



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

24 May 2013

VOLUME: 21 - 13

LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

NZPNG BUSINESS COUNCIL DELEGATION TO LAE

On Thursday the NZ-PNG Business Council organized 13 New Zealand Business Delegates to visit Lae. The team was led by Her Excellency Marion Crawshaw the New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG, along with Michael Greenslade NZTE's Trade Commissioner for the Pacific, Stephen Eagle Chairman, NZPNG Business Council in Auckland NZ and Foreign Affairs & Trade personnel.

The team left for Port Moresby on Friday Morning, where they will remain until Saturday.

The group made visits to numerous companies in Lae, which provided a good cross section of the business community. A cocktail function arranged by the business council on Thursday evening, provided an opportunity for the delegates to network with Chamber members. Some of the delegates were also able to meet members on a one on one basis.

The increased number of Trade Missions to Lae and PNG on a whole is due to the good economic conditions in PNG in general, as companies from other countries are taking the opportunity to look at expansion of their business or improved trade with PNG. This interest is not only displayed by the Private Sector but by Political leaders – see the article on this topic under the Business Advantage extracted articles later in this newsletter.

Prime Minister's business delegation to Indonesia

The Prime Minister will make an official visit to Jakarta, Indonesia from 17-21st June. He will take a business delegation from PNG with him and he is hoping that a reasonable sized group of Lae businesses will accompany him.

IPA is liaising with Air Niugini for transport arrangements and any details as to special fares etc are yet to be finalized. Likewise accommodation is yet to be finalized.

At this stage we are asking for early expressions of interest for those who are interested in making the trip.

Please send us your details – name, phone, company and email and we will get back to you with further information shortly as it comes to hand.

If there is enough interest we could arrange further sessions with the Indonesia CCI.



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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 developed locally;



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NOTICE:

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AFTER 1 JUNE 2013 INQUIRIES FROM CLIENTS WITH A PENDING APPLICATION CAN BE DIRECTED TO: Immigration.Port-Moresby@dfat.gov.au

GENERAL INQUIRIES AND ANY FURTHER APPLICATIONS CAN BE COURIERED TO OUR PORT MORESBY BRANCH:

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against corruption
this coming Sunday!
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WALK AGAINST CORRUPTION – this coming Sunday

The walk against corruption will be held in Lae for the first time on Sunday 26th May. A map of the route of the event appeared in last week's newsletter. This very good cause needs the support of the Private sector and we ask that you encourage your employees to make the effort to participate. The walk is 5 KM and will start at the Sir Ignatius Kilage Stadium at 6:00 AM this coming Sunday.

Registration forms are available from - Evah Banige on 738 37005/ 763 22905.

For further information, please contact the Chairman Mr. Brian Alois on 768 79931 or Secretary - Evah Banige on 738 37005/763 22905.



NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NOTICE

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE/TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS ON THE HIGHLANDS HIGHWAY AT KUMBAL – JIWAKA PROVINCE

We wish to advise all Business Houses and the Traveling Public that due to urgent maintenance works on the Kumbal portion of the Highlands Highway, there will be a total road closure on that portion (Kumbal near Jiwaka and Chimbu Border) on the **26th May (Sunday) from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm** to allow for the erection of a temporary bridge crossing over the failed culvert which is being replaced. The road will be reopened to all traffic immediately thereafter, however with changed site conditions.

All road users are kindly asked to take note of this important notice and program their schedules and or routines accordingly.

For enquiries or should you require further clarity on the same, please call 472 1655 or 542 1088 or cell phones 716 909 65 and 710 077 93.

Ponege Poya
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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 - o Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort
 - o Mercure Cairns Harbourside
 - o Ibis Styles Cairns Colonial Club
 - o Ibis Styles Cairns
- Palm Cove
 - o Pullman Sea Temple Palm Cove Resort and Spa
 - o M Gallery Reef House Boutique Resort and Spa
 - o Novotel Palm Cove
 - o Grand Mercure Palm Cove
- Port Douglas
 - o Pullman Sea Temple Port Douglas Resort and Spa

If you wish to book at any of these hotels, contact the Lae Chamber of Commerce for an introduction.

Business Advantage PNG

YOUR GATEWAY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE REGION

Australia-PNG: Maintaining momentum

by [Jenny Hayward-Jones](#) - 17 May 2013 3:04PM

Papua New Guinea has been the beneficiary of an awful lot of love from Australia of late.

