



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

27 September 2013

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

LAE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROJECT

Alan McLay attended the fourth of a series of meetings of this Office of Higher Education Committee meeting on the Lae Training and Development Centre of Excellence Project this morning. As explained in the LCCI newsletter previously, the aim is to take better advantage of Lae as location of the nation's two Premier Technical Training Institutions – the PNG University of Technology (UNITECH) and the PNG Polytechnic College (formerly Lae Tech).

One of the obstacles that is a barrier of a better alliance between these two institutions is that Unitech is under the Office of Higher Education and the Polytech is with the Department of Education. Hence there has been no cross utilization of facilities and staff and unfortunate situations have developed like a diploma graduate of Polytech cannot carry forward any credits to Unitech degree.

The idea of the Lae Training and Development Centre of Excellence is to bring both Institutions under the one body and in this case the Office of Higher Education, so that the following benefits can be achieved:

- a system of academic credits established;
- equipment and machinery can be shared,
- lecturers and teaching staff can be better utilized;
- students can be given access to libraries and equipment;
- plus a whole range of other mutual benefits.

The four meetings held so far have been attended by Industries and Resource Industries, who are hoping to capitalize on the benefits of a better unification of these Institutions. So far the organizations that have attended meetings are: Morobe Mining JV, Newcrest (Brisbane and Melbourne offices), Harmony Gold, Oil Search, Esso Highlands (with Exxon Mobil showing interest). The Lae Chamber has been the voice for the Lae Private Sector.

The current **survey** that the Lae Chambers has been running for the past three weeks is to obtain information on needs and requirements of Industries. So far we have received 24 completed surveys which gives us a good indication of these needs, however so that a strong case can be presented, we need at least double the number. Therefore we are impressing on companies to complete this survey - at the following link:

<http://kuakawa.poll daddy.com/s/survey-training-needs>

We do understand that the survey is quite long but this is because the extensive information that needed to get a full understanding of the requirements. The end result will be that courses can be designed and tailored to better suit the needs of Industries.

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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 developed locally;
- To provide business with a common voice.



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LAE ROADS

You will all have seen the Post Courier article this morning on the **“Project Update on Lae City Roads Rehabilitation and Upgrading by the Department of Works & Implementation”**.

This article provides information on the reason for the delays to the current projects, and is copied below. This should result in a better standard of road in the city. Mind you when the DoW first looked after the Lae Roads, they were not so concerned about the standards or designs, so I our wish is that this new look DoW&I keeps up these standards, designs and improves delivery.

The article goes onto say that a project steering committee has been set up to Manage the Lae City Roads Project which includes a representative from the Morobe Chamber of Commerce. This of course is the Lae Chamber of Commerce Incorporated.

Department of Works notes the recent comments expressed by the Governor for Morobe and the users of the Lae City Roads regarding the slow progress of the Lae City Roads Upgrading Project. We take this opportunity to provide an update and responses to some of those issues and concerns.



Pouring of Concrete Pavement in Progress

Project Background

In view of widespread mismanagement of the contracts both in design/construction and financial aspects of the Project, the present government has directed all the funding of the project to the Department of Works to manage and execute the remaining works of the project.

Since inheriting responsibility of this road, the Department of Works had dealt with a lot of issues including uncontrolled variations enumerating to K140million and poor workmanship by contractors related with major flaws and irregularities in the technical standards and contract documents.

The Oneill/Dion Government's direction to Department of Works is very clear 'Quality and Value for Money'. Accordingly, the proposed concrete roads must meet high quality and design standard requirements.

Causes of Delays and Corrective Measures

PNG has no concrete pavement design standards. One of the delays has been the time taken to develop our own design standards for concrete pavement. It has taken us almost three (3) months to develop our own standards. We are happy to inform that Department of Works has now for the first time developed appropriate design standards for concrete pavement relevant to addressing the unique challenges presented in Lae. Without the design we would be only guessing and compromising quality again.

Time invested in getting project structures, specifications and supervision provisions right should not be considered as time wasted. Concrete pavement is highly vulnerable to moisture from wet weather. It has been very wet in Lae in the first of this year 2013. This has resulted



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LAE ROADS (Cont)...

in a slow production on the ongoing contracts thereby causing a significant delay to the overall progress.

Current Project Status

There are total of 40km of primary and secondary roads serving the city of Lae. Of this, 19km is currently undergoing major upgrading works to concrete pavement standards. Tenders for next 20km on the new concrete pavement standards have gone out and will close by Friday 27th September 2013. All ongoing works should be completed by the end of the year 2013 and new contracts should commence by coming month October 2013.

