

## CONGO'S EDUCATION MINISTER VISITS NEUDAMM



Congo Brazzaville's Minister of Technical Professional Education, Vocational Training and Employment, Salissa Okombi visited the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Neudamm recently. The Minister was in the country on a working visit with his counterparts at the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education's Permanent Secretary Ilukena accompanied the Minister to the campus. Faculty Dean Dr. Martin Schneider and his team briefed the Minister on the academic programme and farming operations on campus. Minister Okombi commended the Faculty for its impressive work on campus and expressed his countries keen interest in cooperating with the University of Namibia in fields of staff and student exchange as well as in research and development.

## UNIVERSITY TO EMBARK UPON AGGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL MARKETING PROGRAMME



Dr. Kenneth Matengu

The University plans to market its educational programmes to potential international students who do not traditionally, regard Africa, Namibia and UNAM as their preferred educational home. Director of External & International Relations Dr. Kenneth Matengu told Forum Online that his office was finalizing a draft international strategy for the university and expects to hold consultations with various faculties and centres in August.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Lazarus Hangula is a big advocate of diversity and often singled out international staff and students as marks of a truly universal institution.

Meanwhile, Matengu noted that administrative staff members are now covered in all memorandum of understanding the university enters into. "They were excluded in many of the previous MOUs, we've resolved to cover them in all MOUs as they form an integral part of the university system." He at the same time highlighted a lack of budgets for the implementation cooperation agreements as a challenge. All agreements that the university enters into now have budgets attached to them.

Dr. Matengu was appointed as Director of External & International Relations on the 1 January 2011. He boasts an interesting combination of skills, having obtained his doctorate and masters degrees in Human Geography from the University of Eastern Finland. He has published numerous academic papers in international journals and has also served done numerous consultancies for the Namibian Government and the UN amongst others. Matengu is no new comer to the University, as he previously served as a research intern, researcher and deputy director of the Multi-Disciplinary Research Centre.

## UNAM COORDINATES OCEAN RESEARCH WITH PREMIER GERMAN INSTITUTIONS



UNAM's Prof. Edosa Omoregie, the Director of Sam Nujoma Marine and Coastal Resources Research Centre (SANUMARC) and Prof. Detlef Quadfasel of the Centre for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Hamburg in Germany are jointly coordinating research-based training activities at sea off Namibia on board the German Research Vessel Maria Merian during September-October 2011. Joining the activities are other premier German marine research centers from Bremen and Kiel. A group of German oceanographers were in Namibia last week for joint cruise planning. According to Prof. Omoregie, the cruise offers an excellent opportunity for Namibian students to get acquainted with world-class ocean research on one of the most modern research vessels in the world.

Jointly with the members of the relevant Departments at UNAM and with representatives of the Polytechnic of Namibia, Benguela Current Commission (BCC), National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC) and the Geological Survey of Namibia, the German team finalized the research plan on board the Marian Merian as well as a selection procedure for students and junior faculty participating in the cruise. The research provides, in three segments, opportunities for 33 young researchers and students from within the Region to get acquainted with modern tools in ocean research by working together with internationally known experts in the various aspects of ocean research.

The whole exercise is part of the SPACES initiative (Science Partnerships for the Assessment of Complex Earth System Processes), which is being jointly developed by Germany with the relevant ministries in Angola, Namibia and South Africa. The Namibian component of SPACES was signed in October 2010 by the Ministry of Education of Namibia and the Federal Ministry for Education and Research of Germany. Professor Venu Ittekkot, who coordinates the SPACES initiative in Germany, said a scholarship program for Namibian students to study in Germany, and hands on training on board research vessels such as the Maria Merian measures to assist young Namibian and German scientists to effectively participate as partners in research projects that are being developed under the SPACES Program.

## NEDBANK DONATES N\$50 000 TO UNAM ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY



The University of Namibia Natural Resources and Environmental Society (UNNRES) received a donation of N\$50,000 Namibian dollars from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism at a formal ceremony at the Head office of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism recently.

This followed a joint proposal by Dr. Elsabie Julies (Department Biological Sciences), Margaret Angula (Department Geography, History and Environmental Studies) and Francine Muyumba (SRC president), for funding the UNNRES society to perform various environmental awareness programs on campus.

These include as a recycling system and green garden project on campus. "The society started these initiatives at the main campus and through our activities we wish to create an environmentally friendly campus", said Dr. Julies. The funding is part of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Climate change adaptation and mitigation project (AAP) and forms part of the Government's commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to which Namibia is a signatory.

(Caption) Members of the UNNRES committee receiving the donation from the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and her deputy U. Herunga.

## UNAM ENGINEERING SOCIETY LAUNCHED AT ONGWEDIVA



Telecom Namibia's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Namibia Post and Telecom Holdings, Frans Ndoroma has launched the University of Namibia Engineering Society (UNAMES) at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at Ongwediva recently. The Leeds University Mining Engineering Bachelor of Science graduate was also nominated as Patron of the society.

Ndoroma thanked the Dean of the Faculty Prof Frank Kavishe, ODS staff as well as entire UNAMES leadership for the "honor". "Mr. Ndoroma called other industry players to provide support to UNAM initiatives aimed at boosting research in critical areas such as engineering through financing research programmes, and taking on engineering students in their internship programmes.

## STAFF URGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEWSLETTER

You are again kindly reminded to send contributions, story ideas on major developments and highlights in your faculties and departments and adverts for the next edition of the Forum Online to: [uhoveka@unam.na](mailto:uhoveka@unam.na) or [mmagadza@unam.na](mailto:mmagadza@unam.na) and copied to [eaniceto@unam.na](mailto:eaniceto@unam.na)