Our nearest neighbor has been treated to visits from the Governor-General, new Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Matt Thistlethwaite, Foreign Affairs Minister Bob Carr, Prime Minister Julia Gillard and this week [Queensland Premier Campbell Newman](#).

This much attention lavished on one country in such a short space of time suggests a crisis in the relationship, but these visits were more about a belated recognition of PNG's growing economic importance to Australia.

Julia Gillard's first visit to PNG as Prime Minister put some substance around her promised [new chapter in the bilateral relationship](#) between Australia and PNG. [It may not have been particularly startling](#), but was vital nonetheless.

There is plenty of substance at the official level and in the business relationship to keep the momentum up in this new chapter. But if Papua New Guinea is as important to us as the Prime Minister has declared, it deserves the same kind of political attention as our other first order bilateral relationships. We can't afford to wait another five years for the Australian Prime Minister to drive some high level attention to the relationship. There are a number of opportunities that can be seized by both sides to ensure momentum is not lost.

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Business Advantage article of the week!



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Australia-PNG: Maintaining momentum (Cont)



The Queensland Government has stepped up immediately.

Queensland is the state that does the most business with Papua New Guinea and is at the pointy end of Australian interactions with [PNG's health crisis](#). Campbell Newman's visit, with its focus on business, health and police cooperation will probably have more immediate practical impact for Papua New Guineans than the agreements signed by the two Prime Ministers. The memorandum signed between Premier Newman and PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill calls for face-to-face meetings between PNG and Queensland every six months, something that Prime Minister Gillard could not promise.

Newman's commitments on behalf of Queensland are a good thing because they serve to further broaden and deepen the relationship. They should be seen as an integral part of the bilateral relationship, even if not driven by Canberra.

To her great credit, Prime Minister Gillard seized the opportunity in Port Moresby to [champion the rights of women in Papua New Guinea](#), raising it during her state dinner speech and announcing a [PNG Women in Business](#) initiative. [As I've argued previously in these pages](#), the first female Australian Prime Minister has responsibility to advocate for PNG's women, who endure appalling [levels of domestic violence](#).

Australian women are themselves [standing in solidarity with PNG women](#), holding events to coincide with protests by women in Papua New Guinea itself. Encouraging more Australian women politicians on both sides of politics to provide personal support, with the assistance of the aid program, to their counterparts in the PNG parliament and to aspiring women politicians could be beneficial. More regular opportunities such as [these meetings of women parliamentarians](#) would help.

Papua New Guinea also has a responsibility to build momentum in the relationship. Prime Minister O'Neill is a frequent visitor to Australia and has demonstrated he knows us well and feels comfortable [being frank with the Australian Government](#). He needs to maintain the high level attention he's captured from Canberra by staying in regular touch with the Australian prime minister and senior ministers. O'Neill's own children study in Australia, part of the next generation of PNG's friends of Australia, and representing the Prime Minister's personal stake in the bilateral relationship.

PNG's investments in Australia total \$1.8 billion, which interestingly far exceeds the amount of annual Australian aid given to PNG (\$463 million). Australia is also the most popular destination for PNG students completing their tertiary studies abroad, with 1268 students from PNG studying in Australia, mostly at post-graduate level, in 2012. Leveraging these elements of the bilateral relationship will help the PNG Government strengthen its influence in Australia.

Investing in this new stage of the relationship with Australia will help PNG establish itself as a modern and reputable partner and increase opportunities for PNG to broaden its bilateral relationships with other countries.

Photo by Flickr user [UN Women Asia & the Pacific](#).

Paul Barker is with INA and raises many of those issues with the development of Agriculture in Papua New Guinea.

Is there a real commitment by the Government to address all the problems that are affecting the Agricultural Industry?



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Opinion: Give Papua New Guinea agriculture the break it needs

22 May 2013 by [Paul Barker](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

Paul Barker argues for a far greater emphasis on Papua New Guinea's largest most widespread economic activity — agriculture.

Lip service is often paid to the importance of the agriculture sector, which provides the livelihoods for over 80% of Papua New Guinea's population. Concern is also expressed at the level of urban population growth and the limited capacity of PNG's towns to absorb such numbers.

Yet, for years, successive governments have largely ignored the needs of rural households, scandalously raising, then dashing hopes by setting up overdue sector support funding (notably, the National Agriculture Development Plan) and then largely wasting it.

