlight of the event included a talk held by Ambassador Dieter Haller, German Ambassador to South Africa who spoke about doing business in Southern Africa.

The aim of the Alumni Reunion was not only for former interns to get to know each other and catch up on the latest news but also to generate ideas for a STEP Alumni Network.

One of the suggestions was to elect a STEP Ambassador and Vice Ambassador for each SADC country involved in STEP.

In Namibia, Etuhole Efraim, from the Polytechnic of Namibia was elected STEP Ambassador for Namibia and Annelly Angula STEP Vice Ambassador. Their role is to coordinate the STEP Alumni activities in Namibia. This includes the mentoring and preparation of the selected candidates who are going to Germany in March 2011.

Polytechnic of Namibia has contributed more students to the STEP programme during the past five years,



Annelly Angula (STEP 2008), Etuhole Efraim (STEP 2010), Ndeendelao Hamunyela (STEP 2009), Desmond Nawaseb (STEP 2010), Rauna Nghishekwa (STEP 2008), Mbirimuje Ngupandjara (STEP 2010), Gabriel Nhinda (STEP 2010), Fillemon Shilongo (STEP 2009), Victor Shimwandi (STEP 2006), Ruusa Shuuya (STEP 2006).

than any other regional institution of higher learning.

This speaks volumes about quality of PoNs students who are rated highly by the selectors of the internships.

This year alone, when PoN advertised for the STEP programs intern-

ship, close to 70 applications were received from students who are eager to take up experiential learning at international companies in Germany.

At least four students from the PoN will be taking part in STEP 2011.

PoN bids Farewell to 2010 International Exchange Students

by Susan Kambrude

The Polytechnic of Namibia, PoN hosted 22 exchange students from Austria, Germany and Finland during the 2010 second semester.

The farewell event which took place at a local restaurant, was also attended by the Civil Engineering Head of Department Dr. Victor Kamara, Civil Engineering lecturer Mr. Liberty Moyo, Information Technology Tutor Johnson Billawer, Director of Planning and International Relations, Neavera Olivier and staff from the International Relations Section.

Thanking the students for having chosen PoN as their destination for

their study abroad programmes, acting Coordinator of International Relations, Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta said that PoN prides itself as an international institution because of the exchanges presence on campus.

She thanked Deans, and various Heads of Department whom she said persist to tirelessly accommodate exchange students and ensure they have a pleasant and productive attachment to the PoN.

While acknowledging efforts of the department to make the exchanges' at PoN as smooth as possible, she was quick to point out that external factors often interfere, resulting in inefficient

service delivery.

"The International Relations Office has tried to make your stay as pleasant as possible. There were occasions, however, where issues such as study visa issuance took far too long. "Nevertheless we apologize and we give you our word that we will continue to advocate for shorter application periods", she told the group of the exchange students.

The 22 exchange students spent six months at PoN. They were hosted in the following schools; Business and Management, Information Technology, Communication, Natural Resources and Tourism, and Engineering.



front: Susan Kambrude (International Relations Support Officer - PoN), Andreas Kaefer, Alexander Maaz, Cornelia Mikula, Marina Kuchar, Dioné Izaks (International Relations Officer - PoN), Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta (Act: International Relations Coordinator - PoN)
middle: Sebastian Schwarz, Stefan Haupt, Martin Grimm, Marius Graber, Arno Dietz
back: Päivi Lahti, Louis Siewe, Stephan Meier, Mario Seeger, Yusuf Arslanparcasi - Absent: Valentin Meisenecker, Philipp Althaler, Julius Fink

Pioneers Honors in Entrepreneurship Complete Course

by Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta

The rivers of tears were flowing freely in the Students Representative Boardroom of the PoN as the City of Windhoek "jury" headed by its Section Head of Micro Entrepreneurial Development Mr. Claudius Kaverua gave the verdict that the first intake of the Degree in Entrepreneurship at PoN has successfully carried out the 24 hour innovation assignment.

That verdict was the determining factor which paved the way for the first cohort to graduate, in April 2011.

The 12 vibrant students underwent two years of intensive practical train-

ing in Entrepreneurship modelled to the Professional Academy model, at Tampere University in Finland.

This programme combines traditional basic business studies with practical learning in the ProAcademy, where students are trained to become entrepreneurs by actually performing business task and projects

PoN's first intake formed a cooperative, Plemjive that undertook projects for industry and learned by doing real business. Plemjive is an acronym for Pioneers, Learners, Entrepreneurs, Motivators, Joyful challenge, Innovators, Visionaries and Entertainers.

At the end of their two years in the corporate world, students were required to complete a final assignment, solving a real industry problem within 24 hours.

This 24 - hour innovation assignment was given by the City of Windhoek and entailed solving a problem of space, storage and hygiene at Tukondjeni Market in Okuryangava, Windhoek.

The students were assessed on the diversity of ideas, direct applicability, presentation, documentation, exceeding the self leadership, learning and practical implementation of sug-



Plemjive Team: Pictured with their Coach, and the City of Windhoek 'jury', Ms. Ritta-Liisa - front, left in red; extreme left, Mr. Kamwi Essah; second right back Dean of the School of Business and Management, Mr. Kofi Boamah

gestions.

Emotions ran high, when the overall grade was announced as 4 out of 5 and that students have successfully completed their two years of practical entrepreneurship course.

"It was like witnessing my first born graduating" a constantly sobbing Ms. Jutta Myrylainen who have adopted a Namibian name Ndahafa Shitaleni explained her emotional burst.

Myrylainen an entrepreneurship graduate from Tampere University in Finland has been mentoring the Na-

mibia students throughout their studies.

Ms. Riita -Liisa Arpiainen, Head of Business and Administration program and the groups's "mother" from Tampere University was equally excited and could also not hold her tears while delivering her speech.

