



Ms Smita Francis and Dr Tjama Tjivikua hold the cheque and certificate which the Polytechnic's Women in Engineering (WIE) Society received in the Sam Nujoma Innovative Development Awards competition while Maria Lukas, Verena Kashikuka and Victoria Jason look on.

The Women in Engineering (WIE) Society at the Polytechnic has won the Capacity Building Award in the Sam Nujoma Innovative Enterprise Development Awards (SNIEDA) Competition.

The SNIEDA aims to recognise and reward business excellence and best practices of companies across Namibia. It is the showcase of skills, achievements and innovations in the field for business and provides the benchmark, inspiration and example for all other businesses.

According to Trade and Industry Minister, Hage Geingob, the SNIEDA 2009 ceremony was fast becoming an important calendar event aimed at rewarding those business service providers with the most creative approaches towards assisting small and medium enterprises to meet their needs.

The Women in Engineering society is a professional association dedicated to promoting sustainable development through encouraging high school female learners to choose engineering as a career. WIE also promotes networking and entrepreneurship amongst female engineers- thus empowering women nationwide.

Smita Francis, convener of the society, says: "WIE ultimately envisages a vibrant society of men and women innovating the world of tomorrow."

She said WIE had held several community outreach workshops to introduce engineering to high school girls and this had resulted in a 5% increase in the enrolment of female students at the School of Engineering.

Earlier this year the society also organised an “Engineering day for Women” in a bid to raise public awareness of engineering as a career for women.

“This event provided a platform for networking of established female engineers in the Namibian industry and provided role models to the female engineering students,” Francis said.

The award was presented to Smita Francis of WIE, by Dr Sam Nujoma, the Patron of SNIEDA