

DAAD Speech 2020

Good Morning Colleagues, or perhaps in this context it may be more appropriate to say Guten Morgen.

Welcome to the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, or CPUT as it is more colloquially known in this region. CPUT is the largest university in the Western Cape and caters to a diverse community of roughly 40 000 staff and students, who are spread out across a number of campuses in the province. This Bellville campus is the official seat of the Vice-Chancellor and is also the administration hub of the university- so in essence you are in my home today.

CPUT has a rich and long standing relationship with German Higher Education Institutions and DAAD, which stretches far back to the very inception of this university when we switched from being a Technikon to a University of Technology in 2005. These cooperation agreements take the form of exchange programmes, projects and industry linkages. In fact this relationship has developed so exponentially over the years that CPUT now counts Germany as its largest international partner.

As such a highly industrialised nation, we look to you, our German counterparts to see how we can replicate some of the more successful elements of your own recipe for success in terms of truly grasping the opportunities that the 4th Industrial Revolution presents to us.

South Africa of course is a unique country with an equally unique set of opportunities and challenges. At CPUT we are constantly cognisant of the fact that Higher Education is **NOT** about the present. It is about the future, and we must prepare our students for a world of which we have but a vague sense. What we do know is that we need to develop really smart people with specific skills to address the problems our country and the world at large, face. In the South African context these problems are growing unemployment, issues of sustainability, issues of poverty and health, to name a few. Some of these are universal, some can be fixed, some needs vision.

CPUT is not as old as some Higher Education institutions which you may visit during your visit, but we are very rich in experience and most importantly, we understand diversity given our history. We appreciate you taking the time to visit us and showing an interest in engaging in our future. You will hear more about some of the interesting research and developments taking place at the institution from the various Deans and Heads of Department who will be speaking after me. I hope that some of these presentations spark more commonality between you and us and that future projects will be born out of today's visit.

Ladies and gentlemen, enjoy your visit to CPUT, Cape Town and South Africa.

Thank You

