

# Dieter-Esslinger-Pädagogiktagung

The annual *teachers conference*, named after one of its founders and former AGDS chairman, Dieter Esslinger, is a continuing education opportunity for teachers and educators from across Namibia who teach German as a subject or in German.

The conference for teachers and educators who teach German as a subject or at German-speaking primary schools and kindergartens has been taking place since the 1980s. Initially, the venue changed from year to year, until the former director of NIMT, Eckhart Müller, invited the conference members to NIMT (Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology) in Arandis. There, secluded in the Namib Desert, numerous conferences took place, where teachers and educators could participate undisturbed. Unfortunately, after NIMT expanded, this was no longer possible and the conferences then took place in the idyllic town of Omaruru. As the number of participants continued to grow, the accommodation options were no longer sufficient and since 2018, the Dieter Esslinger Teachers' Conference, which in 2024 was renamed to Dieter Esslinger Pedagogy Conference, regularly takes place in Otjiwarongo.

In Otjiwarongo, all participants are accommodated in a lodge, which is very conducive to the goals of the conference. The obvious goal is of course further education, but also networking and the very important exchange with each other which is facilitated during breaks and shared meals.

Since the main focus of AGDS is on teaching German as a native language, it is all the more gratifying that the Goethe-Institute of Namibia has offered to be a cooperation partner, thus also including teaching German as a foreign language. This development has greatly enriched this pedagogy conference.

The Pedagogical Advisory Board, currently consisting of seven educators and two AGDS representatives, is responsible for organising the conference. Taking into account the topics mentioned by the participants, they then try to invite local as well as international lecturers to offer a balanced program. This includes the preschool sector, as well as the primary and secondary levels. Usually also one lecture is offered which is not directly school-related.



Participants 2024

**The Dieter-Esslinger-Pädagogiktagung is an important event in the school calendar.**