



Vote of Thanks

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Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning (COLL)

Polytechnic of Namibia (PON)

at the

First Institutional Technology Day

Auditorium 1

on

Wednesday, 23 October 2013

Director of Ceremonies and Director: Centre For Teaching and Learning, Pon: Dr Michael Tjivikua

Special Advisor to the Honourable Minister of Information & Communication Technology, Mr. Ya Nangolo

Prof Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the PON

Distinguished Invited Guests

Respected ODL Scholars,

Faculty, Colleagues and Staff of, PON

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, 23 October 2013 marks the very first and last Institutional Technology Day for the PON. But I'm delighted to inform you that it will be the first of many such days for NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY from 2014. It is my genuine hope and I am sure that of many of us here today, that this Institutional Technology Day will be incorporated in the collective victory that signals much potential for the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), our country at large. At the recent Graduation Ceremony Prof Tjivikua identified and listed these probabilities. I quote:

- to be recognised instantaneously,
- to benefit from many more opportunities,
- to compete from an advantageous position,
- to be capacitated better and perform better, and
- to give a new meaning to the national development and competitiveness” unquote.

Director of Ceremonies, Hon Minister, Professor
Tjivikua, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My task today is to give due thanks to all, who have participated in this event, those who will take part and to those who have contributed to the realization of this first Institutional Technology Day.

On behalf of the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and the Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning (COLL), I wish to take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to all the keynote speaker, and presenters, virtual and face-to-face, who amidst their busy schedules, devoted time to be with us. We feel specially honoured for your willingness to share your thoughts. Your wealth of knowledge shared here today, clearly corroborates your sustained commitment to ensure that our students, conventional and distance students, benefit from technology-enhanced teaching and learning to better equip and prepare them for today's knowledge economy and to drive the development of our beloved country.

Hon. Minister, the digital divide is a reality in our country. It's a significant concern to us educators; it limits access to Internet-based distance education among our population that could benefit greatly from it. Hence, another intervention in the form of an "Institutional Technology Day", one of the many efforts and initiatives taken at the PON to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure we do not widen the digital divide.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the Pinnacle Africa and Telecom Namibia who has made significant contributions towards the realisation of hosting this Institutional Technology Day to award faculty members who have taken an interest in integrating technology in teaching, learning and assessment. Your contributions confirm your commitment towards quality teaching and learning within and beyond the borders of Namibia. And for that, we are genuinely appreciative.

One of the joys of an event such as this is working with so many fine professionals who played indispensable

roles, and then getting to dispense the “thank you’s” at the successful completion of this event.

Ladies and gentleman,

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Dr Michael Tjivikua: Director CTL and his team, Dr Dalvaline Mowes: Dir. COLL and her team, the office of the VRAAR: Dr Andrew Niikondo and his team, the Librarian, Judy Grobblers and her team, BCS and their team, and Communications and Marketing without whom this event would not have been possible.

There’s a saying:

A great teacher takes a hand,
opens a mind,
and touches a heart.

A special word of thanks to all the *Great Teachers* who adopted and integrated new and emerging technologies into their teaching and learning practises. I would also like to encourage those *Great Teachers* who will adopt and integrate ICT’s in their teaching and learning practices.

Our Rector, Professor. Tjivikua, in his welcoming remarks subtly urged us to leverage new technologies to prepare and encourage our students to take control of their own learning, to become independent learners, critical and creative thinkers of the 21st century. Let's be optimistic, let's try out ICT's and adopt and integrate what works best for us to optimise teaching and learning performance in our classroom setting. We must remain optimistic.

Talking about optimism reminds me of Thomas Edison who tested 1 600 substances as potential filaments for his lamp, all of which had failed. Yet, he remained positive when others remarked that it was a waste of time and labour. Instead he said:

“.... Nothing was wasted. Now I know of 1 600 things that will *not* work”.

Let's be positive...let's use the new solutions, let's put aside good methods that worked in the past and adapt new and emerging technologies that works for our current student interests and demands, let's get off the

stage and guide from the side to ensure ultimate success in teaching and learning.

Director of ceremonies, ladies and gentleman,

Last but not least. My gratitude also goes to the Media from Marketing and Communication for covering this event with fairness and objectivity. Your coverage has put PON on the news-map of Namibia and beyond.

I thank you for your kind attention. Enjoy the rest of the activities.

I thank you all!