

**Laptop Handover Ceremony at the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics
on 14 November 2012**

**Keynote speech by H.E. Onno Hückmann
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany**

Prof. Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the Polytec of Namibia

Mr Jacobs, Director of the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics

Mr Savage, Deputy Director of the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics

Students,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Laptop Handover Ceremony at the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics today. I am very proud of the establishment and achievements of the Namibian- German Centre for Logistics, also known as the NGCL.

This centre was created as a Centre of Excellence as part of the Federal Foreign Office's Aktion Afrika Programme, and I believe the term is most suitable.

The aim of the centre, as you all know, is the long-term promotion of Namibia as a strategic location for international transport and logistics services.

Namibia has given itself a vision for development, Vision 2030. The future is about people, and Vision 2030 is engaging with prospects for Namibian citizens in the areas of social and general welfare and the economy, including the transport and logistics sector.

The NGCL is in line with Vision 2030. The centre has declared its aim of being a centre of excellence that educates leaders in logistics and transport, thereby promoting regional economic development.

This is a vision which the Federal Republic of Germany can fully support. This mission is significant not only for Namibia, but also for other SADC countries, especially the landlocked countries surrounding Namibia. This is also reaffirmed in the National Development Plan 4, which identifies key focal areas, including tourism, agriculture,

manufacturing and logistics.

That is why the NGCL is a key player in national development and economic growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As students starting your postgraduate courses at the NGCL, you will be key players for a sustainable economy in Namibia and in the region at large.

Germany is providing support for the growth of Namibia's economy. This is visible in the support my government gives to the NGCL specifically, but also in the support given to the education system in Namibia in general.

The Namibian-German Centre for Logistics opened in 2009. The centre was established through a partnership between the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provided funding through Aktion Afrika.

I want to take this opportunity to stress that Germany will remain a reliable partner to Namibia in the future.

Our tight network of bilateral relations aims to support the Namibian Government in meeting future economic and social challenges.

The broad range of development co-operation with Namibia has been and remains a political imperative for Germany. It is particularly suited to overcoming social inequalities, promoting economic growth and creating job opportunities.

Germany is open to developing existing potential to further intensify mutually beneficial co-operation. This includes a greater commitment, specifically in the areas of the economy, environmental protection and conservation as the basis for sustainable tourism as well as education, training and cultural exchange.

Today, we have a special occasion to celebrate the NGCL and its great achievements. We are here to re-emphasize our bilateral relationship, in particular in the field of science and research.

But today also offers another joyous occasion.

It is my pleasure to officially present 21 laptops to the 21 honour students. These laptops are perfect for the students. They will enhance the students' access to the latest publications available on the worldwide web, while also supporting their research activities and, of course, strengthening their ties with the international academic community.

Looking into these enthusiastic and happy faces, I am sure that the laptops will be of good use to the students.

Prof. Tjivikua, Mr Jacobs, Mr Savage, I am sure that this cooperation project, with the various stakeholders involved, will be an ongoing success story that will bring the two countries closer together and Namibia one step further in achieving its goals as laid out in Vision 2030.

Thank you.