



POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

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RECTOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

AT

PEESA STAKEHOLDERS' DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA HOTEL SCHOOL

10 SEPTEMBER 2015

09:00

WINDHOEK

Representative of the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation - Mr Rod
April - Acting Secretary General of the Namibia Unesco National Commission

Representatives of the Ministry of Mines and Energy

All Distinguished and Eminent Guests from the Partner University:

Hochschule Wismar-University of Applied Sciences, Technology, Business and
Design;

University of Applied Sciences Jena

University of Applied Sciences; Flensburg

Cape Peninsula University of Technology

Polytechnic of Namibia

Tshwane University of Technology

Vaal University of Technology and

The European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education

All Namibian Energy Stakeholders

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you to our institution which is hosting the first Dissemination Workshop of the EDULINK Programme on Energy Efficiency in Southern Africa (PEESA). A special welcome to the representatives of government, especially the aforementioned Ministries, whose presence at this important Workshop signifies how important the challenge of energy is in the national developmental agenda.

I'm particularly excited to welcome you to the Polytechnic of Namibia, which is undergoing an important and historic transformative change. Many I not all of you do know that we have been pursuing a name change. After the long pursuit of 20 years, it's now official that the name Polytechnic of Namibia will be replaced by the name

Namibia University of Science and Technology. Thank you all for your splendid support!

Three years ago while on an extended visit to Germany, I visited several partner universities, including Hochschule Wismar and Fachhochschule Jena. Together with two visionary university presidents, Professors Norbert Grunwald of Wismar and Gabriele Beibst of Jena we conceptualized the partnership in Wismar,

and I took on the responsibility to bring on board the South African partners. Thus the project was born and thank you for the partnership.

The PEESA project is being implemented by Wismar University of Applied Sciences, Business and Technology as lead partner in collaboration with the partners mentioned earlier. The project is funded by the European Union through the ACP-EU Cooperation programme in High Education (EDULINK II), and its overall objective is to ensure that in the chosen area of focus the African partner Universities develop advanced curricula that meet the European quality standards for engineering education.

This requirement would enhance student and staff exchanges, and promote stronger collaboration in research between the European and African universities.

This Workshop was preceded by each of the African partners conducting a needs analysis of academic programmes that would support energy needs in the respective countries. In the case of our institution, the outcome of this exercise was, among the several postgraduate programmes that are envisaged, to prioritise a Masters Programme in Energy Systems. Therefore, this Workshop allows us to share information on the programmes that have emerged from the individual institutions and thus enabling us to tap into the collective expertise within our cooperation framework to fast track the implementation of these programmes.

Director of Ceremonies

The success of the Polytechnic, which over the past twenty years has evolved to be soon the Namibia University of Science and Technology - in about a week's time - is based on the conviction that fast-track development, locally and globally, is determined by the way countries connect and acquire and manage knowledge. Therefore, as an emerging university, we will continue to be part of the broader global academic and business dialogue to ensure our relevance and impact on society.

Director of Ceremonies

The world is a global village where active and positive participation is dependent on knowledge creation and management dependent on the level and quality of education, which means benchmarking based on best practice and international standards. I am happy that the EduLink project aims to do exactly that. We will, further, benefit from this Workshop by learning about the accreditation processes in Germany and exploring the possibilities of aligning Southern African and European standards as well as consider proposals on Training of Trainers under this PEESA project.

I believe I am expressing the sentiments of all partners in the project when I say that this kind of cooperation and collaboration being established between different regions is a move in a positive direction and ultimately should enable everyone, especially in the Southern African community, to have the know-how and access to energy. The successful implementation of projects and programmes leading to the development of Namibia and the SADC region in general, will require well-trained and skilled human power to harness the abundantly available energy resources. Towards these goals, we have, in our case, charged the Namibia Energy Institute (NEI) together with the School of Engineering with the responsibility of developing and disseminating knowledge, skills and good practices towards a safer, more secure and

sustainable energy systems in Namibia. Indeed, we have acquired the capacity and are in the process of upgrading it to develop graduate programmes in Energy.

Ladies and gentlemen

it is thus our obligation to work with other universities, communities and governments in framing policies and implementing projects that bring the much-needed development to our region. I have no doubt that the participation of energy experts and stakeholders at this Workshop will yield the desired results that will benefit the people of this country and beyond.

Based on our long-standing collaboration with each partner, success is ingrained in the partnership formula. Let me again welcome you all to this workshop and wish you fruitful deliberations. I trust you will also enjoy your stay in this beautiful country, Namibia.

Thank you.