

Human Sciences Research Council

South Africa and Namibia to collaborate on producing national indicators on science, technology and innovation

Namibia, Monday 22 May 2017 – The Human Sciences Research Council’s Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) and Namibia’s National Commission on Research Science and Technology today concluded an agreement to collaborate on the production of national scientific and innovation statistics.

The agreement was concluded on the margins of the 2017 annual conference of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) from 22-25 May 2017. This MoU will advance the ongoing collaboration between the two agencies in the areas of learning exchanges, joint research projects and joint publications.

Science, technology and innovation indicators enables a country to measure, monitor and evaluate its scientific and innovative capabilities.

Speaking from Namibia, CeSTII Executive Director Dr Glenda Kruss said, “These capabilities matter because they can contribute to solutions to persistent development challenges, amongst others, water and food security, healthcare and education.”

“When looking at international case studies and analyses of best practice in economic development, we see that innovation can also play a significant role in this journey. We are therefore keen to understand what Namibia is doing well in this area and share lessons learnt so that our countries can benefit from our collective experiences,” concluded Dr Kruss.

Meanwhile Dr Eino Mvula Eino Mvula, Chief Executive Officer of NCRST welcomed the finalisation of this MoU between both agencies saying that “collaborations such as these are crucial to sharing the outcomes of work done in areas of mutual interest which could, amongst others, assist in identifying best practice and lessons learnt. Partnerships can also yield significant outcomes and contribute to how we leapfrog the learning and experience curves in the area of technology transfers, innovation and R&D,” concluded Dr Mvula.

While in Namibia, the HSRC’s CeSTII also shared work-in-progress as well as disseminated findings from its most recent national surveys, including its R&D Survey 2014/15 and the first national survey on intellectual property and technology transfer.

The results from these surveys were released in April this year and showed that, despite economic challenges, South African R&D increased in 2014/15.

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Notes to the Editor

The R&D Survey 2014/15 and National Survey on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer can be accessed here: <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/CeSTii/reports-cestii>

Access the proceedings of the release of the R&D Survey 2014/15 here: <https://t.co/vgBT7zhQJR>

About the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

The HSRC was established in 1968 as South Africa's statutory research agency and has grown to become the largest dedicated research institute in the social sciences and humanities on the African continent, doing cutting-edge public research in areas that are crucial to development.

Our mandate is to inform the effective formulation and monitoring of government policy; to evaluate policy implementation; to stimulate public debate through the effective dissemination of research-based data and fact-based research results; to foster research collaboration; and to help build research capacity and infrastructure for the human sciences.

The Council conducts large-scale, policy-relevant, social-scientific research for public sector users, non-governmental organisations and international development agencies. Research activities and structures are closely aligned with South Africa's national development priorities.

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