2018 PNG UPDATE

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

“PNG in the year of APEC”

Jointly organised by the School of Business and Public Policy of the University of Papua New Guinea and the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University

14th and 15th June 2018

New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
The University of Papua New Guinea

Sponsored by:

The Australian Aid Program, The University of Papua New Guinea, The Australian National University
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Acknowledgements

The staff and students of The School of Business and Public Policy, UPNG
The Vice Chancellor and Management team, University of Papua New Guinea
The Director and Team, Physical Facilities Management Division, UPNG
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We gratefully acknowledge the generous funding and/or support of: the Australian Aid Program through the Papua New Guinea Governance Facility (PGF), the School of Business and Public Policy (SBPP) of The University of Papua New Guinea and The Australian National University (ANU).
This publication contains abstracts of research papers presented during the 2018 PNG Update conference on “PNG in the year of APEC”, held on Thursday and Friday, 14 and 15 June, 2018 at the University of Papua New Guinea, Waigani Campus.

The PNG Update is a multi-disciplinary conference that covers contemporary economic, political and social issues in Papua New Guinea (PNG). In this year’s conference, developments related to the general theme of “PNG in the year of APEC” will be discussed, including:

- PNG’s economic outlook and fiscal management
- Regional political and economic relationships Institutional development and service delivery
- Governance and the political economy of development
- Human security in local, national and international perspective
- Community health, resilience, and adaptation in conditions of uncertainty
- Strategies for sustainable, broad-based and inclusive development in PNG

In order to facilitate debate on issues of national interest, all sessions are open to policy-makers, bureaucrats, professionals from the public sector, private-sector, non-governmental sector, students and all other members of the general public. Attendance is free and registration is not required.

The School of Business and Public Policy at The University of Papua New Guinea and the Development Policy Centre, the Australian National University jointly publish this publication.

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2018 PNG Update – *PNG in the year of APEC*
Thursday 14 and Friday 15 June 2018. The University of Papua New Guinea, Waigani Campus, Port Moresby

Hosted by the School of Business and Public Policy, University of Papua New Guinea and the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University

7:00-9:00pm  Wednesday 13 June – Cocktail reception – New Lecture Theatre *(by invitation only)*  
Master of Ceremony: Mr. Emmanuel Gorea  
Reception address by Mr Bruce Davis, Australian High Commissioner to PNG (TBC).

Day one – Thursday 14 June 2018  
*Venue: New Lecture Theatre (NLT), UPNG*

8.30am  Registration and arrival tea and coffee

9.00am  **Plenary Session 1: Opening addresses**  
*Master of Ceremony: Dr. Lawrence Sause*

**Welcome**  
Mr Vincent Malaibe, Acting Vice Chancellor, The University of Papua New Guinea

**Inaugural address**  
Mr Charles Abel, Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister

**Opening address**  
Sir Charles Lepani, Chairman of the APEC 2018 Coordinating Authority – “PNG in the year of APEC”

10.30 – 11:00am  Morning tea

11.00am  **Plenary Session 2: Economic developments**  
*Master of Ceremony: Prof. Lekshmi N. Pillai*

**PNG’s economy**  
Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey – Shadow Minister for Treasury and Finance

**ANU-UPNG PNG economic survey 2017-2018**  
Bao Nguyen, Dek Sum, Nelson Nema, Rohan Fox and Stephen Howes

12.30 – 1:30pm  Lunch

The organisers would like to acknowledge the funding support provided by the Australian Aid Program to the 2018 PNG Update
1:30pm Parallel Session 1

1A. Land and development
Chair Person: Prof. Mangae Matui
Thomas Wangi
Accessibility of customary land for residential property development in Papua New Guinea: challenges and prospects
Angela Mageto
National sustainable land use policy
Michael Agum
Issues in accessing customary land for national projects in PNG

1B. Exchange rate issues, trade, and the macroeconomy
Chair Person: Mr. Nik Soni
Bao Nguyen and Dek Sum
The effects of real exchange rate and external shocks on Papua New Guinea’s trade balance
Martin Davies
A new policy framework for resource-rich developing countries: can an export boom be contractionary
Stanis Hulahau
Food inflation and its impact on the economy of Papua New Guinea
Marcel Schroder
Determinants of the effectiveness of macro-prudential policy in the Asia-Pacific: take away lessons for PNG

1C. Security and employment
Chair Person: Dr. Linus Digi Rina
Johnson Ahupa
Human security perspective: a case study of working class women in Goroka
Michelle Rooney
Ethics and methods in researching gender based violence
Christopher Hoy
What is the benefit of a comprehensive active labour market program? Evidence from PNG
Richard Curtain
How is Australia’s Seasonal Workers Program performing and what PNG can do to lift its numbers?

1D. Health programs and performance
Chair Person: Prof. John Vince
Kevin Ali
Donor funding to the PNG health sector: how much, where it comes from and where is it spent?
Tabian Ambang
Implementation planning of the National Health Plan in a decentralized health system in Madang province, Papua New Guinea
Jennifer Litau
A multi-disciplinary analysis of service access, community resilience and maternal mortality in Gulf Province
Alphonse Kona
Public service motivation and brain drain in Papua New Guinea’s public sector: a case of PNG’s national health department

3:00 – 3:30pm Afternoon tea

Venue listing:
A: New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
B: Main Lecture Theatre (MLT)
C: Arts Lecture Theatre (ALT)
D: Science Lecture Theatre (SLT)
3:30pm Parallel Session 2

2A. Governance and development I
Chair Person: Prof. Steven Winduo
Teddy Edwards Winn  Citizens’ perceptions of patron-client politics on corruption within the civil service and governance system in PNG
Grant Walton  The wrong way to close a funding gap: anti-corruption and the 2018 PNG budget
Livai Kuaken  Independence of the governance and managerial functions of the state-owned enterprise in Papua New Guinea
Mark Moran  Trade, livelihoods and development in Papua New Guinea’s South Fly region

2B. Agriculture, fisheries and tourism
Chair Person: Dr. Joyce Rayel
Mike Bourke  Climate change: impact on Papua New Guinea agriculture
Brendan Jinks  The 2018 earthquake in Papua New Guinea: were lessons learned from the 2015-16 drought?
Michael Kabuni  Post-Brexit impact on PNG’s canned tuna industry exports to the UK
Allan Sumb  Visitors’ perceptions of safety and security issues in Madang Province, PNG

2C. Port Moresby studies
Chair Person: Fiona Hukula
Sofia Bartlett, Tahina Booth and Kina Mala  A community-initiated pilot program using sport to address non-communicable diseases, anti-social behaviour and social inequality
Jack Assa and Elton Powe  Service characteristics and regulatory oversight of public transport in Port Moresby
Lorraine Maro Taram  The changing role of women in fresh food marketing: a case study from Port Moresby
Eugine Ezebilo  Preferences and willingness to pay for recreation in Port Moresby Nature Park: an application of the choice experiment approach

2D. Digital technology
Chair Person: Mr. Charlie Gilichibi
Nisa Fachry, Amanda H A Watson and Christina Cheong  Market fee payment through custom-made software: the findings of a pilot
Daniel Martin  Electronic government: factors that influence adoption by agencies in Papua New Guinea
Paul Kaita  Decisions and behaviour: lessons from a Goilala ICT project
Murdo McRae  Is a bank-led model the best way to introduce digital financial services in emerging markets? A case study of PNG

5:00pm Close for day

6.00pm  Film night – Viewing of My Father, My Country, Q&A following with Dame Meg Taylor
   New Lecture Theatre (NLT)

Venue listing:
A: New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
B: Main Lecture Theatre (MLT)
C: Arts Lecture Theatre (ALT)
A: D: Science Lecture Theatre (SLT)
Day two – Friday 15 June 2018

8.30am  Registration and arrival tea and coffee

9.00am  Plenary Session 3: Leadership and the future               Master of Ceremony:  Mr. Ben David
New Lecture Theatre (NLT)

  Keynote
  Mr Tony Shepherd AO, Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct Executive Advisory Board

  Keynote
  Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General to the Pacific Islands Forum

10.30 – 11:00 am  Morning tea

11.00am  Plenary Session 4: ANU-UPNG research showcase               Master of Ceremony:  Prof. Stephen Howes
New Lecture Theatre (NLT)

  Health phone services in Papua New Guinea
  Amanda H A Watson and Ralph Kaule

  Decentralization in PNG
  Emmanuel Gorea, Lawrence Sause and Lhawang Ugyel

  Family and sexual violence – impacts on education
  Dora Kuir-Ayius and Michelle Rooney

  Infant industry protection in PNG: case-studies
  Maholopa Laveil and Rohan Fox

  Health expenditure performance in Papua New Guinea
  Colin Wiltshire, Amanda H A Watson, Denise Lokinap and Tatia Currie

12.30 – 1:30pm  Lunch
1:30 pm Parallel Session 3

3A. Housing
Chair Person: Mr. Jerry Wemin
Eugene Ezebilo
Potential public-private partnership strategy for promoting effective housing delivery
Francis Odhuno
Public perceptions about housing benefit tax in Papua New Guinea
Logea Nao
Trunk infrastructure is necessary for large-scale housing developments: lessons from the Duran Farm Housing Project
Lewis Iwong
Exploring affordable housing: case study of informal rental housing in Ensisi, NCD

3B. Governance and development II
Chair Person: Mr. Vincent Malaibe
Paul Kelly
Cultivating a participatory approach to governance in Papua New Guinea
Barbra Thomas
Understanding youth perceptions of governance: need for space, engagement and participation
Terence Wood
The deep determinants of district development in PNG
Fiona Yap and Anthony Swan
Governance reform, leadership and support in PNG: evidence from experiments
Henry Okole
Understanding governance in PNG: urban versus rural

3C. Microfinance and financial inclusion
Chair Person: Prof David Kavanamur
Rohan Fox and Christopher Hoy
Improving rates of female financial inclusion at the household level
Robyn Cornford
Achieving effective financial inclusion for women in PNG
Muneer Babu Mancheri
Performance of microfinance institutions in Papua New Guinea
Martin Davies
Financial Inclusion in Papua New Guinea: a lender but not a borrower be!