Pouring of Concrete Pavement in Progress

The priority is on the reconstruction and rehabilitation works. Routine maintenance works of the other sections not on the program should be the responsibility of the provincial government. However, Department of Works is putting together long term performance based maintenance contracts to keep the existing roads also in a reasonable condition whilst simultaneously progressing the upgrading works.

Project Governance

The project is managed by a project steering committee represented by Department of Works, Department of Transport, Morobe Provincial Administration, Morobe Chamber of Commerce and representatives from the Morobe community where projects status reports are always presented. This also provides avenue for providing collective project leadership and direction on how best the project should be delivered. We consider that no one should be left in suspense on the project status

Assurance

The Lae City Roads upgrading project is a strategic project of national importance. Design is key so that we avoid the repeat of premature failures and substandard projects.

We wish to assure all our citizens of the Lae City and the Hon. Governor for Morobethat all standards and process are now in place to deliver the Lae City Roads to high standard.

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Business Advantage
article of the week!

More stories are
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[Business Advantage](#)

Business Advantage PNG

YOUR GATEWAY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE REGION

Bemobile gets cash injection as government steps in

25 Sep 2013 by [Business Advantage](#)

The Papua New Guinea Government has increased its stake in mobile phone company Bemobile, following the collapse of a deal with the Fiji National Provident Fund.

bemobile

The PNG government last week authorised the Independent Public Business Corporation to increase its shareholding from 47 per cent to 85 per cent. The IPBC is investing US\$85 million (K220 million) in Bemobile to recapitalise the telco, and will take four positions on the board.

The move follows the Fiji National Provident Fund's [withdrawal in August](#) from its agreement to buy 50% of the company.

State Enterprises Minister Ben Micah has said he would like to offer Bemobile up for public subscription within two years, which would make the telco the first state-owned enterprise to be floated on the Port Moresby Stock Exchange.

Syd Yates, the outgoing Chairman of the mobile phone company, says the timing of the company's proposed public float would depend on how the company was performing.

'My point of view is that it is achievable, but it will really depend on the performance of the business; that it has established a consistent rate of return and a sound platform to move forward,' Yates told *Business Advantage PNG*.

The immediate plan, says Yates, is that Bemobile management, headed by Acting Chief Executive Officer Raj Deo, will stabilise the network and continue its plans to upgrade technology.

Some industry sources estimate Bemobile has about 10 per cent of the PNG's mobile phone market, behind market leader Digicel PNG.

The remaining 15% of BeMobile is owned by the Asian Development Bank, PNG Sustainable Development Program, Steamships, Nasfund, Nambawan Super and Hong Kong-based GEMS.



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Continued -

**Business Advantage
article of the week!**

Papua New Guinea Sovereign Wealth Fund coming in a nick of time

25 Sep 2013 by [Business Advantage](#)

With Papua New Guinea’s Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) due to receive its first revenues next year, the Governor of the country’s central bank has given his approval. Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund has sounded a note of caution.

Loi Bakani, Governor of the Bank of Papua New Guinea, says he is happy with laws setting up PNG’s proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund, which will receive the state’s expected income from resources ventures, most notable the ExxonMobil-led PNG LNG project.

Legislation to establish the fund was passed in February 2012, while the precise administration of the fund, which will be managed in PNG but invested offshore, is still being finalised. A revised version of the Organic Law is due to be tabled in Parliament soon.

Preventing ‘Dutch Disease’

‘I am very comfortable with the new Organic Law because it meets the internationally recommended [Santiago Principles](#) of governance and maintenance’, Governor Bakani told the 2013 Papua New Guinea Advantage investment summit earlier this month.

‘My assessment is that, after several iterations, we have reached a state in which it will be of great value in stabilising the economy and preventing the “Dutch Disease” phenomena from occurring and, if it does, to counteract it.’

Previous government estimates expect the fund to receive be about US\$30 billion (K75 billion) over the life of the PNG LNG project. These funds would make PNG’s SWF the 26th largest such fund in the world, based on today’s values.

IMF concerns

While the International Monetary Fund shares Bakani’s view of the SWF legislation and approves of its integration with the national budget (all withdrawals from the fund must flow into the budget), it is more concerned about the details of the fund’s administration. In a statement issued earlier this month, the IMF’s Yongzheng Yang noted that the fund ‘now needs to be adequately resourced and operated.’

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Continued -
Business Advantage
article of the week!

