



To: AMEU Standing Committee

From: AMEU WIE CHAIRPERSON - Ms. Lomile Modiselle

Date: 04 July 2023

LETTER OF APPRECIATION AND FEEDBACK FROM WIE – ATTENDANCE TO NAMIBIA WOMEN IN ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

The AMEU Women in Electricity (WiE) Chairperson Ms Lomile Modiselle and the Deputy Chair Ms Sheila Cele attended a one-day conference hosted by the Namibia WiE on the 23rd of June 2023. The aim of the conference which was held at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), was to commemorate the annual International Women in Engineering Day. The event was attended by Namibian Government officials, students from the faculty of the built environment at NUST, high school learners, NUST senior lecturers and guests from around Africa.

The theme for this year's International Women in Engineering Day is #MakeSafetySeen, which sets out to “celebrate the amazing work that women engineers around the world are doing to support lives and livelihoods every day”. The Namibia WiE have decided to tackle the issue of safety through their theme “reshaping Namibia with emerging technology and innovation”. There were many speakers invited throughout the continent; however, the most notable speakers were as follows:

The Deputy Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture honourable Faustina Caley, the Vice Chancellor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology Dr. Eroid Naomab

The representative from the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) Eng. Yetunde Holloway from Nigeria, the committee member of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FAEO) Dr. Martin Manuhwa and the AMEU WiE Chairperson Ms. Lomile Modiselle.

Even though the focus of the theme was on Namibia, the speakers mostly focused their points on Africa as a whole. Speaking about how we can utilise science and technology to ensure the richness of Africa benefits the people of the land instead of exporting all our raw materials due to the lack of skills and infrastructure only to import products made from our materials at a much higher price.

The highlight of the conference was on the young girls who won the World Engineering Day Essay Competition. The two learners read their essays which were engineering based solutions applied to real life problems and I must say that it was inspiring how much the two learners who are only in grade 8 were aware of the current affairs in the engineering sector and how they applied their minds to propose solutions for the future.

During the break, all the dignitaries were taken for the tour to NUST innovation centre, where we saw the demo of what was available in the university through the support of companies like GIZ, Namibian telecommunication companies and others. It must be noted that these companies have



ensured that they have permanent offices within the university to ensure innovation through 4IR technology is achieved.

Some technologies we've seen at the NUST innovation centre was amongst others:

- The smart kitchen
- Smart Cinema
- Smart Camera systems
- Smart Workstations where learners can explore and try their innovative designs

In the evening, all VIP guests were invited for dinner, where a review session was held, the purpose was to discuss the conference outcomes, where improvements could be made and shared ideas on how collaborations could be made to ensure that the little girl in Africa gets the exposure and support to accelerate innovation through science and technology. As AMEU WiE, we had a lot to learn during this visit and are sure to implement and forge forward the collaborations in accelerating a better future for women in Engineering and girls in STEM.

Lastly, would like to send our appreciation to the Standing Committee for allowing us to attend this informative conference, we sincerely appreciate your immense support, your flexibility and willingness to assist us when in time of need. As WiE, we always do the voluntary work, either from our pockets or from support by external organisations, and for the first time, we needed the financial support to our bigger AMEU structure, and we thank you for that. We have managed to travel safely to and from Namibia without any challenges.

Yours sincerely,

Lomile Modiselle