3D. Public health
Chair Person: Prof Nakapi Tefurani
Barry Reed
Rampant and neglected: malignant mouth cancer and dental disease: their burdens and ultralow cost solutions for PNG
Jordana Dawson Hayes
Strengthening eye care in Papua New Guinea
Peter Siba
Public-private partnerships: important for addressing development issues in Papua New Guinea
Lhawang Ugyel
Integrating formal and informal institutions: The Bougainville healthy communities program

3:00 – 3:30 pm Afternoon tea

Venue listing:
A: New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
B: Main Lecture Theatre (MLT)
C: Arts Lecture Theatre (ALT)
A: D: Science Lecture Theatre (SLT)
### 3:30pm Parallel Session 4

#### 4A. Politics and elections
- **Chair Person:** Mr. Sam Kaipu
- **Sarah Kaut-Nasengom**
  - What are some lessons that we can learn from experiences of women in the 2017 National Elections?
- **Bal Kama**
  - The role of the judiciary in the post-election era
- **Geejay Milli**
  - Promoting equality and political participation through APEC
- **Stephen Pokawin**
  - Institutionalization of politics in service delivery
- **Russel Yangin**
  - Papua New Guinea elections embedded in its political culture: a narrative of the 2017 general election

#### 4B. Resource projects: revenue and land
- **Chair Person:** Dr. Anna Joskin
- **Glenn Banks and Martyn Namorong**
  - Resource revenues, transparency and development: Using EITI to promote more sustainable development in Papua New Guinea.
- **Kenneth Cornilius**
  - Application of community mapping in mine impacted communities in Papua New Guinea: the case of Mt Kare gold project
- **Bill Sagir**
  - Improving standards in the practice of social mapping and landowner identification in PNG’s oil and gas industry
- **Stephen Howes**
  - Resource revenues in PNG: why so low?

#### 4C. Education and performance
- **Chair Person:** Ms. Suzanne Edgecombe
- **Andrew Julius**
  - Discussion on sustainability of tuition fee-free education policy in Papua New Guinea
- **Russel Kitau**
  - Roller-coaster: the challenge of using teaching and learning as an opportunity for teacher professional development
- **Aivat Epeli**
  - Cushioning state funding declines of universities
- **Kieran Sciberras**
  - Regional influences on the anthropometric and performance characteristics in PNG: a work in progress

#### 4D. Sustainable development
- **Chair Person:** Prof. Misty Baloiloi
- **Kia-Henry Nema**
  - Making the best use of the SDG’s in PNG
- **David Mowbray**
  - Eco-centric and strong sustainability strategies for sustainable, broad-based and inclusive development in PNG
- **Mathew Komabo**
  - Sustainable urban design, planning and management for PNG cities and towns
- **Alfred Faiteli**
  - The population and development dichotomy: where does PNG fit in?

### 4.50pm Closing Session: concluding remarks
- **Master of Ceremony:** Mr. P. Manohar
  - New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
  - Prof. Lekshmi Pillai, Dean SBPP UPNG
  - Prof. Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

### 7:00-10:00pm Update dinner - UPNG Drill Hall (by invitation only)
- **Master of Ceremony:** Prof Stephen Howes
  - Book Launch of *Seven snapshots of a Nation: contemporary challenges and opportunities facing Papua New Guinea*
  - Jonathan Pryke – Director of Lowy Institute Pacific Islands Program

*The organisers would like to acknowledge the funding support provided by the Australian Aid Program to the 2018 PNG Update.*
2018 PNG Update – Abstracts in order of presentation

Thursday 14 June 2018

Parallel Session 1a – Land and development

Accessibility of customary land for residential property development in Papua New Guinea: Challenges and prospects

Thomas Wangi, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute,

Email: thomas.wangi@pngnri.org

State-owned land in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is almost exhausted whereas demand for it, relative to supply has continued to increase, which contributes to pushing up property prices. In order to promote more economic development in PNG, we could supply more customarily-owned land to the formal land markets, as highlighted by PNG Vision 2050. This paper focuses on the views of some private residential property developers in Port Moresby regarding investing in customary land. Prospects and challenges associated with access to customary land for development are discussed. The developers reported that they prefer to invest in state land because it is secure and has clear land title. They raised concerns that state land is becoming depleted and that the only option is to find a way to access customary land that has secure tenure. The incorporated land group (ILG) and voluntary customary land registration (VCLR) system have been developed to mitigate challenges associated with inaccessibility of customary land for development. The VCLR system results in a broad-based development that generates benefit for the state, investors and customary landowners. In order to improve access to customary land, it is important to promote public awareness on the importance of VCLR, encourage land dispute resolution and to simplify VCLR process. Others include, increase in effectiveness and efficiency of customary land administration, reduce costs associated with the registration process, educate customary landowners about the registration processes and promote transparency in the registration processes.

National Sustainable land Use Policy

Angela Mageto, Lecturer, University of Papua New Guinea

Email: amageto@upng.ac.pg

The National Sustainable Land Use Policy sets out a statement of the guiding principles where an analysis of the impacts of higher order policies upon sustainable land use issues are covered. Higher policies contributed to the contextual framework for NSL UP. The mandate function of National Sustainable Land Use Policy derives from the Goal of the National Constitution and is supported by the Physical Planning Act 1989. The Goal states that; "Papua New Guinea’s natural resource and environment should be conserved and used for the collective benefit of all and should be replenish for the future generations". The development of a holistic approach to planning rather than focusing on a single aspect of planning for sustainable land use. An integrated physical planning through the framework provided by the National Sustainable Land Use Policy recognizes the importance of balancing the promotion of development with conservation and sustainable rural development. The legal apparatus is necessary so that land is freed up for recognition by financial institutions. This should lead to achieving broader development objectives and reducing economic poverty for the majority of Papua New Guineans. Most specifically, the direct outcomes. The National Land Development Program’s main perspective of land reform is for releasing land for development and poverty reduction. Consequently, the aim of land reform is to effectively use land for economic development and to protect the rights of the vulnerable section of the community. This requires a strategy on land policy, land use planning for customary and state land. The conclusion of the Discussion Paper is that PNG has an enormous opportunity to deliver its constitutional and international obligations to protect the environment, through National Sustainable Land
Use Policy-1014 whilst at the same time alleviate poverty for communities that do not employ sustainable land use practices whilst working the land.

**Issues in accessing customary land for national projects in PNG**

*Michael Agum, Consultant*

*Email: michael.agum@gmail.com*

This paper presents excerpts of fieldwork and discusses issues identified in accessing customary land for Ramu 2 Hydro Electric Project in Papua New Guinea. In order to involve customary landowners to participate in the national projects, they are urged to organise themselves into manageable clan units called Incorporated Land Groups (ILG). The process of incorporating land group (ILG) is managed by the Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP). There are many benefits to incorporating landowners to have maximum benefits on their land. Secondly is to channel project benefits through a legal entity so that it can be properly managed and distributed to its members. Thirdly is to give commercial value so that they can engage in formal business activities. However, there are gross abuses of the processes by both the customary landowners who sometimes purportedly collaborate with government officers. Most times, landowners and government officers do not serve the interest of the genuine landowners but they firstly look at what benefits are available for them and how they can benefit before they embark on the process. The introduction of the paper discusses the types of customary landownership in Papua New Guinea. Section 2 focuses on the government processes involved in incorporating land groups and the prevalent issues identified. Section 3 discusses case study identified in Ramu 2 Hydro Electric Project and is inherent among major national projects in PNG. Section 4 discusses some of the many ways in which the processes have been abused by the government officers and the customary landowners. The final section provides some recommendations as to how the ILG processes can be reviewed in line with ILG Act 2009 to avoid abuse.

**Parallel Session 1b – Exchange rate issues, trade and the macroeconomy**

**The Effects of Real Exchange Rate and External Shocks on Papua New Guinea’s Trade Balance**

*Bao Nguyen, ANU-UPNG Lecturer, Economics Division, UPNG, Dek Sum, ANU-UPNG Lecturer, Economics Division, UPNG, Partnership Co-ordinator*

*Email: bao.nguyen@anu.edu.au*

This paper provides new empirical evidence about the dynamic effects of real effective exchange rate and external shocks on Papua New Guinea’s trade balance. Bayesian Vector Autoregression evidences show that domestic economic activity turns out to be a bigger factor than real exchange rate and external shocks in driving historical export and import movements. Real exchange rate devaluation can immediately impact on export and import activity but harm the economy. Similarly, both exports and imports respond positively to external shocks but the whole economy does not.

**A new policy framework for Resource Rich Developing Countries: can an export boom be contractionary**

*Martin Davies, Associate Professor of Economics, Williams School of Commerce, Washington*

*Email: mahadavies@gmail.com*

Resource-rich developing countries are different. They obviously have large resource sectors, but these typically operate as enclaves, and most profits are repatriated, so net factor income is typically large and negative. In this seminar, Martin Davies presented the findings of a paper co-authored with Marcel Schröder, which presents a simple model of internal and external balance that incorporates the key features of this class of countries. Using this framework, the authors suggest a new paradigm for policy-setting in resource-rich developing countries. This includes a new equilibrium exchange rate concept, and a number of other interesting results, including the possibility that an export boom could be contractionary. The authors then
estimate, using this new approach, a set of equilibrium real exchange rates for a panel of resource-rich developing countries.

Food inflation and its impact on the economy of PNG

Stanis Hulahau, Researcher

Email: stanis0409@gmail.com

This study examines the determinants of food price inflation and its impact on the economy of PNG from 2001 to 2011 using time series data. Secondary data obtained from BPNG, ADB, WB, and IMF were analysed using various econometric test such as the Johansen Test for Cointegration, Augmented Dickey Fuller Test and the Vector Error Correction Model. The econometric tests revealed that there is a long run relationship (causality) between the variables real exchange rate and wheat price which significantly influenced food price inflation in PNG. There is a negative correlation between money supply and interest rate which negatively impacted food price inflation in the country. In the short run, real exchange rate, money supply, real interest rate and wheat price do not significantly affect food inflation as their corresponding p-values are greater than five percent (5%) critical value. Alternatively, there is a long run relationship or causality between GDP, real exchange rate, real interest and food price inflation. However, food inflation has a negative correlation with Real GDP in the long run. Therefore the overall findings of the study concluded that food price inflation is caused by long run relationship among the study variables and food inflation has a long run relationship with real GDP. It is recommended that the government should focus attention on the agriculture sector (food security) at the strategic and sectoral level and work in alignment with the PNG Vision 2050.