Sovereign Wealth Fund (Cont)

The [conclusions](#) of the IMF's recent mission to PNG go into more detail. They argue that the integrity of the fund needs to be 'safeguarded', noting that some revenues could potentially bypass the fund:

'Any significant diversion of mineral resources from the SWF and hence potential bypass from the budget process could lead to spending that may not be consistent with the government's development priorities, countercyclical fiscal policy, or Parliamentary scrutiny associated with the budget process.

'Moreover, the mission encourages the government to revisit the withdrawal rules early on to ensure that sufficient resources are accumulated in the SWF for stabilization and development purposes.'

Sub-funds

The fund will contain four 'sub-funds', according to Loi Bakani. They are the Sovereign Wealth Futures Fund; the Sovereign Wealth Development Fund; the Sovereign Wealth Stabilisation Fund and the Sovereign Wealth Management Fund. While most income will be invested offshore for the longer term, some will be made available for national development projects.

According to the Government's recently-released [2014 Budget Strategy Paper](#), the Organic Law on the SWF will be 're-introduced in the Parliament as soon as possible during the remaining 2013 Parliament sessions to meet some constitutional requirements.'

Assuming constitutional requirements surrounding organic laws are met and PNG's parliament approves the revised law, it should be become operational in 2014—in a nick of time.

Morobe Provincial
Government elects
new Deputy
Governor

THE MOROBE TUTUMANG

The Morobe Tutumang is the Provincial Assembly and since the 2012 elections, the newly elected Governor requested the names of three nominees from the Lae Chamber of Commerce, to be considered for the private sector representative to the Assembly. Of the three names submitted Mrs. Nellie McLay became the Tutumang Member representing the Private Sector.

The Provincial Assembly is made up of the Morobe Provincial Electorate member being the Governor, the nine National Open Electorate Members, the 25 Rural Council Presidents and one of the Mayors of the 3 Urban Councils.

Yesterday the freshly elected Council Presidents were sworn in to the Tutumang after which the Tutumang met and elected the Deputy Governor. We would like to congratulate the newly elected Deputy Governor Mr. Judas Nalau who is the President of the Yabbim-Mape LULLG in Finschhafen.

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An absorbing presentation by ANZ at a cocktail function on 15th October 2013

Bold Thinking: Imagining PNG in the Asian Century

The ANZ will be launching a major new report on Papua New Guinea's future titled '***Bold Thinking: Imagining PNG in the Asian Century***' on Tuesday, 15 October 2013 in PNG. The launch will feature two functions - a breakfast function with the Port Moresby CCI and a cocktail function on that evening to the Lae CCI members.

'***Bold Thinking: Imagining PNG in the Asian Century***' details the significant opportunity available to PNG as a result of the shift in global economic growth to Asia. The report concludes that PNG has the potential to grow export revenues at least four-fold to US\$23 billion by 2030 and explores the strategic response required from all stakeholders in order to drive forward a vision of a vibrant, dynamic PNG. It has been commissioned by ANZ Group, with the research work and report written by Port Jackson Partners (www.pjpl.com.au).

The event format is a late afternoon/early evening cocktail function. The presentation will be done by Grant Mitchell from Port Jackson Partners, and the ANZ PNG Managing Director Mark Baker will be in attendance along with Vishnu Mohan, ANZ CEO Pacific.

All that the Lae Chamber members need to do is turn up at **5:30 PM to the Bulolo Room of the Lae International Hotel** and enjoy a few pleasant drinks and finger foods and enjoy this absorbing presentation.

You are further asked to **register with Jenna on 472 2340** the names of attendees representing your company, or reply by return email. We do advise that you must register otherwise you will be refused at the door.

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Taiwan Trade Fair

**2013 Taiwan Trade Mission to Papua New Guinea:
Expand Your Business with Products from Taiwan**

The Trade Mission of the Republic of China (on Taiwan) in Papua New Guinea and the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), Taiwan's foremost trade and investment promotion organization, are pleased to make a joint announcement that the Taiwan Trade Fair 2013 in Papua New Guinea has been organized.

The Fair is scheduled for the 7th and the 8th of October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Moresby, NCD, PNG. Twenty dynamic enterprises from Taiwan will exhibit their latest products and work in partnership with a number of businesses in the region. This event provides local enterprises the unique opportunity of meeting the Taiwanese delegates in person for discussion on possible business cooperation.

The delegation also will be exhibiting their products at a 2-day stop in Lae on the 10th and 11th of October, located at the PNG Forest Research Institute. In Lae, the delegation will be presenting Taiwan's latest business opportunities.

