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**Attention: The News Editor**

## MEDIA RELEASE

*Namibia hosts the Global Research Council (GRC), Africa Regional Meeting in Swakopmund on 16 to 17 November 2015*

The Governing Board of the Global Research Council (GRC) selected Namibia to host the Global Research Council (GRC), Africa Regional Meeting held on 16 and 17 November 2015 in Swakopmund. The Global Research Council (GRC) Africa Regional meeting is organized and co-hosted by the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) of Namibia, and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa with support from the German Research Foundation (DFG).

This Africa Regional Meeting, is one of five GRC Regional Meetings taking place around the globe the others being held in Americas, Asia-Pacific, Middle East/North Africa (MENA) and Europe, with its primary aim to facilitate and coordinate deliberations and input on the main themes identified by the GRC Governing Board for the 2016 GRC Annual Meeting 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. The GRC provides a dedicated platform for promoting the sharing of data and best practices for high-quality collaboration amongst funding agencies worldwide. The topics for discussion at this meeting are *Interdisciplinary and Equality and Status of Women in Research* and will form part of the discussion by Heads of Research Council from around the world in May 2016 in New Delhi India.

For the Global Research Council (GRC), Africa Regional meeting 2015, the emphasis is place on 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

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strengthen partnerships among African scientists and also to form networks with scientist from other parts of the world. For this reason a parallel academic session is also organised, which deals with pertinent topics on *energy and manufacturing technologies* that are essential for development, particularly as our continent strives to develop its manufacturing base towards industrialization. The purpose of the academic session is to bring together researchers, students and other stakeholders from Africa and Germany to discuss recent research in energy and manufacturing technologies. The sessions will also serve as a platform to discuss current and future sustainable solutions to Africa's energy and manufacturing challenges.

"I would like to encourage participants in this session to make use of this unique opportunity to engage in this interesting session and network in order to identify opportunities for collaboration thereby harnessing the impact of international collaboration. The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation is committed to support the enhancement of science in Namibia and establishment of a fully functional system of innovation which will make meaningfully contribution to socio-economic development of our country and African continent as a whole." Said the Hon Dr. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.

The meeting which is held in Swakopmund on 16 and 17 November 2015 has attracted a number of Heads of Research Councils from Africa as well as other major research funding agencies from different parts of the world for example, the United States of America, Germany, United Kingdom, and India. These include among others the National Science Foundation (NSF) of United States of America and the German Research Foundation (DFG), Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the Indian Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). These engagements will inform the 2016 Annual GRC meeting to ensure a true African voice at this increasingly influential meeting.

**Ends:**

**Issued by:** National Commission on Research, Science and Technology  
Office of the Chief Executive Officer

**Contact Person:** Iyaloo Kandjabanga  
Corporate Communication and Marketing  
Tel: 061 - 431 7055  
Fax: 061 - 21 6531  
Email: [ikandjabanga@ncrst.na](mailto:ikandjabanga@ncrst.na)