Determinants of the effectiveness of macroprudential policy in the Asia-Pacific: Take away lessons for PNG

Marcel Schroder, Assistant Professor, Lebanese American University,

Email: marcel.schroder@anu.edu.au

Central banks increasingly use macroprudential policy tools to safeguard financial stability and deal with volatile asset price and credit cycles. This paper provides an overview of the use of macroprudential policy measures with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region and presents an empirical framework for analysing the conditions under which these instruments are the most effective. Key take away lessons in the PNG context are discussed.

Parallel Session 1c – Security and employment

Human Security Perspective: A Case Study of Working Class Woman in Goroka

Johnson Ahupa, Senior Tutor, University of Goroka

Email: ahupai@unigoroka.ac.pg

The concept or the idea of human security is centered on people. Any institutional, governmental and organizational strategies, plans and or frameworks under human security concept should take on board the security, welfare and the plight of people. The concept of human security is multi-dimensional and overarching which requires team work and collective sectoral, organizational and institutional efforts to ensure peace and security of the individuals. What needs noting is that human security in nutshell emphasizes the protection of individuals from all forms of dangers whether perceived or real, natural or manmade so long as it affects the security, life and dignity of the individual. While security studies in realist terms focuses on collective national security, human security studies is a move away from such populist perspective and to look at individuals as important in any society. This case study of working class woman in Goroka dissects and examines social, economic and cultural rights and equal opportunity for woman at work place. The safety and security of the woman both at work place and in their community, the access they have to market and social opportunities, whether they live in conflict in their homes or living well ordered lives. These as well as inbuilt organizational
policies that dangers live and dignity of woman in Goroka are examined to offer perspective on human security at local level. Key words Human Security, multi-dimensional, concept, organizational, security, policy, dignity, human

Ethics and methods in researching gender based violence

Rooney Michelle, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre,

Email: michelle.rooney@anu.edu.au

Gender based violence (GBV) is one of the key development challenges facing Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Government of PNG has approved the Papua New Guinea’s National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence. The strategy notes that despite considerable progress in awareness and services for GBV, the problem remains serious. In addition to strengthening governance and institutional structures, services, and prevention programmes, the strategy commits to improving data collection and supporting research. Research is required to provide the evidence needed to plan, budget and formulate interventions to prevent and address GBV. This paper looks at some of the ethical and methodological challenges of researching gender based violence. It draws on recent experiences in researching social issues in PNG and with designing a research project focussed on exploring family and sexual violence services in Papua New Guinea. The paper begins with a brief overview of international literature on best practices on ethics of researching gendered violence. It then discusses some of the ethical and methodological challenges and opportunities for researching Gender Based Violence in PNG. Finally, the paper will discuss issues about how researchers represent their findings from research on violence in PNG.

What is the benefit of a comprehensive active labour market program? Evidence from Papua New Guinea

Christopher Hoy, Phd Candidate, Australian National University,

Email: christopherahoy@gmail.com

The vast majority of young people in developing countries do not and have not had a job in the formal sector. To address this issue, billions of dollars has been spent on active labour market programs (ALMPs) to provide youth with one or more of the following; training, work placements with wage subsidies and/or assistance with job searching. In Papua New Guinea, the World Bank and National Capital Authority have conducted an ALMP over the last five years, the Urban Youth Employment Program (UYEP) in Port Moresby, which includes all three of these components. We evaluate the impact by exploiting an unanticipated political intervention due to a shortage of volunteers at the FIFA Under 23 Women’s World Cup that resulted in one intake of UYEP youth missing out on the program. Specifically, we conduct a difference in difference analysis between youth in this intake that missed out on the program with the youth in the intakes immediately before and immediately after. In contrast to most evaluations of ALMPs (McKenzie, 2017), we show that there were large employment benefits between 6 to 12 months following the program and these effects are entirely due to youth staying with their UYEP employer following the end of the program. There is also evidence that participating in the program led to greater job searching behaviour and levels of happiness. However, we show that the youth who participated in UYEP but did not have a job in the formal sector at the time of the follow up survey were substantially more likely to have committed anti-social behaviour, taken drugs and have friends involved in crime.

How is Australia’s Seasonal Workers Program performing and what PNG can do to lift its numbers?

Richard Curtain, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre,

Email: richard@curtain-consulting.net.au

The paper will present the most recent data on the number of workers employed in low-skill jobs in horticulture and tourism in regional Australia under the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP). Information will also be presented on which countries have the greatest share of SWP jobs and explain how these countries have gained more jobs compared with PNG and other Pacific countries. A key focus of the paper will be on how PNG
can improve its prospects of gaining more SWP jobs. Attention will be given to identifying what the successful countries do to continue to get job offers from Australian employers. Attention will also be given to showing what the countries lagging behind the top countries, such as Solomon Islands and Fiji, are doing to improve their performance.

Parallel Session 1d – Health programs and performance

Implementation planning of the National Health Plan in a decentralized health system in Madang province, Papua New Guinea

Tabian Ambang, Lecturer, Divine Word University,

Email: tambang@dwu.ac.pg

This study investigated the implementation planning of the National Health Plan in PNG. The study was conducted in Madang province with the aim of providing an understanding of the implementation planning of an NHP in a decentralised health system during 2001 to 2014. Design of the study was based on a qualitative research methodology. Data were collected using interviews (face to face) and written documents. Data analysis started with content analysis to identify the codes, and then followed by thematic analysis to explain the relationship between the codes across the data sets and to develop themes. The study highlights the complexity created by governance reforms on health program activity implementation planning and the challenges the health care providers experienced on implementing the NHP in a decentralised health system. The study suggested for an integrated program activity implementation planning framework at the district level to link and align health program activity plans with sector plans (NHP), district development plans, provincial development plans and national plans (PNG Vision 2050). The experience of implementation planning in Madang province provides insights on how NHP implementation can be improve in PNG. The findings will also be relevant to implementation of sector plans in the provinces and district in PNG.

A multi-disciplinary analysis of service access, community resilience, and maternal mortality in Gulf Province

Jennifer Litau, Social Scientist, Pacific Adventist University,

Email: Jennifer.Litau@pau.ac.pg

Service access obstacles contribute to maternal mortality in Gulf Province and although community adaptability and resilience preserves the lives of some mothers, institutionalised service delivery is still required as of strategic importance for preventing maternal deaths. This research in progress used mixed methods analyses to determine the relationship between services access and maternal mortality in parts of the Kerema District of Gulf Province. Through deductive reasoning, a complex set of interrelationships occurring at provincial through community, household and maternal lived experiences contribute to maternal mortality. Some factors responsible at the provincial level are lacking of funding of MCH services, geographical barriers, access to health facilities, distance and time of travel, transport, and communication. At the level of community, community resilience, adaptability and support, and direct access to road, sea, river, or air transport to Kerema General Hospital. Inductive reasoning highlight the effect at household and lived experiences of mothers their income status, transport affordability issues, access to transport to maternal illiteracy and cultural constraints. Distinction is made between these preconditions of maternal death and the immediate or clinical causes that directly contribute maternal death. Given the enormity of service access barriers, it is inevitable the institutionalised integrated health service including MCH revival and health services and functions are deregulated to community level.
Public Service Motivation and Brain Drain in Papua New Guinea’s (PNG’s) Public Sector: A case of PNG’s National Health Department.

Alphonse Kono, Lecturer, School of Business and Public Policy, UPNG

Email: alphkona@upng.ac.pg

Papua New Guinea Government employs large number of workers in its Public Service. And these public service employees are often referred to as ‘public servants’ – servants who serve the interest of the public rather than their own. This is where the term ‘Public Service Motivation (PSM)’ is used to explain such public interest serving behaviour of the public servants. However, the question is, whether all public servants serve public interest rather than their own. This is the main question the paper will discuss basing on public service motivation and brain drain in Papua New Guinea’s (PNG’s) public sector using PNG’s National Health Department as a case. Using various literature on the topic, the paper will discuss whether public servants are public serving or self-serv ing individuals. Then the next part of the paper will discuss brain drain, a related topic on self-serving public servants in PNG’s health sector especially in the National Department of Health (NDoH). Here the root causes of brain drain in NDoH and possible ways to address them will be provided. Key words: Papua New Guinea, PNG National Department of Health, Public Service Motivation (PSM), brain drain, public servant.

Donor funding to the PNG health sector: how much, where it comes from and where it is spent?

Ali Kevin, Masters student in Health Administration

Email: ali.kevin@outlook.com

Progressive discussions on health sector SWAp between PNG Government and donors between 1995 and 2003 resulted in the establishment of the Health Sector Improvement Program Trust Account (HSIP TA). The aim of the HSIP TA is to bring together the government and donors to increase better coordination and support national leadership and ownership, more importantly support a single sector policy by increasing funding of Health Department’s annual activities. The SWAp mechanism attracted investment from nine donors which between 2009 and 2013 contributed PGK368.8 million to the HISP TA. However, the extent to which donor funds are spent on three health MDGs: child health (MDG 4) maternal health (MDG 5) and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB (MDG 6) is not known. A descriptive study using expenditure data from HSIP TA (between 2009 and 2013) is analysed to answer the question how much donor funding is there to the PNG health sector, which donors does it come from, and where is it spent? There is little predictability between funding for any of the MDGs each year. This is due to the extent to which donors earmark funds e.g. Global Fund only funds HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB activities with duration of funding also a factor. Underspending linked to capacity issues of health department implementing MDG programs.

