



15 June 2009

NZPNG BUSINESS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

NZPNGBC today!

2009 Annual General Meeting

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at the Northern Club on Friday 10 July this year.

The AGM will be followed by a two course luncheon and refreshments where you will have the opportunity to network with other members and supporters of the Council before an address by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murray McCully**.

To register for the AGM and luncheon [click here](#)



Date Friday 10 July 2009
Time 1.15pm Registration
1.30pm AGM
1.45pm luncheon and address by the Minister
Venue The Northern Club, 19 Princes Street, Auckland
Cost Members* \$45.00 incl. GST
Non-members \$55.00 incl. GST
RSVP Friday 6 July 2009

* Membership rates are extended to members of NZPBC and NZFBC.





PNG trials fresh produce exports

Editorial by Tharron McIvor, Pacific Division, MFAT



Papua New Guinea has successfully completed a trial export of ginger to New Zealand, one of the first times PNG fresh produce has been exported to any country for commercial distribution.

Although other Pacific countries already export significant quantities of tropical fresh produce to New Zealand and elsewhere, to date PNG growers and distributors have focused on meeting domestic demand. Local logistical challenges also create serious difficulties for potential exporters.

Under the trial, a 40kg shipment of PNG ginger sent to Auckland was found to fully comply with the relevant import health standard developed several years ago under a NZAID-Biosecurity NZ project, and was distributed on to interested importers.

The pilot project was a valuable learning experience for PNG officials, who lack experience in areas such as packaging and handling, biosecurity/quarantine issues and market analysis. The Pacific Islands Trade and Investment Commission (PITIC) in Auckland funded two officials to accompany the ginger to New Zealand and undertake a programme of related fact-finding calls.

PNG is now interested in trialling further produce on the New Zealand market, including coconuts and taro. To take advantage of market opportunities, however, it will need to boost commercial production to meet potential overseas orders, and encourage inexperienced local growers and suppliers to consider fully commercialised exports.

For further information contact Tharron McIvor, Pacific Division: tharron.mcivor@mfat.govt.nz or 04-439 8483.





PNG guest workers set for October and November

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)



Between 600 and 800 workers from Papua New Guinea (PNG) will be in Australia between October and November for the fruit picking season, reports The National.

Sir Michael said during his meeting with Mr Rudd, he proposed for an immediate need for an aid exit strategy. “We both agreed for officials from both countries to immediately work on the terms of reference for the strategy, which must be ready for further discussions at the ministerial forum in Cairns next month. “On my suggestion, the strategy would involve an initial re-direction of resources and personnel from technical cooperation and consultancies towards actual expenditure on projects and programmes.”

PNG LIQUID NATURAL GAS BENEFITS DEAL FINALIZED - Landowners to get seven percent equity in project

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National)

Five weeks of intense negotiations between the State and gas resource landowners and their provincial governments ended on Saturday with the signing of an umbrella benefits sharing agreement for the PNG liquefied natural gas (LNG) project.

The agreement will land K20 billion in the hands of provincial governments and landowners over the 30-year life of the project and commits the State to certain important infrastructure and socio-economic developments in the provinces and specific license areas.

Despite strong opposition from certain landowners, the State negotiating team was able to get everyone to sign the BSA in a marathon signing session which ran till midnight on Saturday and then continued yesterday at 1pm.





Head of the Southern Highlands negotiating team and the biggest party at the talks, Governor Anderson Agiru, said yesterday: "We have cut a good deal. This deal now sets new parameters and new benchmarks in State/landowner relations."

PNG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY NEEDS SUPPORT – Minister Bill allowing foreign joint ventures to build capacity

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National)

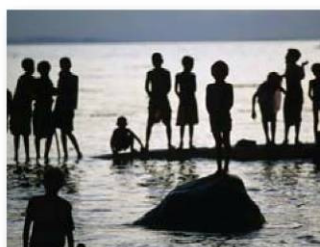


Transport Works and Civil Aviation Minister Don Polye is expected to introduce a bill in Parliament to allow more local participation in the construction industry.

He said many road and bridge constructions in PNG had taken longer than expected to complete because some of the main construction companies were prolonging construction due to machine and manpower shortages. Polye pointed out that because of this, huge losses were experienced in time, resources and delays in project completion.

He said most local construction companies lacked the capacity and specific requirements were neglected when they bid for contracts, but they could be sub-contracted to big foreign-owned companies to have interest in the projects. "I will introduce a bill in Parliament to push for a law to allow Papua New Guinean contractors to own 49-51% participation in joint venture with foreign-owned construction companies," he told a large crowd of people at Asaro government station that gathered to witness launching of district services improvement programmes.

Polye said local contractors must be given a chance in major construction projects to gain experience and build their profile which would allow the country to have skilled experts in the future. "The two areas to be developed would be to encourage foreign construction companies to have joint venture arrangements with local contractors and development of local experts," Mr Polye said.





RAMU NICKEL MINE BUILDS PIPELINE TOO CLOSE TO HIGHWAY - Environment threatened by vehicle accident

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National, June 3, 2009)

The Ramu nickel slurry pipeline's proximity to the Madang Highway poses a threat to the environment in the event of a vehicle accident or natural disaster, says a leading Papua New Guinean ecologist.

"In civil construction, structures should not be erected close to the road, this is to allow motorists to pull over during an emergency and so forth, this is logic and should have been applied". "The pipeline should have been routed well away from human habitation and well away from the road, it is surely a concern," the engineers said.

In 2000, the Ramu NiCo (MCC) Ltd was issued a special mining lease and in July 2007, the Mineral Resources Authority approved the amended project development. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) gave the green light in December 2007, by issuing the environmental permit, thus permitting full scale construction to commence last year.

Attempts to get comments and obtain a copy of the environmental impact assessment from MCC and DEC were unsuccessful. The DEC did not respond to e-mail and telephone messages, while the MCC in an email yesterday asked to be given "the formal documents before information is provided".

The e-mail flies in the face of its resolve "to communicating environmental management approaches and actions" as indicated in the 2006-08 sustainability report posted on the company's website. The report, however, said MCC was committed to the environment and had invested more than K7 million [US\$2.7 million] in baseline surveys and had already conducted awareness workshops with more than 500 locals.

