

Media release

Investing in the continuous professional development of Namibian Lecturers

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The continuous revision, development and sustainability of academic programs at higher education institutions demands a system to train and retrain instructors and academic staff on a continuous basis.

Rössing Uranium partnered with the University of Namibia's Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology to enhance the quality of engineering education and professional development of their academic staff through Industrial Engaged Internships.

According to Rössing Uranium's Specialist: Training and Organisational Development, Sophy Partenbach - Fick, the objective of the Industrial Engaged Internship is to equip academic staff with valuable practical experience to enable them to better understand and link academic programs to the real work environment.

Ms Victoria Amuthenu, Metallurgical Lecturer and Mr Amtenge Shivute, Mining Engineering Lecturer, were the first beneficiaries of this initiative.

The Lecturers spent six weeks rotating between various sections, from Mining (mine planning, pit operations, primary crushing); Geology (Reverse Circulation drilling, grade control); as well as Processing (from fine crushing to Solvent Extraction). They also spent time on the Tailings Storage Facility.

"We acknowledge that the professional development of academic staff is a vital element in ensuring transfer of knowledge and creating skilled graduates required in the labour market", Partenbach - Fick said.

Speaking about her experience at the mine, Victoria Amuthenu, Unam's Metallurgical Lecturer said that one of the key takeaway points is the emphasis put on employee health and safety at Rössing Uranium. "The mine has implemented initiatives such as Leadership in the Field, Critical Risk Management, Safe Shift Start, and various inductions are conducted to create awareness of

health hazards during which employees are reminded about the correct measures to avoid or minimise their exposure to health hazards such as dust and radiation.”

According to Amuthenu, , there's a need for an introductory course in Mining Engineering and Metallurgical Engineering students to provide them with basic knowledge of Mining Engineering processes and terminologies. Amuthenu added that industry specific safety short courses should also be introduced at universities to provide safety awareness to prospective employees of various industries.

“The six weeks Industrial Engaged Internship was very beneficial and they were afforded an opportunity to present their new learnings to the Rössing management team and took away recommendations on how to improve the academic programmes, said Partenbach - Fick .

Rössing Uranium remains committed to build its legacy in terms of its social responsibility sphere.



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About Rössing Uranium

Uranium was discovered in the Namib Desert in 1928, but it was not until intensive exploration in the late 1950s that much interest was shown in the area. After discovering numerous uranium occurrences, Rio Tinto secured the rights to the low-grade Rössing deposit in 1966. Ten years later, in 1976, Rössing Uranium, Namibia's first commercial uranium mine, began operating and celebrated its 40th year of production in 2016.

Leading in a new era of optimism for Rössing Uranium, China National Uranium Corporation Limited (CNUC) became the new majority shareholder in Rössing Uranium, the world's longest-running, open-pit uranium mine. This follows the sale of Rio Tinto's 68.62 per cent shareholding to CNUC on 16 July 2019.

China National Uranium Corporation's majority shareholding in Rössing Uranium opens the door to a new era for the mine, the Erongo Region and Namibia. Building on its strong and proud history, Rössing Uranium has been a driving force of positive change in Namibia since its inception in 1976. This legacy can now continue to grow, especially beyond its current life-of-mine projection of 2025.

CNUC is a subsidiary of state-owned China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), the main force in China's nuclear market with significant involvement in the nuclear fuel cycle supply chain in that country.

Rössing Uranium's new owner is the only authorised, national uranium production and operations company in China, engaged in uranium exploration, mining and processing.

With more than 60 years' experience in mine construction and operation, CNUC focuses on managing its parent company's domestic and overseas uranium businesses, which range from uranium exploration, mining and milling to conversion and other related fields.