Parallel Session 2a – Governance and development I

Assessing the impact of patron-client politics on corruption within the civil service and governance systems in Papua New Guinea: citizens perceptions

Teddy Edwards Winn, Lecturer, Political Science Strand, UPNG,

Email: tedwinn@gmail.com

This research pays particular interest to the study of patron-client relations and how it reinforces corruption. My initial literature review suggests that not much writing has been undertaken into this area of study, particularly in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Corruption occurs in many ways than one, and this study is hoping to test one of those many ways how corruption is reinforced and sustained through patron-client relations within the context of PNG’s civil service and political system. This research is important to me because by establishing the relationship between patron-client relations and corruption, I can know what type of patronage exists (business, politics/party politics, bureaucracy, media etc.) and how it tolerates corruption.
than discouraging it. Papua New Guinea is a very interesting case for me because its civil service and political systems show strong indications of patron-client practices. I suggest that to understand corruption in PNG, we must first understand the intricacy of the informal patron-client networks that are interwoven into the fabric of all state institutions. Such informal systems play host to emerging illiberal practices that encourage corrupt practices. To further understand the specific context in which corruption occurs in PNG, three key issues must be accounted for including; 1) Corruption perceived as sustained by culture and tradition under the auspices of wantok system, 2) Corruption seen as sustained by the big man concept, and 3) Corruption is perceived and accepted as a cultural construct by both bureaucrats and their political masters due to overreliance on the two preceding issues: wantokism and the big man system. I will rely on citizens’ perceptions to inform the final outcome of this study. Both the qualitative and quantitative methods will be used using the statistical model of regression analysis to establish the significance of the core assumptions/hypotheses presented above.

The wrong way to close a funding gap: anti-corruption and the 2018 PNG budget

Grant W Walton, Fellow, Development Policy Centre

Email: grant.walton@anu.edu.au

This presentation updates previous analysis (Walton and Hushang, 2017) on the PNG government’s spending on state anti-corruption organisations. Drawing on government budgets from 2008 to 2018, we report on allocations and spending on: the Ombudsman Commission, the National Fraud and Anti-corruption Directorate, the proposed Independent Commission Against Corruption (and the interim agency for the ICAC, Taskforce Sweep), the Financial Integrity Unit, and the Auditor General’s Office. We show that previously reported gaps between allocations and spending (Walton and Hushang, 2017) have closed due to large cuts to anti-corruption organisations’ budgets. These reductions reflect broader cuts across the law and justice sector, and the entire PNG budget. Analysis of the 2018 budget reveals that, faced with a fiscal crisis, the government is turning to low-cost legal remedies to bolster its anti-corruption credentials. Our study suggests that in the years to come we can expect the PNG government to further focus on cost neutral measures: such as passing and amending laws that anti-corruption agencies do not have the resources to implement. We discuss what these findings mean for policy makers and anti-corruption activists.

Trade, livelihoods and development in Papua New Guinea’s South Fly Region

Mark Moran, Program Director, University of Queensland

Email: mark.moran@uq.edu.au

This paper presents two years of research findings from an ongoing University of Queensland ARC Discovery Grant project. The project is exploring ongoing efforts at enhancing wellbeing and brokering economic development in the borderland region between Australia, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Indonesia. Findings show that the Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and PNG serves to construct a complex tiered economy between villagers in the South Fly region of PNG who have rights to travel across the Torres Straits to Australian territory under the Treaty, those who do not, and Torres Strait islanders living on the Australian side of the border. The Treaty also constructs a politics of expectation and frustration that permeates everyday life along the South Fly coast, through which aid and development projects must navigate. Papua Province in Indonesia has emerged as an increasingly attractive destination for South Fly villagers seeking economic and trading opportunities, and an alternative to the strict controls and often fraught encounters they have in crossing into Australia. The respective borders between the three neighbouring countries serve then to both draw in and push away South Fly villagers according to the strategic and political priorities of the respective countries, the service regimes and development support they make available, and trading opportunities they prohibit or permit.
Independence of the Governance and Managerial Functions of the State Owned Enterprise in Papua New Guinea: What is the level of independence?

Livai Kuaken, Student, Legal Training Institute,

Email: jamiemazi@gmail.com

This topic creates an image of corporate governance structure of SOEs in Papua New Guinea. The issue within this topic is “Independence”. Independent of ‘what’ and independent from ‘who’ are question central in the discussion. The governance structure of SOEs exists within the larger legal framework of SOE. His Honour Sawong J, in Sengus Investment Ltd v. National Broadcasting Corporation stated that, the corporate structure and purpose of the organisation are set out in its enabling legislation. In my research I look into all the legal framework that entails the governance structures of SOEs and to what extent the interference into their independence have affect the BOD’s powers to provide governance in all SOEs. In addition, the paper will distinguish SOEs’ governance systems, procedures and functions and within the functions, it will discuss the provision of SOE BOD’s governance. Moreover, it will distinguish between ‘providing governance’ and ‘providing management’ either through administration or just oversight. The reason is to bring to light who in governance can implement management decisions of BOD’s of SOEs. The discussion of the paper will be in the following areas: 1) Firstly; it defines SOE and all the views around it. 2) Secondly; it discusses the concept of Separate Legal Personality. 3) Thirdly, it analysis and discuss the political interference into independence of SOEs governance. 4) Fourthly, my criticism of the extent of Political interferences and 5) Finally conclusion and recommendation.

Parallel Session 2b – Agriculture, fisheries and tourism

Climate Change: impact on Papua New Guinea agriculture

Mike Bourke, Honorary Associate Professor, Australian National University,

Email: mike.bourke@anu.edu.au

A brief overview of the causes of global human-induced climate change is firstly presented. Then a summary follows of the evidence of changes in temperature, sea level, rainfall and cloud cover in PNG which are associated with global climate change. Temperatures are rising faster in the highlands than the average global temperature increase. Rapid temperature increases not unique to New Guinea and are happening in other tropical equatorial locations, including in Africa and in South America. Sea level rise is damaging coastal environments and some infrastructure. Evidence of the impact on agriculture in PNG over the past 40 years is summarized. The likely impact of changes in temperature, sea level, rainfall and cloud cover on PNG agriculture in coming decades are discussed. My analysis suggests that the ecological zones which are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change are atolls, other very small islands and the central highlands (1500 – 2800 m altitude). Finally, some suggestions are made as how to reduce the impact of climate change on food and export crop production.

The 2018 earthquake in Papua New Guinea: were lessons learned from the 2015-16 drought?

Brendan Jinks, PhD candidate, Pacific and Asian History, Australian National University,

Email: brendan.jinks@anu.edu.au

On 26 February 2018 a magnitude 7.5 earthquake in Papua New Guinea caused considerable loss of life and extensive damage to infrastructure, and displaced many people. The earthquake occurred just three years after a severe El Nino drought had led to widespread food shortages across the country, prompting a large international humanitarian response. These two disasters offer a unique opportunity to explore whether improvements were evident in the responses to these two different disasters, particularly given that the same national government was in place. In this paper we ask whether lessons from the drought were learned and
applied to the earthquake response. We tackle this question by analysing the humanitarian impacts of both events and tracing the respective responses, including comparing overall expenditure. We argue that, despite great humanitarian need, responses to both events were slow, lacked coordination and were marred by the politicisation of relief aid. However there was significantly larger expenditure of funds, particularly by the private sector, following the earthquake than in the case of the drought. We suggest several possible explanations for this larger expenditure on the earthquake. There appear to have been economic considerations, as attempts were made to repair damaged infrastructure, such as roads and air-strips that may impact economic activity. Resource companies also appear to have wanted to take a proactive role in disaster response to avoid criticism in the national media. We suggest that another factor in the greater expenditure in the earthquake than the drought was the spectacular images from the earthquake and their appearance in the national and international media. We conclude that lessons from the response to the 2015 drought and food shortages do not appear to have been learned or applied in the 2018 earthquake.

Post-Brexit Impact on PNG’s Canned Tuna Industry Exports to UK

Michael Kabuni, Teaching Fellow

Email: mkabuni@gmail.com

UK is the largest importer of canned tuna by volume and value since the 1990s. Pacific countries export tuna to the UK as part of a larger preferential access they has with the EU market through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), Generalized System of Preference (GSP), and Everything But Arms (EBA). This study investigates the prevailing trade regimes to determine the possible consequences of Brexit on PNG’s trade with the UK, with specific attention to the canned tuna industry. Brexit may not alter countries that trade with UK through GSP and EBA as these arrangements are recognized through WTO framework. However, Brexit will affect PNG’s canned tuna exports to the UK because PNG access the UK market through the EPA, which, unlike GSPs and EBAs, will cease to apply when UK leaves the EU because UK is not a signatory to the EU EPAs. PNG is not categorized as a least developed poor country, therefore, it cannot access the UK market through EBA. It has not yet notified the EU for GSP, so it cannot continue trade under GSP. Unless a new trade deal is arranged, PNG will pay WTO applied tariff of 24% for its exports to the UK post-Brexit. Currently PNG pays 0% export tariff to the UK. This places PNG in a disadvantaged position as it will lose canned tuna market share to neighbouring Thailand and Philippines, which currently have higher canned tuna exports to the UK even though they continue to pay the WTO applied tariff of 24% for exports to the EU market.

Visitors’ perceptions of safety and security issues in Madang Province, PNG

Allan Sumb, Lecturer, Divine Word University

Email: asumb@dwu.ac.pg

This paper investigates visitors’ perceptions of safety and security issues in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG). It focuses on international tourists who have travelled to PNG and experience safety and security issues in Madang. The study employs qualitative research within the interpretive research paradigm. Face to face in-depth interviews were conducted with a sample of 16 participants recruited from Madang Resort Hotel. The data collected were analysed through thematic analysis. The findings indicate that visitors consider both rural and urban Madang as unsafe for tourism due to increase criminal activities.
Parallel Session 2c – Port Moresby studies

A community-initiated pilot program using sport to address non-communicable diseases, anti-social behaviour, and social inequality: Bese Health Club

Sofia Bartlett, Research associate, University of New South Wales & Director, Grass Skirt Project, Tahina Booth and Kila Mala, community members

Email: sbartlett@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Hanuabada, located on Port Moresby’s outskirts, is a community that faces many of the same health, social and development issues affecting the rest of Papua New Guinea. Obesity, type II diabetes, micronutrient deficiency ('hidden hunger'), family and sexual violence, and unemployment are some concerns the Hanuabada community has identified as priorities to address. While these problems exist, Hanuabada also has a rich sporting history and culture, producing many national cricketers, successful weightlifters and other athletes. Hanuabada community members, in partnership with Australian registered charity Grass Skirt Project Ltd and University of New South Wales, initiated a pilot program to engage people in health promotion and education activities through a village fitness and training centre. Bese Health Club (BHC), ‘Bese’ meaning family in the Motuan language, has been established as a communal facility for local sports teams and clubs to use, as well as providing specialised fitness classes for older people, women, and people living with a disability. To be able to use BHC, participants must adhere to guidelines set out by community leaders and uphold the BHC ethos. A social business model has been developed to support BHC to provide its education and training programs. BHC received its first donation of gym equipment in early January 2018, and began training programs for the community. Several community members received training in strength and conditioning coaching in December 2017 in Hanuabada, with additional training needs identified for future workshops which will be conducted throughout 2018. A comprehensive community survey is being conducted to provide baseline data, with follow-up surveys conducted at 12 monthly intervals. Community initiation of the BHC pilot program has facilitated a high level of engagement and support thus far. This program has potential scalability across the nation, due to the ubiquity and enthusiasm for sport among Papua New Guineans.

