

Programme

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

Seminar

Themes: Biomass based Renewable Energy and Recycling Economy.

*A two-days seminar organized by Namibia-Finland (NAMFIN)
Research Academy.*

Dates: 16 - 17 March 2023

Time: 08h00

Venue: University of Turku Satellite Campus,
at UNAM Main Campus



DAY 1: 16 MARCH 2023

Director of Proceedings: Dr Romanus Shivoro, Assistant Director: International Relations, UNAM

08:30 Opening remarks: Prof Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor of UNAM

08:50 Vote of thanks: Prof Nelago Indongo, Director Research Services

09:00 **Group photo (UNAM photographer) and Tea break**

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Session 1: Chair: Prof Kalervo Väänänen

09:15 Mr Theis Jan-Christoph – Advisor, Bush Control and Biomass Utilisation Project, GIZ NA: Bush Control and Biomass Utilization in Namibia today.

10:00 Prof Mikko Hupa, Åbo Academy University, Finland: Different forms of bioenergy.

10:45 Practical example 1: Mr Jussi Mäлкиä, Meriaura Group, Finland: Bio based and renewable energy to shipping and aviation.

11:00 Practical example 2: Mr. Andreas Namwoonde: Bio based and renewable energy for water purification at SANUMARC.

11:15 **Tea break**

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Session 2: Chair: Prof Daniel Likius/ Prof. Davis Mumbengegwi

11:30 Prof Mikko Hupa, Åbo Academy University Finland: Pyrolysis of biomass and waste.

12:15 Mr Progress Kashandula, N-BIG, Namibia: Bioenergy reserves and options in Namibia.

13:00 Lunch

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Session 3: Chair: Prof Mikko Hupa

14:00 Practical example 3: Prof Kadhila Nailoke Pauline: Biomass on Mushroom cultivation.

14:15 Prof Kalervo Väänänen, University of Turku, Finland: Higher value for biomass. Medicines and health products from tree-derived substances.

14:45 Short presentations of 6 selected posters (5 min each): 3 students from Namibia and 3 students From Finland.

15:15 Poster session with refreshments

16:20 Best posters prizes: Three posters will get an honorary, 1000 N\$ each

19:00 Seminar dinner

DAY 2: 17 MARCH 2023

Session 4: Chair: Dr Hishimone Philipus

- 09:00** Prof Oskar Karlström, University of Turku, Finland: Principles of Circular Economy.
- 09:45** Mr Samantha van Zyl; Rent-A-Drum: Waste management in Namibia, legislation and practice.
- 10:30** Coffee break

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Session 5: Chair: Prof Kalervo Väänänen

- 11:00** Mr Breden Matomola, Neudamn Campus Researcher: What kinds of biomasses are available for fodder and organic fertilizer production in Namibia.
- 11:15** Prof Juha Kääriä, University of Applied Science Turku, Finland: Various biomass utilization for new growing substrates for plants. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) as an example.
- 11:30** Mr Gerd Sohrada, Global Polymer Industries cc: Bush Enhancer and Feeders
- 11:45** Prof Ahmad Cheikhoussef: NAMICOMP Fire resistance fibreboard from Biomass.
- 12:00** Lunch

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Session 6: Chair: Prof Erkki Sutinen

- 13:00** Short papers (3 pieces from selected abstracts) from postgraduate students, 5 min each.
- 13:30** Announcement of Postgraduate scholarship: **Prof Uahengo and Mr Jussi Mälkiä**
- 13:45** General discussion and conclusions
- 14:00** Closing remarks: **Prof Ndeyapo Nickanor**
- 14:15** Municipality/Rent-A-Drum waste management site visiting in Windhoek.
- 15:30** Have a safe trip to home!



UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

CONCEPT NOTE

for the establishment of

Namibia-Finland (NAMFIN) Research Academy

Introduction

Cooperation between Namibia and Finland can be dated back to a period of more than 150 years when the first Finnish missionaries began to work in the northern part of Namibia. Throughout their presence in northern Namibia, the Finnish missionaries contributed towards human development in terms of the establishment of schools, hospitals, and rendering of church services. Before and after Namibia's independence, Finland funded and sponsored the education of many students through a capacity building scholarship programme that enabled them to enroll at various Universities in Finland. A number of bilateral relations between Namibia and Finland were formalized after independence, hence resulting in Finland becoming one of Namibia's key development partners.

Several sectors in Namibia have benefited from the Namibia and Finnish development cooperation including health care, mining, and environmental protection and especially education, the building block of any new nation desiring to prosper. The Higher Education sector has been a fertile area of cooperation between Namibia and Finland with the University of Namibia taking the lead locally. A total number of nine institutions of higher education in Finland have established collaboration and partnership with the University of Namibia (UNAM). The cooperation agreement has been in the areas of academic administration and development, student exchange and mobility between UNAM and Finnish university students and academics. A key highlight of the education cooperation thus far, has been an initiative spearheaded by the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Turku which led to 49 Namibian students complete their bachelors' and masters' degrees of education in Finland. Notably, the University of Turku has established a satellite campus in Namibia being hosted at UNAM and it specializes in enabling students to study towards a Finnish accredited master's degree in software engineering. As UNAM shifts its strategic focus to include an enhanced research profile with a

societal and global impact, there is a realization that this focus is well aligned with several Finnish Higher Education institutions and increased partnership in this area would be of benefit to both nations, Namibia and Finland.

NAMFIN: Context and Objectives

Given the rich history between the two countries, the University of Namibia through its Centre for Research Services (CRS) and engagements with established Finnish scholars and Higher Education thought leaders, seek to initiate and operationalize a Namibia-Finland (NAMFIN) Research Academy. This is a platform aimed at promoting transformative research that responds effectively to national priorities and global initiatives as well as to UNAM strategic vision of becoming a research intensive University. Thus, the overall goal of NAMFIN Research Academy is to enable interaction between faculty, scholars, students, and industry to enhance research opportunities, academic excellence, real-world problem solving, and knowledge creation and dissemination. Specifically, the University of Namibia will greatly benefit in addressing challenges that contribute to low completion rate of postgraduate students; low research output and limited support for postgraduate research supervisors.

Strategic initiatives to be undertaken under the NAMFIN Research Academy shall target students, early and mid-career academics as well as established academics. The purpose is to further develop their skills and equip them with new and emerging research skills. The following initiatives are highlighted as examples of proposed activities:

- Established research groups;
- Establish Research Chairs;
- Hosting postdoctoral fellows;
- Joint supervision for higher degree students;
- Joint application for research funding from European and African funding bodies, research councils and Finland-Namibia bilateral agreements.
- Joint Schools/Seminars on Academic/Scientific writing skills and on Postgraduate supervision;
- Hosting research seminars/workshops/conferences;
- Mentorship opportunities for early and emerging scholars; and
- Skills development platforms for postgraduate students at UNAM, among others.