"I am proud of the group and I am impressed that they have grown professionally and individually and as a group.

"I have no doubt this group is ready to face the Namibian entrepreneur-

ship challenges", she elaborated.

She said PoN was the first institution to introduce the ProAcademy model in sub-Saharan Africa.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Dean of the School of Business Mr. Kofi Boamah declared:

"Guys you are good and made us proud".

The Plemjive graduates were being coached by Ms. Adella Mampanga and Mr. Kwameh Essah.

Prof Heideman impressed by E-Haus Renovations

by Kazembire Zemburuka

A sense of nostalgia filled the room as Prof. Neil Heideman, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Science at the University of Free State, UFS, South Africa toured the renovated Elizabeth Haus, now housing the rectorate and other management cadres of the Polytechnic of Namibia (PON).

He was part of the UFS delegation which visited PON recently.

Prof. Heideman is no stranger to the Polytechnic and to higher education in Namibia, and has come to a place he considers his second home.

The academic had a stint as Lecturer in the 80's at the Academy of Tertiary Education which at the time was situated on the Polytechnic campus.

He retained this position until his elevation to Dean of Faculty of Science at the University of Namibia, shortly after the attainment of the country's independence.

However, he left for his native South Africa to continue working at institutions of higher education .

His short stay in Namibia and E-haus brought back fond memories of his time in the country.

"My interview for a job at this institution was held right here", said Prof. Heideman pointing to what is now the office of the Director of Planning and International Relations, Ms. Neavera Olivier.

Prof. Heideman was the successful candidate and subsequently had an office where the small kitchenette at

the current Rector's office is located.

At the conclusion of his short tour, Prof. Heideman had kind words for the Polytechnic team.

"I compliment Polytechnic for renovating the E-haus while retaining the original exterior design of the historical monument. It looks exceptionally beautiful."



Prof. Heideman in his old office, now the Rector's kitchen.

also...



PoN's Prof Moyo visited FH Joanneum, Austria

Mr. Dietmar Wallner; Dr. Eva Adamer-König Chairperson of this degree program); Prof. Moyo: Dean: Health Sciences.; Dr. James Miller (Faculty Member), Prof. Dr. Doris Kiendl-Wendner (Vice Rector: Chair, International Management)

IST of Portugal visit Polytechnic

Dr. Tjama Tjivikua flanked by Prof. José Pereira (Full Professor - Department of Mechanical Engineering at Instituto Superior Technico (IST), Lisbon, Portugal) and his wife former Minister of Education in Portugal and now the EU member of parliament Ms. Maria da Graca Carvalho.

Far right Director of Planning and International Relations Ms. Neaveara Olivier and far left Ms Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta acting Coordinator of International Relations

PoN and IST agreed to collaborate on areas of faculty exchange in the department of Mechanical Engineering.



Copperbelt University visit



front: Dr. Sumbuye Kapena (Dean: School of Business); Ms Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta and Prof. John Lungu (Associate Professor);
back:, Mr. Bruce Mwiya, (Head: Business); Ms. Magrett Bennet (Head of Center for Entrepreneurship Development) and Dr. Delvaline Möwes (Head: Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning), Mr. Lameck Mwewa, (Dean: School of Engineering).



Editor's Desk Note

As yet another great and exciting year draws to a close, I would like to thank all faculty, staff and students for their excellent support to the department of Planning and International Relations. Your dedication and tireless work to strengthen the internationalization mission of the institution is appreciated.

In the past year the Polytechnic of Namibia signed 26 new partnership agreements, renewed 7 of the existing Memoranda of Understanding and hosted more than 280 international visitors and scholars.

By December the institution boasted 68 active partnerships with universities globally. This requires an enormous amount of work from faculty and staff as each partnership involves action plans and specific activities aimed at strengthening teaching, learning and research at the institution.

The PoN is also becoming increasingly attractive as a destination for student exchanges and study-abroad programs. In 2010, we hosted 2 study tours (WPI and Brock University); 2 summer schools (Austria and the USA) and twenty-four exchange students from Finland, Germany and Austria. We value the presence of the international students on our campus highly, for it gives our students an opportunity to interact with the "world".

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to all faculty for their willingness to accommodate visiting scholars in a friendly and professional manner, and advising and mentoring the international students. International students make a great contribution to our campus and help us achieve our internationalization targets.

A special word of appreciation to the Deans and Heads of Department for your drive and commitment even when circumstances were very challenging. The international activities are critical to our international ranking and for attaining the vision as a premier technological university, educating leaders for the new economy.

Efficient administrative support is also very important for effective partnerships. I would, therefore, like to thank the Offices of the Bursar and Registrar, and particularly Auxiliary Services for their roles in ensuring the attachments and visits were efficiently and smoothly managed. We have revived the *PIR e-News* and will keep you informed of our activities regularly.

We wish you all the best for the holidays and look forward to working with you in 2011. Indeed, the year ahead looks promising with the month of January already filled with activities. In March 2011 we will host 9 visiting professors for periods of 2 to 4 weeks from one partnership alone. I believe we will continue to witness significant growth in teaching, learning and research in the new year.

Inga tumonathaneni mo 2011 (See you in 2011)

The Editor



PIR
wishes you a
Merry Xmas and
a blessed
2011

Department of Planning & International Relations e-Newsletter
Volume: 1 - Issue 2; November-December 2010

Editor:	Neavera Olivier
Sub-Editor:	Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta
Contributions by:	Theodora Nandjaa-Mweuta, Dioné Izaks, Kazembire Zemburuka, Susan Kambrude and other
Design & Layout:	Marlyna Nanus
Pictures:	Polytechnic Staff and Other