Service Characteristics and Regulatory Oversight of Public Transport in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Jack Assa, Researcher, UPNG, Oliver Page, independent consultant, Elton Powe, researcher, UPNG

Email: jackassa945@gmail.com

A recurrent theme at the 10th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Transportation Ministerial Meeting was the promotion of transportation accessibility, safety, security and sustainability. Measured against these qualities how does public transport in Port Moresby perform? The study objectives within the context of public transport operations seek to: 1) present an historical overview; 2) describe a selection of service characteristics; 3) define institutional role players; and, 4) recommend policy and operational interventions that improve service delivery. A mixed-method research design was developed that included: literature and data review, onsite observations, and interviews with key informants from public and institutional role players in the transport sector. Study outcomes found that public transport service provision is inadequate for the demand resulting in overcrowded vehicles, price overcharging, multi-transfer trips, non-completion of unprofitable routes, and, operator infighting. Women, children and the disabled are often underserved and face unique challenges when using public transport. A significant positive development has been the establishment of the Road Traffic Authority (RTA). RTA aims to consolidate regulatory oversight, enhance safety and operations of the land transport sector. However, on-the-ground enforcement of road and traffic regulations must be transparent, consistent and fair. PNG’s recently discovered mineral wealth presents a unique opportunity to fund and improve institutional functioning while addressing the mobility and accessibility needs of public transport users. Achieving this will contribute to the continued socio-economic development of Papua New Guinea to reach upper middle-income status by 2050.
Changing Role of Women in Fresh Food marketing: A Case Study Of Port Moresby

Lorraine Maro Taram, lecturer, School of Environmental Science and Geography, UPNG

Email: lorrainetaram@gmail.com

This research identifies how women from different ethnic backgrounds in Port Moresby contributed to food security in households despite the continuous demand placed on them by society. From the findings many of the women are putting a lot of effort in growing, buying and importing of food crops. Women from small-scale farming households are struggling to survive with increasing living standards in Port Moresby. Five markets (Gerehu, Waigani, Tokarara, Gordons and Koki) were selected to carry out this study. The study gathered information from women who were involved with selling the three types of food crops; sweet potatoes, bananas and green vegetables. A total of 105 women were interviewed in the study. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect information on the socio-economic factors affecting the women’s households.

Findings according to this research showed that majority of women selling at the five market were from the Highlands (47.6%) and Papuan (37.1%) regions. Most women (69.5%) in all markets were providing for their households more than their husbands and other members of the households. Majority of women (46%) had poor knowledge of the land status. Most of the women (57.1%) rely on PMVs to bring their goods to the market. (81%) of women at Tokarara walk to the market. This study also shows that Education level of women who were selling fresh food produce in Port Moresby were very low. The highest level of education for women in all markets, was primary education (43.8%) followed by no form of education at all which was (23.8%) respectively. About 11.4% of these women did not know whether they had any form of education or not. The study revealed a fragmented process of marketing system which have also contributed to unsustainable practices in small-farm household in rapid changing urban areas like Port Moresby.

Preferences and willingness to pay for recreation in Port Moresby Nature Park: An application of the choice experiment approach

Eugene Ezebilo, Associate Professor, National Research Institute PNG

Email: Eugene.ezebilo@pngnri.org.pg

Urban green spaces are often neglected in urban development plan in most developing countries due to the fact that, economic value of services they provide is not well known. Accounting for the value of these services can assist land use planners and urban development managers in making decisions that enables efficient use of natural resources. This paper reports a study on the preferences and willingness to pay for recreation in Port Moresby Nature Park (PNP) and factors influencing the preferences using the choice experiment approach. Data were collected by interviews that involved visitors of PNP and were analysed using multinomial logit regression model. The results show that, exhibit alternative containing reptiles and bird of paradise in addition to the current exhibits at PNP was the most preferred. Picnic area was the most visited and the Papuan hornbill area the least. Of all the recreation activities explored in this study, 40% of the interviewees engaged in site-seeing and only a few engaged in jogging. On average, the interviewees visited PNP four times each year and spent three hours there. The interviewees were willing to pay 42 PGK (12.7 USD) annually for access fee to PNP. Results of the multinomial logit model show that preferences for exhibit alternatives was influenced by factors such as income, access fee, distance to and time spent at PNP, nature type, recreation activity, gender, age and education. The findings could assist land use planners and recreation managers in making informed decision by considering preferences and demand for nature-based recreation.
Parallel Session 2d – Digital technology

Market fee payment through custom-made software: the findings of a pilot

Nisa Fachry, Independent consultant, Amanda H A Watson, ANU and Christina Cheong, UN Women

Email: nisa.fachry@un.or.id

This paper discusses usage of technology for service delivery and specifically use of a custom-made market payment system for processing market stall fees at fresh food markets in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Vendors at markets in PNG are typically women with limited literacy skills. At most markets, they are required to pay a fee each day per bag for use of a space within the market area. Unfortunately, (1) vendors are often asked to pay arbitrary amounts, (2) correct collected revenue is not always deposited to the authorities, (3) market clerks have no control over how much space each vendor occupies, and (4) there is no official mechanism for first-time vendors to secure market stalls. UN Women has funded the development of bespoke software, aimed at overcoming these problems, through streamlining the market fee payment process and supporting the authorities in market management. Using a digital system, market clerks can ensure fee compliance and calculate exact revenues. Furthermore, vendor registrations and market lease contracts are also being piloted. Vendors lease stalls, and if there is a vacant stall, a first-time vendor can lease it. In order to test out the effectiveness of these interventions, a pilot was conducted at one market in Port Moresby over a twelve-week-long period. Following the pilot, focus groups were conducted. Market vendors were asked questions about the benefits and drawbacks of the new payment system and management. In a focus group with market clerks who operate the digital system, questions were about the effectiveness, efficiency, usability and challenges of the digital system. This paper will be useful for those engaged in using technology for service delivery in areas with limited Internet access, such as PNG. The paper will also be relevant to academics and practitioners concerned about the informal economy, agriculture, financial inclusion, gender and security.

Electronic government: Factors that influence adoption by agencies in Papua New Guinea

Martin Daniel, PhD Student, Divine Word University

Email: mdaniel@dwu.ac.pg

Electronic government (e-government) involves public agencies using information and communication technology and the various other Internet technologies to transform the way their processes are implemented and services provided. The advancement of these technologies has already enabled businesses to enhance their processes and improve customer service delivery. With the aim of achieving similar gains, agencies in Papua New Guinea (PNG) are striving to adopt e-government to improve processes and delivery of services. Such adoption is presently operating at only a basic level, which perhaps is all that could be reasonably expected given various factors affecting e-government development that need to be properly identified and researched. Thus, this paper seeks to examine these factors using qualitative methods including interview and thematic network analysis techniques. Results from the analysis of interview data from government officers of various agencies indicate that such adoption is influenced by three main factors: technological, organisational and environmental. These need to be properly addressed to improve implementation. The results further provide some understanding of the current challenges faced and this could be used to develop strategies for future development. Finally, this paper explains why and how e-government will be increasingly important to PNG during and after the current APEC year.

Decisions and Behavior: Lessons from a Goilala ICT Project

Paul Kaita, Internal Auditor, Bank of PNG

Email: pkaita@bankpng.gov.pg

Decisions in strategy and implementation are triggered by factors which over time and space is justified as rational, irrational or hybrid. In this study, we reviewed the variety of factors that had a relationship with the
decision making processes and how utilizing of resources for development priority project are undertaken. Literature states that decisions are mathematical formations and justifications that account for a certain action under uncertainty. This is inclusive of behavior and choice of rationality, and assures why certain decisions are made in certain environments. This research tested decision and behavioral theories against performance reports of the Goilala District government on an ICT development project in the 2016-2017 period. It was found that (1) while terrain, cost of operation and timing were impeding factors in the district, expertise on ICT infrastructure and sustainability of systems was lacking in decision making processes, (2) there was a lack of feasibility studies undertaken to approve ICT infrastructure development proposal, and (3) the ICT infrastructure development project implemented had poorly achieved its purpose. This postulates strongly that more emphasis should be given to improve the decision making processes to avoid economic losses in development project lifespans. Creation of “nudge” units to assist decision making processes is viable.