The farmers' associations, like the Rural Industries Council, could see this coming and recommended a transparent mechanism, but this was ignored.

Sadly, over the years, PNG's various reputable agricultural institutions have been undermined or left to deteriorate with inadequate financial support, poor management and oversight. PNG's farmers' strong need for sound professional support and advice, provided through research and practical field experience, has not been met.

The sector's institutions certainly need reform to make them accountable, principally to PNG's own farmers. Some can certainly be merged, and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock converted into a largely producer-controlled, professional and responsive organisation.

But neither agriculture's prospects, nor other industries (including manufacturing or tourism), can be guaranteed unless the economy is competitive.

The new Government's commitment and focus on infrastructure, law and order, education and health, and especially shifting funds to the Districts, sustainable development and diversification is a welcome and overdue shift in favour of ordinary PNG households and rural areas, including suffering farmers (if the capacity is there to implement the bold aims).

Whether they are rural or peri-urban farmers/gardeners, PNG's producers require:

- Land (usually just a few hectares), with adequate tenure security to make long term commitments
- market access (that they are sufficiently close to market outlets, or a reliable road, air or shipping service to get produce out without it deteriorating unduly)
 - adequate price, which in turns requires
 - suitable and consistent world or local market, which in agriculture is often not the case. Stabilisation schemes were provided hitherto in PNG for some major crops to reduce price/income fluctuations
 - suitable exchange rate (ie that the kina is not too strong against the currency—often US dollars for cash crops—in which the product price is set). With major influxes of foreign exchange into PNG for resource projects, the kina tends to appreciate, undermining farmer prices and returns.
- safety, security and low risk of produce theft
- availability of quality and pest/disease resistant planting material
- skills (in production, marketing and business)
- market information and know-how, especially entailing new material or how to add value
- access to improved producer support, through cooperatives, group marketing and private partnerships
- access to savings, credit and advice
- risk minimisation through crop diversification, stabilisation or support arrangements when prices fall below a certain threshold, and insurance

Now is the chance for government to demonstrate that it recognises the critical role of agriculture in providing broad household needs and income, as well as 30% of GDP and sustainable production and exports.

PNG has millennia of agricultural production and skills behind it. It has good agricultural land. The country has no option but to foster its agricultural sector and associated downstream processing and value-adding, both as it provides sound long term and broad-based opportunities for the majority of the population, but also because there are no options which will absorb its fast-growing workforce for the foreseeable future.

But neither agriculture's prospects, nor other industries (including manufacturing or tourism), can be guaranteed unless the economy is competitive.



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Give Papua New Guinea agriculture the break it needs (Cont)

The cost of living is extraordinarily high, even for a developed country. Going for top quality niche products is one way to overcome high costs, but it's crucial that these overall costs are reduced to really increase opportunities.

Many of these costs fall in the category of 'public goods' provided by the State. Poor roads, policing, utilities, extension services etc undermine business and opportunities, but could be addressed if government uses its revenue much more effectively and accountably.

Now is the chance for government to demonstrate that it recognises the critical role of agriculture in providing broad household needs and income, as well as 30% of GDP and sustainable production and exports.

Let this be on the basis of wide and effective industry consultation, however, rather than driven from above, or by some cronies or lobbyists pushing their own barrel.

Give the agricultural sector a chance, by first listening to those who live and work in it.

Paul Barker is Director of the [Papua New Guinea Institute of National Affairs](#), a privately funded, non-profit think-tank based in Port Moresby.

ICC News Alert!



International Chamber of Commerce
The world business organization



MOU with Arbitration Place boosts ICC Arbitration in North America Paris, 21 May 2013

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the International Chamber of Commerce and Arbitration Place – an arbitration hearing centre in Toronto, Canada – is set to benefit the international arbitration community and reinforce the ICC International Court of Arbitration's commitment to North America.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2013/MOU-with-Arbitration-Place-boosts-ICC-Arbitration-in-North-America/>

Seize opportunity to join ICC Institute through simplified membership Paris, 16 May 2013

A restructured membership programme for ICC's Institute of World Business Law promises to expand the unique network and attract further involvement from qualified legal practitioners and others interested in the practice, study and development of international business law.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2013/Seize-opportunity-to-join-ICC-Institute-through-simplified-membership/>

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TETANUS

The Department calls on the Private Sector to assist with the Third Round of Tetanus Vaccinations

TETANUS

The Secretary of the Department of Health is holding an advocacy meeting on how he expects the Private Sector to assist in supporting the third round of Tetanus vaccinations throughout Papua New Guinea. As this meeting will be in Port Moresby and time is short, I suggest that you contact the Department of Health on phone 3013601/34, fax 3013604 or email health_secretary@health.gov.pg. The LCCI will try to obtain further details on contacts or possible further advocacy at a more convenient location and advise accordingly.

