



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

23 November 2012

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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Index

In this Issue From the Presidents Desk

PNG Games

LCCI Christmas Function

Battle against Malaria

Low Water Pressure -
explanation

ICC News Update

European Commission
Weekly Digest

AusAID assisting Women
& Children Health

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

PNG GAMES

The ongoing PNG games this week in Kokopo have been a resounding success even though they got off to a slow start and the fact that some Provinces were not able to be represented. The games are important to PNG as they provide a relief from Politics that has dominated much of the 2012 year, and divert the people's attention away from the nation's all too numerous problems of high crime, ethnic clashes, drugs, alcohol abuse and family violence etc.

The Morobe Administrator has sent an appreciative message to the Lae Chamber of Commerce, for the financial support that many Lae business houses provided to "TEAM MOROBE" to get to East New Britain where they have performed admirably in the games.

The Morobe Governor Kelly Naru also rang the Lae Chambers on Tuesday from Kokopo to break the news that Morobe Province was successful in its bid to secure the 2014 PNG Games. Earlier that day at the Governors request, the LCCI sent a letter of support to the Governor for the Morobe the games bid and we were advised that this supporting letter became a vital part of the package that the Governors team put together to secure the event. Lae is the obvious choice for hosting the PNG games as it is central to most the country and hence easier and cheaper to get to. Lae also has most of the facilities for a successful games

Lae has already hosted a productive PNG games in 2007 and has the knowledge of what is involved. The multitude of athletes and officials that flock to our city during this event gives a good boost to our retails stores, guest houses and hotels, food outlets etc. It also showcases this city for its lushness and for the obvious development taking place. People can see for themselves that this city is a good place to live and do business, not a place where residents live under a cloak of fear because of crime and ethnic clashes as is commonly believed by other centres. There are many benefits to Lae in hosting the 2014 PNG games.

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Objectives
of the LCCI

- To promote the business interests of the private sector;
- To further the economic development in Lae;
- To ensure the provision of services and utilities essential to such development;
- To provide a representative body for business people, which government can consult;
- To promote support or oppose legislation; or take any other measures to improve the business community;
- To provide a forum for discussion of private sector goals;
- To pool the strengths of business people so that together, they can accomplish tasks that each one alone cannot achieve;
- To promote the economic viability of the area, so those current businesses will grow and new ones will be

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CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Come and join us at the Lae Chambers of Commerce Christmas Function

Where: HUON CLUB
When: Wednesday 8th December
Time: between 5:30 to 8:00 pm

All members and their spouses are invited to attend this function, which is a great opportunity for networking with other business executives. Finger foods will be served with beer and wine. Please make your booking with Jenna at the Chamber office on telephone 4722340, or by fax on 472 6038 or by return email to info@lcci.org.pg.

East Asia leaders agree to malaria alliance
21 November, 2012

Prime Minister Julia Gillard meets with world leaders at the East Asia Summit.

East Asian leaders have agreed to form an alliance with Pacific nations to accelerate the fight against malaria and overcome the emergence of drug-resistant strains of the disease.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard, speaking in Phnom Penh at the East Asia Summit, committed \$1 million to support the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance.

Prime Minister Gillard said the Alliance will promote regional political leadership and collaboration on combating malaria.

'Australian funding is expected to support the establishment of task forces to explore options to meet financing gaps and improve access to anti-malarial medicines and technologies. The Alliance will also identify key research and development priorities,' she said.

Malaria, a wholly preventable and treatable disease, killed more than 42,000 people in the Asia-Pacific in 2010 and causes more than 650,000 deaths worldwide every year.

The emergence of drug-resistant malaria is a serious threat to regional and global efforts to combat this public health challenge.

On 20 November at the East Asia Summit, an Australian initiated declaration was adopted by leaders of the region, committing countries to working collaboratively to address malaria control and resistance to anti-malarial medicines. The Alliance will assist the implementation of this commitment.

The Alliance will also build on the agreement reached by Asia-Pacific regional leaders at the recent Malaria 2012 conference in Sydney to strengthen and coordinate the regional response to the disease.