Is a Bank-led model the best way to introduce Digital Financial Services in Emerging Markets? – a case study of Papua New Guinea

Murdo McRae, PhD Candidate

Email: murdo@murdifications.com.au

Digital Financial Services (DFS) have the capacity to expand the delivery of basic financial services to the disadvantaged segments of societies via new and rapidly expanding technologies using mobile phones and other devices, electronic money and new channels such as retail agents. Sustainable mobile money deployments such as M-PESA in Kenya, and the first scheme Smart Money, launched in the Philippines in 2001 are among success stories of this new sector, but the difficulties in replicating these successes, show that some markets could be more receptive to mobile money offers than others. Central banks, governments and others around the world have realised the remarkable role DFS can play in accomplishing their important goal of making financial services available to all segments of the society—i.e. financial inclusion. One central bank that has been keen to learn from experiences elsewhere is the Bank of Papua New Guinea - to address the country’s sobering financial inclusion statistics. Research has shown that in many countries, usually only one type of operator succeeds, even with similar enabling environments. We find that in Papua New Guinea the DF sector is in its infancy compared with countries that have established schemes such as in East Africa. The dominant player in PNG is Bank South Pacific, who entered the market with a big marketing push and utilised its large network of branches and rural agents to attract a large number of customers. Further regulatory assistance to enable more rapid spread of existing schemes, and facilitation of new entrants into the marketplace is necessary, particularly to allow aggregation of agents into multiple schemes. Products such as insurance, health, and finance are yet to be offered widely in the marketplace and interconnectivity between schemes, which would aid the spread of financial inclusion across the country is yet to be realised.
Potential Public-Private Partnership strategy for Promoting Effective Delivery of Housing

Eugene Ezebilo, Associate Professor, PNG National Research Institute,

Email: eugene.ezebilo@pngnri.org

Public private partnerships (PPP) that promote effectiveness and efficiency in housing delivery have been used around the world. However, identifying PPP strategy that might be more suitable for a country is often problematic. This paper reports on a study of potential PPP strategies that could be used to promote effectiveness in housing delivery in Papua New Guinea (PNG), challenges associated with the implementation of a PPP project and factors that should be considered for the project to succeed. The data were obtained from a review of policy documents, unpublished (grey) and published papers, as well as face-to-face interviews involving private developers and official of the National Housing Corporation. The findings show that, the direct relationship ownership housing and the direct relationship rental housing PPPs might fit better to the conditions in PNG. PPP projects in the country are constrained by the bureaucratic problems associated with the public sector, unclear roles of the public and private sectors in housing delivery, shortages of land with secure title, financial problems and inadequate trunk infrastructure. For a PPP project to succeed in PNG, it is necessary to consider factors such as transparency in the PPP process, potential ways to allocate risks between the public and private sectors, the need for political and public support and the need for a strong private consortium. The findings could contribute to review of the PNG National Housing Policy 1994 by considering PPP strategies in housing delivery. This could assist policy-makers, urban development managers and planners in making informed decisions on allocation of resources in the housing sector.

Public Perceptions about Housing Benefit Tax in Papua New Guinea

Francis Odhuno, Senior Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute,

Email: francis.odhuno@pngnri.org

One of the major tax policy measures in the 2017 Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government Budget was the introduction of upmarket and very high cost tiers of housing to increase the taxing threshold of employer provided housing benefit. The subsequent flurry of newspaper reports suggest that public belief in the fairness of housing benefit tax (HBT) was mixed, at best. The objective of this study is to assess the dimensions that influence public perceptions about the fairness of taxing employer provided accommodation. Data were obtained from a survey of public and private sector employees in Madang, Lae, Goroka and Port Moresby. Results from Fisher’s exact tests of (statistical) associations, with significant values estimated using Monte Carlo methods, support the view that HBT should only apply to upmarket and very high cost housing. The findings were, however, mixed regarding HBT being the way to pay for essential accommodation. On whether the benefit could be perceived as societal or personal, the results revealed that middle aged employees and, to some degree, those with higher levels of education perceived HBT to be of societal good. The perception of reasonableness and/or (un)fairness of HBT depends on whether or not an employee lives in employer-provided accommodation. These results could assist in interpreting the policy significance of public perception about HBT and the country’s tax system generally. The perceived unfairness of HBT has implications for housing situation in PNG. If the lack of housing, and the income of citizens prevents them from obtaining affordable housing, an increase in the HBT could have a detrimental effect on taxpayer confidence. Employees would then prefer living in employer-provided accommodation than to receive the house allowance in cash. Hence, the alignment of the tax treatment of both the housing fringe benefit per se and the housing cash allowance is recommended.
Trunk infrastructure is necessary for large-scale housing developments: Lessons from the Duran Farm Housing Project in Port Moresby

Logea Nao, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute

Email: Logea_Nao@pngnri.org

To achieve large-scale housing development in a cost efficient and timely manner, the availability and use of serviced land is critical. The government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) has taken several housing development initiatives to increase the housing stock in Port Moresby to meet demand. One such initiative is the Duran Farm Housing Project (DFHP). This paper uses lessons drawn from the DFHP to show that trunk infrastructure such as clean pipe-borne water supply, good road networks, sewerage and electricity must be provided before houses are constructed. While some houses have been completed they have not yet been occupied because they do not have the necessary trunk infrastructure. The delay in providing the trunk infrastructure is costly to PNG, especially during these tough economic times. It will inevitably delay the financial benefits that would have accrued to the State from the project, translating as a loss to the State. The private contractors engaged to build the houses are also losing money because their money is tied to the completed yet unsold houses, a disincentive for building more houses. This also represents a loss to the society because the scarce resources that could have been used to meet other equally important societal needs are tied to the DFHP. In order to promote effectiveness and efficiency in housing projects in the country, the relevant government agencies must ensure that trunk infrastructure is introduced in the project areas before houses are built. For the DFHP, it is not too late for the necessary trunk infrastructure to be provided by the relevant government agencies as the completed houses cannot be sold to potential buyers before then. In addition, quality checks should be done and the sales prices of the houses reviewed so that it will be affordable for the majority of Port Moresby residents.

Exploring affordable housing: Case study of informal rental housing in Ensisi, NCD.

Lewis Iwong, Project Research Officer, National Research Institute PNG

Email: lewis.iwong@pngnri.org

The government’s approach to addressing urban housing issues through home ownership policies and schemes have had less impact in alleviating housing shortages in urban areas of Papua New Guinea, especially in Port Moresby. Due to a host of factors: urbanization, population growth, lack of land, rural to urban migration and lack of building construction demand for housing has outstripped supply. This has contributed to the growth of the visible development and growth of settlements on both alienated and customary land. This situation has provided an opportunity for homeowners in both settlements and planned suburban estates to offer rental accommodation informally to people who would otherwise be homeless. There has been a significant growth in informal rental over recent years. This study investigated informal rental housing in a formally planned suburban housing estate. The study concludes that informal rental housing offers affordable housing to tenants on low and middle-income categories with a diverse range of backgrounds. The study ends with a set of policy options and recommendations for further research.

Parallel Session 3b – Governance and development II

Cultivating a participatory approach to governance in Papua New Guinea: our approach, emerging results and learning how to bring small-G governance into big-G Governance arenas

Paul Kelly, Research Fellow, La Trobe University

Email: p.kelly@latrobe.edu.au

The Papua New Guinea - Australia Governance Partnership (PAGP) consists of a range of DFAT funded programs and research. One important research objective, overlooked in much previous literature, is
understanding the many interpretations of “governance” held by citizens. In response, we are developing a participatory approach, founded on what we term “small-g governance”, how we see or hear governance in the experiences, voices, perspectives, expertise and practices of diverse PNG stakeholders. The approach boosts the volume of less audible voices and experiences in technical, academic, aid sector, and governmental debates. Early consultations have included workshops and focus groups with around 100 participants, involving government and aid professionals, women entrepreneurs, and youth groups. Early results, related to sub-national perspectives, suggest firstly that participants rank provincial performance sometimes consistently, sometimes inconsistently, inferring both divergent and convergent reasoning. Secondly, participants identified many factors and dynamics across a spectrum from technical planning all the way to citizen service experience. We grouped pertinent factors into 8 loose categories: Leadership, Politics & Administration, Services, Economic Activity, Geography, History, Society & Culture, and Gender Equity & Social Inclusion. Four implications follow. Firstly, the ongoing need to engage PNG stakeholders and perspectives on sub-national governance complexity. Secondly, the need to acknowledge that different groups may define effective governance as about outcomes, processes or in terms of legitimacy. Thirdly, the need to strengthen the participatory approach through 2018-2019, using techniques such as “positive deviance”, which explores why particular provinces, districts or wards appear to achieve more effective governance than others. And finally, the need to strengthen governance data/knowledge contributions for diverse PNG stakeholder consumption, using inter-sector and inter-disciplinary engagement, and practical knowledge tools. To conclude, we see the approach, as beneficial for learning how to amplify existing PNG voices and experiences within established big-G Governance debates and arenas.

Understanding youth perceptions of governance; Need for space, engagement and participation

Barbra Thomas, Honorary Research Associate, The Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University

Email: barbra.thomas6@gmail.com

This paper reports on governance consultations undertaken in Papua New Guinea in late 2017 by La Trobe University as part of the Papua New Guinea – Australia Governance Partnership (GAPG). An important group identified and included in this process were young people. The PNG Youth Policy defines youth to be between the ages of 15 – 25 years of age, although one would argue that youth is a fluid term and should not be restricted to an age group. With 52% of the population 24 years of age or younger, young people form a critical group that occupies a strategically important position in society. This research engaged young people both within and outside this category who were either leading initiatives or associated with a youth group both in rural and urban communities in the National Capital District and Morobe Province. Preliminary results indicate an increased interest in the political debate on good governance and both the current and future development of Papua New Guinea. Unfortunately, opportunities for youth engagement in the dialogue on governance is limited, with very little opportunity given to young people to have a platform to contribute their voice. Young people are increasingly frustrated at the lack of space, opportunity and engagement and have lost confidence in national governance systems. But despite the challenges, youth are proving to be resilient and innovative in leading positive change initiatives in their communities. The key to having positive, thriving communities, as many have commented, is to give young people a sense of significance and relevance. The research’s participatory approach may be an important catalyst in opening up more spaces for participation and citizen dialogue on ways to approach PNG’s governance challenges both at the national, sub national and community level.

The deep determinants of district development in PNG

Terence Wood, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre,

Email: terence.wood@anu.edu.au

In recent years development economists have debated why some countries have better development outcomes than others. Influential debates have occurred between those who argue that differences can be explained by geography, and those who believe culture and institutions are more important. In recent years particular attention has been paid to countries’ pre-colonial histories and institutions. This presentation will
look at the relevance of these debates to Papua New Guinea. In particular, it will report on preliminary findings from regression analysis to identify the extent to which geography, linguistic fragmentation and patterns of settlement explain variation in a range of development indicators across different districts in Papua New Guinea.