The Taiwanese enterprises in the delegation come from a variety of industries and will showcase their products ranging from bedding and towels; blinds and furniture; hardware and lubricants; skincare products and cosmetics; ICT and electronics; solar portable applications and solar LED lighting; sanitary napkins and baby products; auto and truck parts; USBs and CCTVs; rice milling machines; bio-economics related energy solutions; machinery and total solutions for all industrial equipment; fishing products and equipment for fishing boats, and many other high quality products from Taiwan.

The trade volume between Taiwan and Papua New Guinea increased to US\$268 million as of 2012, compared with US\$151 million in 2011. The bilateral trade between Taiwan and Papua New Guinea is expected to grow further in the coming years.

Be sure to visit us and don't miss this unique opportunity. For more information about the Taiwanese delegation, please contact:
Trade Mission of the Republic of China (on Taiwan) in Papua New Guinea
Level 8, Deloitte Tower, Douglas St., Port Moresby, NCD, Papua New Guinea
Tel: (675) 321-2922
Fax: (675) 321-3510
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Taiwan delegation visits Papua New Guinea:

Enhancing trade relations through a variety of trade activities

From October 7th to the 8th, 9:00 to 17:00, the visiting delegates will be exhibiting their products at the 2013 Taiwan Trade Fair at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Moresby.

The delegation will extend the exhibition and their business contacts with a **2-day stopover in Lae on October 10th and 11th, at the PNG Forest Research Institute.**

This event intends not only to provide PNG's local SME the unique opportunity of meeting with the delegates in person for negotiation on possible business cooperation, but it also serves as an ideal occasion for Taiwan to establish closer trade ties with PNG.

WHAT IS TAITRA? – The Taiwan External Trade Development Council.

TAITRA will present a wide range of promotional materials and catalogues representing Taiwan's key business sectors, at the same time offer helpful tips on how to do business with Taiwan. TAITRA will facilitate visitors and buyers in product/supplier sourcing, and introduce what business and partnering opportunities are available. TAITRA therefore welcomes any enterprise interested in knowing more about Taiwan's businesses, and invites them to take advantage of this chance to learn about the many business prospects that are available on the island.

Contacts: Trade Mission of the Republic of China (on Taiwan), in Papua New Guinea

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The is an offer sent to the LCCI from the Director General of the Office of Higher Education Professor David Kavanamur

If you wish to participate or hear more about this scheme - you can join the OHE team for Lunch at the Lae International Hotel on Monday 7th October 2013

Please call Jenna on 472 2340 or by reply email to book a seat

24th September 2013

Mr. Allan McLay
President - Lae Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc
P O Box 265
LAE
Morobe Province

Dear Mr. McLay,

SUBJECT: SEEKING PARTNERSHIP/ASSISTANCE FOR JOB PLACEMENTS OF AUSTRALIAN TAFE TRAINED & QUALIFIED GRADUATES

The Government of PNG (GoPNG) has recognized the critical shortage of skilled and competent workforce in the country to achieve its Medium Term Development Goals, National Development Strategic Plan 2030 and the PNG Vision 2050. As an immediate course of action starting 2011, it has embarked on training young citizens (between the ages of 18 and 26) in heavy trade skills in various TAFE institutions in Queensland, Australia. Currently we have available Pre-employment job-ready graduates, both females and males, at certificate II level in the following trades for immediate job placements.

1. Civil construction,
2. Construction,
3. Automotive mechanics,
4. Engineering Fabrication,
5. Mechanical Engineering,
6. Air Conditioning & Split Systems,
7. Drainage & Plumbing,
8. Hospitality, and
9. Sustainable Energy

We are now embarking on a nation-wide road show to invite private and public industry organizations to engage these young trainees. Some of these graduates will be on a 3 to 4 year apprenticeship (On-the-Job) training engagements under normal National Apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board (NATTB) administration. Others are available for immediate job placements.

We would also like to use this opportunity to gauge input from industry to advise our team on other skills that we can potentially provide training for under our scholarship programme.

There are generous incentives in place to entice employers to engage our graduates. The generous package includes the state paying for the first 3 months of the initial engagement for each graduate. Please see attached for details.

Hence, we would like to meet with your members on **7th October 2013**. We have booked *Lae International Hotel* for a lunch hour meeting. We will provide lunch.

During that meeting we would like to showcase the type of training we have availed our graduates through. We will also inform on the incentives and be on hand to answer any queries your members may have. We will have with us, representatives from the Australian TAFE institutions, for any training queries your members may have.

Please confirm through Mr. George Bopi (Managing Consultant) on gbopi@global.net.pg or contact the office on Phone 301 2090 or Fax 325 8385 if you are able to inform and invite your members to this road show.