

Namibian Minister of Education received Doctor of Philosophy degree at AeU's 4th Convocation



Asia e University (AeU) held its 4th convocation ceremony at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Over 1,200 graduands from around the world received their scrolls. The convocation was graced by ambassadors and representatives from foreign embassies particularly from the 33 Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) countries.

Among AeU's convocation highlights was the conferment of Doctor of Philosophy degree to the Honorable Dr. David Richard Namwandi, Minister of Education of the Republic of Namibia.

Dr. Namwandi believes in equality and quality education for all Namibians. Born in Okapya village, of Ondangwa, Oshana Region - Namibia, Dr. Namwandi, at age 60, was elected as a member of National Assembly and appointed as the Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Namibia in March 2010. He was also a Central Committee member of the ruling SWAPO Party in Namibia and he was appointed as the Minister of Education in 2013.

As a board member and chairman of various companies and educational institutions, he is also the Chairperson of Accreditation and Quality Assurance Committee of the National Council of Higher Education, and Vice Chairperson in the Vice Chancellors and Rectors Forum.

Dr. Namwandi is the founder of the first and only fully accredited private University, the International University of Management (IUM), in Windhoek, Namibia. Set up in 1994, IUM has a current student population of 8,500 in five satellite campuses around the country. Dr. Namwandi served as its Chairman and Vice Chancellor until he became the Deputy Minister of Education in March 2010.

As a man of high calibre, he had received numerous prestigious awards and recognitions for his contributions locally and globally. Among the credits earned are the Education Leadership Award at the World Marketing Summit, Malaysia (2013), the Outstanding Contribution to Education Award by the Central Bank of India, Mumbai, India (2012); and the International B-School Leadership, Ed-

ritius (2011). He is also the Chairperson of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO.

Dr. Namwandi was a PhD student with AeU since 2007. His thesis, 'Implementation of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Education and Training and its Impact on Economic Development: A Case Study of Namibia and Zimbabwe', studied the reasons behind the failure to implement the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Education and Training (SADC-PET). This study reveals the significant factors had hampered the implementation of SADC-PET, despite of its clear goals of developing a comparable and harmonised education, and training policies across all SADC countries.

Reminiscing his experience at AeU, Dr. Richard Namwandi is convinced that AeU's PhD's programme has enhanced his learning aptitude and knowledge about Asia, the Saharan and Sub-Saharan regions and beyond. He trusts that interested researchers will be intellectually stimulated by the findings of his study, in carrying out similar research in the remaining 13 SADC-Countries.

"The programme has changed my outlook in life. I have learned a great deal during my study at AeU, particularly about the research in education administration that I find very useful. Throughout my learning years, my family has been my staunch supporter. The key words for PhD study are, always give yourself a chance to pursue a lifelong learning experience; and to find a balance between your work, study and family. The outcomes maybe more than meet the eyes. It may change the way you like it, like it did to me. I will continue to be a good ambassador for AeU. I will encourage my fellow students to do the same. AeU has moulded and shaped us academically, so now it's our duty to ensure that the name and reputation of this institution is greatly enhanced." says Dr. Richard Namwandi with a beaming smile.

For details: visit www.aeu.edu.my
Minister of Education, Namibia, Hon. Dr. Namwandi receiving his PhD degree scroll from the Chairman of AeU at the convo-