**Governance reform, leadership and support in PNG: evidence from experiments**

_Fiona Yap, Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Anthony Swan, ANU_

_Email: fiona.yap@anu.edu.au_

The research project aims to evaluate conditions under which citizens in countries with weak governance systems are willing to provide support for governance reform, and understand the role of leadership in generating broad support for governance reform. Specifically, the purpose of the research is to better understand how educated Papua New Guineans, and potential future leaders of the country, can peacefully and meaningfully engage in policy debate around governance issues in PNG. The research will inform policy makers, academics (particularly those at UPNG), and students at UPNG on how social norms can reinforce weak governance systems, and how peaceful and constructive collective action can lead to improved governance in PNG. The results will provide stakeholders with a better understanding of how different forms of leadership can help facilitate broad support for peaceful and constructive engagement on governance reform issues.

**Understanding Governance in PNG: Urban versus Rural**

_Henry Okole, Honorary Research Associate, The Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University_

_Email: okole.henry@gmail.com_

A study by LaTrobe University, as part of the Papua New Guinea – Australia Governance Partnership which commenced in 2017 and is set to continue in 2018, is already discovering that there is a marked difference in terms of how different groups within society conceive and understand governance. While some MPs and public servants in cities and towns would like to see improvement in governance, it is likely that many rural dwellers would look more towards development. This is not an assertion pulled out of thin air. Two studies conducted in the past, 17 years apart, support this claim. Yaw Saffu (1989) conducted a nation-wide survey during the 1987 national elections in PNG and found that the majority of voters would rather support candidates whom they think would deliver to them tangible development (schools, roads, business opportunities, etc.). David Kavanamur (2006) also found that whatever considerations for democracy, governance and sound policy were regarded as secondary to instant delivery of development (services). Thus, while it may be easy to blame MPs for a perceived lack of interest to fix governance issues, voters exert pressing influence since their demands and expectations condition the way MPs view their roles and responsibilities. How can governance be given its right context in PNG? People must realise that good or effective governance leads to better service delivery. This starts with a concerted effort to building a firm foundation for the ACL.

**Parallel Session 3c – Microfinance and financial inclusion**

**Improving rates of female financial inclusion at the household level**

_Rohan Fox, Research officer, Development Policy Centre, Chris Hoy, Phd Candidate, ANU_

_Email: rohan.fox@anu.edu.au_

International literature suggests that when women are more involved in (in control of) the financial decision making of a household, more money is spent more on children and family-targeted goods, loans are paid back
faster, and money is shared more fairly. For these reasons and others, strong rates of female financial inclusion is a goal of multilateral institutions and governments worldwide. We use cross-sectional data from two randomised control trials in East Sepik and Morobe to gain an understanding of the factors which affect higher levels of female participation in financial decision making in Papua New Guinea. The East Sepik survey was conducted by the Asian Development Bank and surveyed 3000 households, the Morobe survey was conducted by the World Bank and surveyed 600 households. We use logistic and OLS stepwise regression analysis to determine these factors. The regressions use income and household characteristics, education, banking and personal behaviour; and compare situations where females solely are in charge of the decision making, and when they are jointly involved in the decision making with their husband and/or other members of the household. By identifying these significant factors, policy-makers can be more informed, and can make decisions regarding female financial inclusion using data from Papua New Guinea. These findings can also act as a baseline to which the effect of future programs that attempt to impact financial inclusion can be compared.

Achieving effective financial inclusion for women in PNG

Robyn Cornford, Gender & Microfinance Specialist

Email: robyn@maylila.com.au

The term ‘financial inclusion’ is inherently problematic. It allows only two options – either inclusion or exclusion in the formal financial sector. In PNG, opening a bank account has been consistently used as the primary indicator of financial inclusion. During the period of the government’s first National Financial Inclusion Strategy(2), successful financial inclusion was measured as more than 1.2 million new deposit accounts being opened. However, the percentage of new accounts opened and owned by women was only 26% and levels of ongoing account usage are unconfirmed. The reality is that effective financial inclusion is multi-dimensional. CGAP(1) describes financial inclusion as “not just the availability of services” but also the “various dimensions of the financial system [that] are working effectively to extend demand-driven services, including usage (the regularity and frequency of take up) and quality (the degree to which needs are served and consumers are benefiting from products).” For women especially, effective financial inclusion has many dimensions and there are significant barriers at many levels which particularly impact women’s ability to successfully operate and use financial products and services to consistently and positively impact their lives. Illustrating and understanding how the access, usage and quality dimensions of financial inclusion impact upon each other and the key roles that stakeholders at all levels must play, increases possibilities to address some of the ‘missing links’ and barriers which continue to ensure high levels of financial exclusion for women in PNG. Equitable and effective financial inclusion can only be achieved by: understanding the many dimensions of financial inclusion; measuring and monitoring key indicators; and implementing a multi-pronged approach involving informed stakeholders working across a range of services, sectors and industries. (1) The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor. World Bank www.cgap.org (2) Papua New Guinea’s National Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy Strategy (2014-2015)

Performance of Microfinance Institutions in Papua New Guinea

Muneer Babu Mancheri, Senior Lecturer, IBS University Port Moresby

Email: muneer.babu@ibsu.ac.pg

We examine the technical efficiency ratio (TE), scale efficiency ratio (SC) and various returns to scale of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) during 2015-16 to 2016-17, by employing data envelopment analysis (DEA) approach. We measure the technical efficiency scores under constant returns to scale (CRS) and variable returns to scale (VRS) assumptions. This study provides insights into the performance of various MFIs in PNG namely, Microbank-MFIs and Savings and Loan Society (S&LS)-MFIs. We find that both types of MFIs could be increased their outputs during 2015-16 to 2016-17, by increasing the utilization of inputs. Our study shows that the average technical efficiency of the microfinance industry was 86.71 per cent under CRS assumption and 91.36 per cent under VRS assumption during 2015-16, the average technical efficiency has been increased to 89.34 per cent under CRS assumption and 94.7 per cent under VRS assumption during 2016-17. Our study shows that Kadaporaman and National Microbank have exhibited full
Technical efficiency under CRS and VRS assumptions during 2015-16 and 2016-17. PNG Microfinance and Women’s Microbank have exhibited full technical efficiency under CRS and VRS assumptions during 2016, whereas NCSL has exhibited full technical efficiency under CRS and VRS assumptions during 2015. Furthermore, we have found that a few MFIs are scale inefficient, Women Microbank has exhibited IRS during 2015-16, whereas it improved its TE scores and has reported CRS during 2016-17. Alenko SLS, East New Britain SLS, Manus SLS and Niu Ailan SLS have exhibited IRS during 2015-16 and 2016-17. People’s Microbank has exhibited DRS during 2015-16 and 2016-17, whereas NCASL has reported DRS during 2016-17.

Financial inclusion in Papua New Guinea: a lender but not a borrower be!

Martin Davies, Associate Professor of Economics, Williams School of Commerce, Washington

Email: mahadavies@gmail.com

Using a World Bank dataset (based on a survey of 600 households in Morobe and Madang Provinces undertaken by the Institute of National Affairs) we study the effects of individual and household characteristics on financial inclusion in Papua New Guinea using a probit model. More specifically, we examine the determinants of the use of formal and informal credit and savings services. For both credit and savings, education is the strongest predictor of all measures of financial inclusion, with a secondary school education increasing the probability of inclusion by around 15 per cent. Age is a significant predictor of savings, and income also influences whether an individual makes use of credit services.

Parallel Session 3d – Public health

Rampant and neglected: malignant mouth cancer and dental disease: their burdens and ultralow cost solutions for PNG

Barry Reed, Maxillofacial Surgeon, University of Newcastle, Fellow of the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Dr Mahmood Siddiqi

Email: barryreedoms@bigpond.com

Dental disease is world’s single most common cause of pain. It will affect over 90% of world’s children and over 80% will suffer pain. Surveys show over 50% of PNG children have currently untreated decayed teeth. Only preventive method practical for PNG is salt fluoridation. It’s effective for three hundred million people worldwide. Permanent decay reduction of 50 to 65% achieved within five years. WHO-credited salt fluoridation as world’s single most effective, equitable and practical preventive strategy. Introduction will need Government consideration, legislation, salt industry and health professions support to lobby Government and educate people about benefits and safety. Aid to Dental School requested for essential suitability studies and to develop educational programs for people and Government, to gain their approval. Action now will impact lives of children within five years. PNG has world’s highest rate of mouth cancer. Untreated, it quickly leads to death, with much pain, suffering, facial deformity and social isolation. This is often because of delays in diagnosis, leading to treatment delays. Early diagnosis is very uncommon, resulting in long term survival rates of only 20%. If delays reduced, so cancer removed while still small, long term survival rates could increase to 80%. To increase early diagnosis needs education of health workers and public about signs of early mouth cancer and to seek help early. Health workers need upskilling in detecting early cancer quickly. More dentists need upskilling in biopsy techniques to reduce delays. Addressing main causes of mouth cancer: betel nut chewing, tobacco and heavy alcohol use is essential with permanent public and school prevention campaigns and educational facebook sites. Dental school funding for training clinicians to speed up diagnosis and design public education strategies requested. Health impact will be more young people having 80% chance of long productive lives rather than 20% chance.
Strengthening eye care in Papua New Guinea

Jordana Dawson Hayes, Legal & Development Effectiveness Manager, Fred Hollows Foundation NZ,

Email: jdawsonhayes@hollows.nz

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has the highest rate of blindness in the Pacific. A recent survey (PBL, 2017) revealed that blindness prevalence is particularly high for females: 11.1% of females (≥ 50 years) in the Highlands Province are blind compared to 6.6% of males (≥ 50 years). Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in PNG and therefore most cases are treatable. As one of the least expensive and high impact health interventions, investing in eye care in PNG is likely to have a positive impact on the economy and wider development objectives. Visual impairment is associated with poverty and increased rates of death and injury, while treating avoidable blindness and visual impairment can result in positive economic and social outcomes for both patients and their caregivers (FHF, 2013). In partnership with governments, universities and other stakeholders, The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ has implemented a successful programme to train doctors and nurses from across the Pacific to specialise in eye care. The Foundation supports service delivery while clinicians are in training to both reduce the backlog of blindness and to ensure high quality practical training for students. To date, the Foundation has trained 77 nurses and 10 community health workers across PNG through its partnership with Modilon General Hospital. This means PNG has made significant progress towards reaching the WHO-recommended ratio of mid-level eye care personnel to population, however, more work is needed to increase the number of ophthalmologists and to ensure services are equitable and accessible for all. The presentation explores the successes and challenges of applying this model in PNG, and identifies learnings for eye care and other specialist health areas. The presentation proposes options for scaling up the programme in PNG through increased ophthalmologist training, service delivery, and mainstreaming gender and other crosscutting issues into programme designs.