United States President Barack Obama gave his support to Australia's declaration on drug-resistant malaria and committed to supporting Thailand's efforts to strengthen malaria control and surveillance, particularly among migrant populations along its borders with Myanmar and Cambodia, where drug-resistant malaria is most prevalent.

Australia has already committed more than \$100 million in funding over the next four years to help reduce death and illness from malaria in the Asia-Pacific region. The funding includes:

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FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA (Cont)

An estimated \$9.5 million through the Three Millennium Development Goals (3MDG) Fund in Myanmar to buy bed nets and to purchase drugs to treat children and their families.

\$25 million to Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea to help local clinics to roll out testing kits for more accurate diagnosis of the disease, community awareness campaigns and insecticide spraying.

\$5 million for the World Health Organization to address drug-resistant malaria in the Mekong region.

\$10 million for malaria research as part of the new AusAID Medical Research Strategy.

More information

[Regional leaders unite in the fight against malaria \[external website\]](#)

[Malaria 2012 \[external link\]](#)

[Australian leadership to fight malaria and save lives \[external link\]](#)

[Fact sheet: East Asia Summit outcomes \[external link\]](#)



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The acting General Manager of the Water PNG Lae Operations Mr. Imbu Palya advised that the low pressure of water in Lae this week was caused by the emergency repair work on one of the main valves which warranted a temporary shut off during the non peak hours on Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning.

Maintenance work is currently still in progress and Water PNG will continue to schedule works during off peak times. Accordingly from here on we will provide prior notice to the chamber and the public.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to the members.

Were you affected by low water pressure on Wednesday?

Here is the explanation from Water PNG

International Chamber of Commerce News Alert



International Chamber of Commerce
The world business organization



ICC tax recommendations expected to improve foreign investment climate in India

New Delhi, 22 November 2012

International members of the ICC Commission on Taxation and delegates from large Indian corporates and multinationals, including tax professionals, held important discussions today on the investment climate in India, including specific tax policies such as Finance Act 2012, Direct Taxes Code, PE litigation and income attribution, and the Goods and Service Tax (GST).

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2012/ICC-tax-recommendations-expected-to-improve-foreign-investment-climate-in-India/>

ICC seeks MENA input on Business World Trade Agenda

Doha, 18 November 2012

Business leaders from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) gathered in Doha today to provide regional input on the recommendations of the Business World Trade Agenda, an initiative launched by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in partnership with Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2012/ICC-seeks-MENA-input-on-Business-World-Trade-Agenda/>

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Newsletter - Weekly digest

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

EU and Latin American countries formally end banana disputes

The EU and eleven Latin-American countries signed on November 9, in the presence of WTO Director General Pascal Lamy, a "Mutually Agreed Solution" through which they agree to end eight pending WTO dispute settlement proceedings on bananas.

The signature follows the certification by the WTO of reductions in EU tariffs on imports of bananas, as part of the "Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas" (GATB), which was concluded with Latin American countries in December 2009. According to this agreement, certification of the reduced tariffs automatically triggers the settlement of the outstanding disputes. Within two weeks after certification, parties to the agreement jointly notify the Dispute Settlement Body that they have reached a mutually agreed solution through which they have agreed to end the disputes.

[Press Release](#)

[More on dispute settlement](#)

LATIN AMERICA

EU Trade Chief to visit Mexico and Peru to foster trade ties

Commissioner De Gucht has visited Latin America this week to meet with Mexican and Peruvian government representatives and discuss how Trade relations between the EU and Latin America can further be improved.

In Mexico (12-14 November), Commissioner De Gucht has met Mr Enrique Peña-Nieto, President-elect of Mexico, who will take office on 1 December and Mr Bruno Ferrari, the incumbent minister for Economy, Trade and Industry. In Peru (15-16 November), the Commissioner meets with Ms Marisol Espinoza, Vice-president and Mr Luis José Silva Martinot, Minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism. The meeting with the Peruvian Ministers takes place in the light of the imminent entry into force of the trade agreement concluded between the EU, Peru and Colombia.

[Press release](#)

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Australian Government
AusAID



Child health is improving in PNG, and it's all about the people

Posted on **November 20, 2012** by **Engage**

By **Professor Trevor Duke**, Centre for International Child Health, University of Melbourne

I have seen many improvements in child health in Papua New Guinea in the 15 years that I have been working with the health system there, led by committed young paediatricians who have designed and implemented a [national plan for child health](#).

