

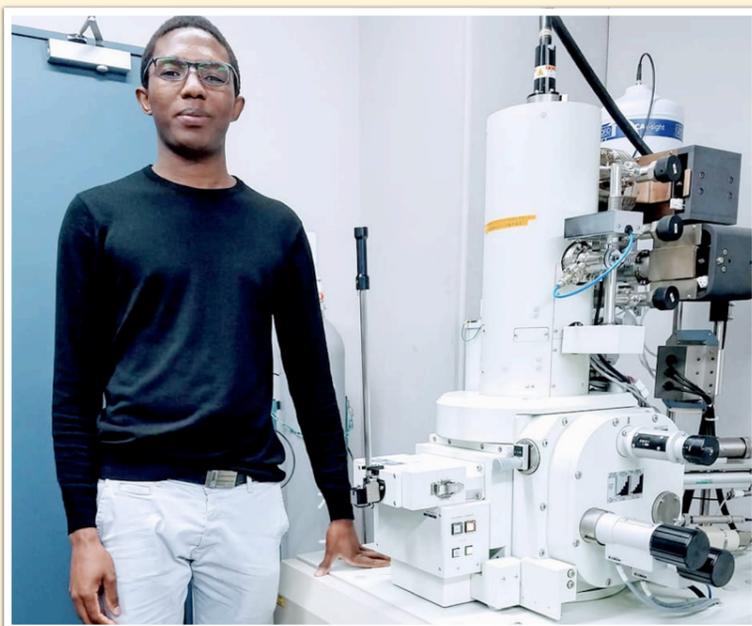
From goat herding to PhD in Physics

Born and bred in Eendadi village, Natangue Heita Shafudah finds himself in Japan reading towards a PhD in Renewable Energy and Physics.

Natangue says he grew up like many kids in the Ohangwena region, doing a large share of domestic work such as goat and cattle herding, cultivating Mahangu and fetching water from distant water points. He completed his high school at Oshela Senior Secondary School in 2008.

University education

He enrolled at the University of Namibia, for a four-year Bachelors' degree in Physics and Geology. His studies were sponsored by the NAMPOWER student bursary scheme. Afterwards, he enrolled for a Masters' degree in Physics at the University of Namibia, and was fortunate to be awarded a scholarship by the Namibian Government Scholarship Training Programme (NGSTP). After completing this degree in 2015, he started looking for opportunities and scholarships to do a PhD. He was awarded the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) scholarship, from the Japanese Government to study Renewable Energy and Physics. The University of Namibia supported him through the staff development fellowship programme.



Life in Japan

After arriving in Japan, he went through a six-month Intensive Japanese course which was also sponsored by the MEXT scholarship and offered by the University of Electro-Communication (UEC). "After grasping basic Japanese, it was an excellent opportunity to communicate with Japanese people and understand their culture and values", he remarked.

His research interests include numerical simulations, fabrication and characterisation of nanomaterials in the form of functional metal oxide thin films. "The Professors and my laboratory members at the university are very supportive, and we are always trying to find the best way to develop new

materials concept", says Natangue.

Life after Japan

After completing his PhD, he looks forward to coming back to Namibia and contribute to the development of the country via science and technology. "I am delighted to be employed at the University of Namibia and under the excellent leadership lead by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Kenneth Matengu", he says. Further adding "I look forward to contributing toward innovation toward sustainable energy materials, value addition of our country rare minerals, for us to realise the University's dream of becoming a Centre of Excellence and global hub of innovation in science and technology".

1000 Bars of soap donated to fight Hepatitis E



Academics from the UNAM Social Work Department, together with partners from Cardiff University launched a daring campaign to collect 1000 bars of soap from UNAM staff and students, to be handed to the communities most affected by Hepatitis E.

The initiative comes months after a UNAM social research study found that practices such as sharing a glass of Tombo - a traditionally brewed drink, eating kapana, and not washing hands are some of the various contributing factors that spread Hepatitis E. Recent media reports have showed increasing infection with mortality rates steadily climbing.

At the time of the research, the most affected communities were Samora Machel Constituency, Tobias Hainyeko Constituency, Moses Garoeb Constituency and Otjimuize Constituency. These communities were the targeted locations for the soap donations.

The detection of Hepatitis E outbreak was first noticed in the informal settlements of Havana and Goreangab, Windhoek, in December 2017. It then spread to northern

Namibia by mid-2018.

The University of Namibia's School of Public Health, in partnership with SEEDCORN funding from the University of Cardiff, Wales Phoenix Project, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, conducted the social science research with local communities.

The research discovered that there is generally a low level of knowledge and understanding of transmission, management and prevention of the disease.

In response to the findings of the research, Cardiff University, in close collaboration with UNAM students from the Visual Arts Department and the Social Work Department, committed to develop a communication strategy to raise awareness and education to #Kick Out Hep E.

UNAM Senior Lecturer, Dr Rachel Freeman and Dr Hermine Iita, in close collaboration with co-principal investigators, Professor Judith Hall and Dr Nina Gobatt from Cardiff University, under the auspices of the Phoenix Project, assisted by local research collaborators, were the driving forces behind the research.

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences awards Top Students

Top performing students from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (FEMS) were recently awarded prizes for excelling academically.

Students were awarded based on year group as well as per respective programme they are pursuing. The Dean's award went to Ms. JB Chifwala, a second year student, reading towards a Bachelor of Economics.

Academic Staff members from FEMS that have shown outstanding performance in their fields of research were also recognized.

As the second biggest faculty in the university and one that graduates the highest number of students across the university, FEMS has a real impact on advancing the human resources capability of the country and the region.