Private Organizations
 Development Partner

Dear Sir/madam

Subject: **SUPPORT FOR THIRD ROUND OF MNTE CAMPAIGN 2013**

The National Department of Health is hosting a meeting for the Private Organizations in preparation towards Tetanus Toxoid Vaccination campaign round 3 for women of child bearing age 15 to 44 years and you are invited to attend.

It is known that, globally around 4.5 million neonates die in each year from neonatal tetanus and around 40 thousands mother die from tetanus acquired during delivery. As per resolution of the Global Accelerated Disease Control Strategy, the Government of PNG is also committed to eliminate this killer disease from this country.

For eliminating neonatal tetanus, women of child bearing (WCBA) age should be vaccinated with TT vaccine during their pregnancy. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Department of Health is going to vaccinate all WCBA with TT vaccine through a campaign strategy which will be held during June-July 2013. This is the third round of TT campaign and by this time the department of health conducted the first and second round of MNTE campaign during April and October 2012 respectively aiming to vaccinate all WCBA with TT vaccine.

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To vaccinate around 2 million WCBA throughout the country is a huge task and it is not possible for the department of health alone for successful implementation of the campaign without the help of the other organizations. For better coordination and cooperation the department of health planned to organize an advocacy meeting on 29th May 2013 at 1:30pm hours in the conference room of the ~~Hide Away Hotel~~. We believe that there are areas from planning to implementation phase where your organization can contribute in implementing the campaign. Your presence in that meeting will be highly appreciated.

Thank you for your as usual support in implementing different health activities in PNG. We hope that you will also extend your cooperation for successful observance of the campaign and hence help to eliminate neonatal tetanus from this country.

Yours faithfully

 Mr. Pascoe Kase
 Secretary for Health



Key Messages
Tetanus Toxoid
 Round 3
 MCH Outreach Activities
 17 June - 26 July 2013

Tetanus is dangerous

- Tetanus is a serious infection that occurs when the infectious organism enters the body through an open wound. Tetanus in newborn infants occurs when the umbilical cord is cut with unsterile cutting instrument or when the umbilical stump becomes contaminated because of unsterile dressing.
- Tetanus causes painful muscular contractions and rigidity that can lead to respiratory paralysis and death especially among newborns. Tetanus appears in newborns as early as the 3rd day after birth.
- During delivery a mother can get infected with tetanus as a result of unclean delivery practices leading to possible death.
- The best prevention for tetanus is a series of Tetanus Toxoid vaccinations. Women who are fully immunized with TT will have long-term protection against tetanus and will pass that protection to their newborn children at the time of birth. Tetanus Toxoid is a safe vaccine for all females including pregnant women 15-45 years.
- The earlier or younger a female gets TT vaccination, the more likely that she will have full protection for herself and her newborn infant during her child bearing years.
- Tetanus in newborn can be prevented if all pregnant women have received at least 2 doses of TT vaccine before delivery. Clean delivery practices and proper care of the newborn baby's umbilical cord can greatly reduce risk of infection.
- Children boys and girls, before the age of one year should complete routine immunization to receive 3 doses of pentavalent vaccine, which includes TT vaccine.
- Boys are not covered by the TT Campaign because females are the ones at high risk for tetanus infection during childbirth and for the newborn.

Go... to your nearest immunisation post

- All females of child bearing age – 15-45 years
 All pregnant women
 For TT Round3 vaccination
- All females of child bearing age – 15-45 years
 All pregnant women when she feels baby movement but not in 1st trimester
 For albendazole
- All parents take your children
 - Under one year for routine immunisation
 - 6 months to one year for vitamin A supplement
 - 0 – 5 years for Oral Polio Vaccine in 10 selected provinces



For more information:
 Ask the health/Church and other community workers at your nearest health facility. Listen to your provincial radio for more information on TT. Tell other women/parents about TT Round 3 on 17 June to 26 July 2013.

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