The PNG Paediatric Society, Health Department and University of PNG representatives at the review of the Child Health Plan, September 2012. Photo: Trevor Duke, Centre for International Child Health, University of Melbourne

As a member of the National Child Health Advisory Committee and the Paediatric Society, I was part of a review held in September to assess whether this plan is on track. At that meeting, leaders in child health presented strong evidence of progress in the most challenging of problems.

Immunisation is one of the most cost-effective ways to save lives. For vaccines to [reach every district](#), the Health Department has identified the 20 lowest-performing and most isolated areas and completed a stocktake of childhood immunisations, services and vaccine supplies. AusAID has provided \$1 million to implement the [Reaching Every District initiative](#) in concert with support from WHO and UNICEF. The Health Department is also partnering with AusAID, WHO and UNICEF to provide mass vaccination across the whole country, against measles and polio. With revitalised services for the hardest to reach, this is already making a difference.

The *Haemophilus influenzae* vaccine against pneumonia and meningitis was introduced successfully in 2008, and the pneumococcal vaccine is to be introduced in 2014. The Health Department is also active in prevention of pneumonia through improving nutrition (including breastfeeding), reducing indoor air pollution, encouraging hand-washing and early treatment. Treatment programs that introduced [oxygen therapy](#) have seen a 35 per cent reduction in death from pneumonia. Pneumonia, diarrhoea and neonatal conditions are the major causes of hospitalisation and child deaths in PNG.

Women & Children health AusAID providing assistance

Neonatal health is a continuing priority; while child and infant mortality has fallen in the last decade, neonatal mortality remains static at 28-30 per 1000 live births. As part of an effort to implement better standards of neonatal care, the health department has assessed five hospitals in the Highlands district and established a model for quality district-level services.

Malaria is no longer one of the top three causes of hospital admission for children due to the widespread use of insecticide-treated bed nets. The health department acknowledges that maintaining this program beyond the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#) will be a challenge.

With support from the Clinton Health Access Initiative, rural clinics are now HIV testing, counselling and treatment centres. Effective programs to prevent transmission of HIV from parents to children have seen the rate of infection to newborns from mothers who have HIV falling from 30 per cent in 2007 to 15 per cent in 2012, meaning many fewer children are born with HIV.

Tuberculosis treatment through a fixed-dose combination of medications has been introduced nationally; however, access to medication in health centres is currently inadequate. Major policy changes were recommended from this meeting.

Information about common causes of hospital admissions and deaths has improved over the last three years with the introduction of a [new reporting system](#). During this period, 36,000 admissions from 15 hospitals have been documented in detail. This information will assist the Health Department to prioritise clinical and public health programs and to track future progress in child health.

A dedicated and trained health workforce has achieved improvements in child health but more training facilities for child health nurses and community health workers are needed to provide sufficient numbers. AusAID is helping to develop a skilled health workforce. They have provided invaluable support to the University of PNG School of Medicine and Health Sciences for a decade, and are providing scholarships to support the training of nurses, midwives and community health workers.

Many challenges need to be addressed in the coming years. Long-term development depends on national coordination of programs and services for child health, implementing programs and services in all provinces, a good understanding by provincial health officials, and monitoring the scale and quality of implementation. Maternal health is a large determinant of child survival, and there is much to do to reduce maternal deaths and improve family planning. Increased investment in maternal and child health, matching the growing wealth of the country, is an urgent priority. Factors outside the health sector, particularly education, agriculture and environmental health will be major determinants of long-term progress.

Child health in PNG is in good hands. We hope the economic opportunities of the next decade will put much greater resources into improving children's health, and that a more equitable spread of opportunity will enable parents to better care for their children.

About the author: Professor Trevor Duke

Professor Trevor Duke is the Director of the Centre for International Child Health, University of Melbourne, and Adjunct Professor of Child Health, School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of PNG.

The Centre for International Child Health receives funding from AusAID through [Compass: Women's and Children's Health Knowledge Hub](#). Compass is a partnership between the Burnet Institute, Menzies School of Health Research and the Centre for International Child Health, University of Melbourne

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NOVEMBER 2012

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