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**Attention: The News Editor**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*NCRST to host the Africa Regional Consultation of the Global Research Council (GRC) in November 2015*

The Governing Board of the Global Research Council selected Namibia to host the Africa Regional Consultation of the Global Research Council (GRC) in 2015. The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa have been competitively selected as co-hosts of the Africa Regional Consultation of the Global Research Council (GRC).

The summit which will be held in Windhoek in November 2015, is expected to attract a number of Heads of Research Councils from major research funding agencies from Japan, the United States of America, and Europe. These include among others, the head of the Japanese Society of the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the National Science Foundation (NSF) of United States of America and the German Research Foundation (DFG). These engagements will inform the 2016 Annual GRC meeting to ensure a true African voice at this increasingly influential meeting

For the Africa Consultation, the NCRST in partnership with NRF will host the African Regional Consultation under the overarching open forum entitled, 'GRC African Summit'.

"The emphasis of the Summit will be to construct a strategic and value-added programme through representation of all science granting councils in Africa, including dedicated and focused discussion, a high-level open panel meeting by the African Heads of Research Councils (AHORCs), and an academic symposium to encourage scholarly debate and strengthen partnerships among African scientists, and also to form networks with scientist from other parts of the world", said Dr Eino Mvula, CEO of the NCRST.

In 2014, the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa have successfully co-hosted the 2014 GRC Africa Regional meeting in Stellenbosch, South Africa in preparation for the 2015 GRC annual meeting

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which was held in Tokyo, Japan from on from 26-28 May 2015. The CEO of the NCRST, Dr eino Mvula participated at the GRC Annual meeting in Tokyo, where he part of the Roundtable discussion on building education and research capacity in Africa for sustainable development.

The Regional Consultation, in parallel with five others taking place around the globe, has as its primary aim to facilitate and coordinate deliberations and input on the main themes identified by the GRC Governing Board for the 2016, which will be held in New Delhi India in May 2016. Formed in 2012, GRC brings together Heads of Research Councils to compare notes on common challenges and discuss cooperation. Topics for discussion by Heads of Research Council from around the world in May 2016 will include issues affecting women in the scientific workforce and how to promote interdisciplinary research.

**Ends:**

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