Public-Private Partnerships: important for addressing development issues in Papua New Guinea

Peter Siba, Health Consultant

Email: pmaxsiba@gmail.com

A Public-Private Partnership approach between the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research and the private stakeholders has been supported annually by grants from ExxonMobil (PNG) since 2011. The partnership has contributed to the implementation of a comprehensive Integrated Demographic Surveillance System (iHDSS) program. Aim of the designated Cohort-follow up study was aimed to provided longitudinal data to monitor the impact of the PNG LNG Project on socio-economic development and health status of the communities in the LNG project impact area in the Hela and Central Provinces, and non-impact areas in Madang and Eastern Highlands Provinces. A total population of 54,000 and 11,000 house-holds were surveyed. Overall sex composition in the surveillance population was balanced between females and males, and over 35% were <16 years old. Infant mortality was 66 per 1000 live births, children <5 years mortality was 92 per 1000 live birth, and only 36% of children aged 12 months were fully immunised. The study revealed that antenatal care visits was 49%, 64% birth deliveries was a public health facilities, 32% birth deliveries was performed by skilled birth attendants and health workers. Education and Gender Equality indicators in this study showed that the ratio of males: females aged 5-24 years attending primary, secondary and tertiary education were 108:100, 122:100 and 181:100 respectively. Less women are employed in the non-agricultural sector with Men: Women ratio at 27:8. Household Socio-economic indicators highlighted improvements with 80% of populations having access to health care services, 75% having mobile phones, 50% have access to drinking water source, 10% access improved sanitation facility. The iHDSS program is a valuable data source for planning, M&E implementation of development programs, policies and interventions.
Integrating Formal and Information Institutions: The Bougainville Healthy Communities Program

Lhawang Ugyel, Lecturer, Development Policy Centre,

Email: lhawang.ugyel@anu.edu.au

This paper will examine the interface between formal and informal institutions using the experience of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Program (BHCP) in the delivery of public health services in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The paper will describe the process of implementing the BHCP activities between the Department of Health of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (as an example of a formal institution) and the Village Authority of Tangari Village (as an example of an informal institution). It will highlight the roles of various actors who operate within both the formal and informal spaces of the BHCP. Using a 2x2 matrix to illustrate the relationship between formal and informal institutions on one hand, and on the other hand, governmental and non-governmental systems, the experience of the BHCP shows that the actors do not operate in rigid quadrants. The fluid relationships demonstrate the type of integration that has led to the successful implementation of the BHCP. In addition to demonstrating an example where good integration takes place between formal and informal institutions, the paper will also recommend variations of such integrations to suit different contexts that will be helpful for PNG as well as other developing countries.

Parallel Session 4a – Politics and elections

What are some lessons that we can learn from experiences of women in the 2017 National Elections? - PGNRI study on Women Candidates in the 2017 National Elections

Sarah Kaut-Nasengom, Research Project Officer, PNG National Research Institute,

Email: nasengomskaut@gmail.com

Although the number of women contesting the national elections in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has been increasing every election year since independence in 1975, women’s representation in parliament has been stagnant. This has been a continuous struggle for women candidates as there are various barriers they encounter that hinder their chances of being elected. Despite mechanisms and strategies being established by the government to address this issue, the lack of equal representation at the national level politically continue to be a struggle in this country. Men have been dominating the political sphere in all parliaments. While women are marginalized to effectively make informed decisions at the national level. Therefore, this paper is based on the ‘Women in 2017 national elections’ study carried out in Lae and the Huon Gulf electorates in the Morobe province by the Gender research team of PNG National Research Institute (PGNRI). The paper focuses on the challenges women candidates experienced during campaign and polling; and highlights some of the lessons we can learn from these experiences. The study findings will therefore shed some light on why women in PNG are not voted into parliament.

The Role of the PNG Judiciary in the Post-Election era

Bal Kama, PhD Candidate, Australian National University, Sessional lecturer, University of Canberra

Email: bal.kama@anu.edu.au

The 2017 election promises political change and economic prosperity for Papua New Guineans. But without reliable accountability mechanisms, these promises remain doubtful. The judiciary plays a central role in ensuring national stability, and is expected to remain vigilant against a political climate of actors and institutions that have shown, at times, to be increasingly unpredictable. The judiciary has made some significant decisions in the last seven years showing signs of great courage as well as the challenges faced. The fallout of the 2011 impasse saw the Supreme Court embroiled in a political turmoil where its judgment led to ‘two’ Prime Ministers for over seven months, until the 2012 election. In early 2012, the Court resisted the Judicial Conduct Act 2012, a legislation that purportedly sought to undermine the Court’s independence. The sentencing of Paul Tiensten, a senior minister and incumbent MP in 2014 to nine years imprisonment was a historic milestone for the judiciary especially after the 2011 impasse. It reinstated public confidence and
reverberated justice down the contentious corridors of Waigani. Together with the now defunct Task Force Sweep, the Courts have made important progress in the fight against corruption, while at times, being defied. A Supreme Court decision in December 2017 finally ended the corruption allegations against Prime Minister Peter O’Neill but left some key questions unanswered. The courts have also made important decisions on constitutional cases, such as the rejection of the Manus island refugee detention centre, which not only displeased the PNG government but discredited Australia’s Pacific Solution. My presentation will reflect on these events to discuss the kind of judiciary PNG may expect in the post-election era.

**Promoting equality and political participation through APEC partnership.**

*Geejay Milli, Lecturer, UPNG*

*Email: geejay.milli@gmail.com*

Women’s participation in economic and political spheres in the pacific is extremely low — APEC presents a valuable avenue where greater regional and international partnerships could be harnessed — by way of contributing experiences, knowledge, lessons and best practices towards a path in achieving greater political participation for women in Papua New Guinea. Currently, Papua New Guinea will participate in APEC 2018 with zero women representatives at the national parliamentary level. APEC has documented a framework and guidelines for a pathway towards achieving gender inclusiveness, stating that “the APEC Guide for Gender Analysis is a tool to assist in the implementation of the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC and for mainstreaming “gender” into APEC directions and policy recommendations, project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and communication. It is meant to illustrate the kinds of questions or information that lead to gender mainstreaming and more effective policies and projects.” The 2018 APEC summit in Port Moresby is an event that will see APEC members fostering stronger economic and political partnerships. Being an altogether economic oriented summit — most of the focus will look at the areas in trade, technology, agriculture, industry and business opportunities. However the question this paper hopes to investigate is how APEC can be an effective avenue to foster greater equal gender participation in politics?

**Institutionalization of Politics in Service Delivery**

*Stephen Polonhou Pokawin, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, UPNG*

*Email: spokawin@upng.ac.pg*

For many decades PNG has put in place institutions, policies and mechanisms aimed at providing needed services to the many diverse communities located in rural and urban spaces. Governments at different levels, businesses and non government organizations have responded well in engaging with communities to make positive differences in their lives. Huge amount of resources including manpower and funds have been made available and spent. Laws have been made, reviewed and altered to make delivery of services more effective. Plans, visions, missions, goals, strategies, have been put in place at the national and sub-national levels. PNG had and continues to initial international agreements, conventions, and protocols, at regional, global, bilateral and multilateral levels. This had resulted in the country being recipient of large amounts of funding, material and technical assistance. Yet the net result suggests that service delivery lacks behind throughout the country. United Nations Human Development Indicators place PNG among the lowest rank in the world. The adoption of the democratic value system in PNG had become so infected by a virus called “politics” that unless a cure is found to manage it, any well intended effort in delivery of services will be short lived. The infection came with the country’s history. It was well intended and promoted at the international level during the colonial period and entrenched after independence at international, national, provincial, district, local, tribal, clan, business and non government levels through to today. The thing is that it has not been identified as a virus that needs to be given serious attention. Politics is so institutionalized that it had become an end in itself. It had acquired so much negative influence in PNG that it needs to be managed. Politics needs to be put in its rightful place as vehicle to enhance delivery of services.
Papua New Guinea elections embedded in its political culture; a narrative of the 2017 general election.

Russell Yangin, Teaching Fellow, UPNG

Email: rusyangin@gmail.com

Papua New Guinea elections have been marred by violence, bribery, election rigging and lack of respect for the spirit of a truly democratic election. Subsequent elections have been faced with similar discontent and the same is the story of the 2017 general election. This paper tries to show political culture as a continuous variable that appears in every election in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea’s political culture through the context of interpersonal trust in a fragmented society may account for the anomalies that occur during the whole election cycle. A narrative of the 2017 election may highlight the notion of political culture and its impact on the electoral process. The purpose of this paper is to stimulate discussion about political culture and its impact on Papua New Guinea’s elections.

Parallel Session 3b – Resource projects: revenue and land

Resource revenues, transparency and development: Using EITI to promote more sustainable development in Papua New Guinea.

Glenn Banks, Research fellow, Massey University, Martyn Namorong, National Coordinator, PNG Resource Governance Coalition

Email: G.A.Banks@massey.ac.nz

This paper examines issues around the extractive industries and their contribution to development in PNG, at the interface between governance and politics. The four PNG EITI reports (covering the years 2012-2016 have the potential to transform the understanding of the contribution of extractive industries, highlighting the range of ways in which the industries contribute to the country’s economic development. But the reports also illustrate some of the vulnerabilities of being so reliant on a single sector, and of the continuing need to focus on the translation of resource revenues into broader-based forms of development, especially in the face of recent events (falling commodity prices and a huge drop in tax revenues from 2015, and the growing state ownership of the sector). The paper outlines some of the developments around the EITI process, explores the dilemma of implementing some of the EITI recommendations, and offers options to the government for tackling these recommendations.

Application of Community Mapping in Mine Impacted Communities in Papua New Guinea: The case of Mt Kare Gold Project.

Kenneth Cornilius, Postgraduate student, School of environmental science and geography, UPNG

Email: ken7cornilius@gmail.com

Land boundaries and ownership within high impact economic projects in Papua New Guinea inevitably run into land disputes. The Landownership Identification Process employed in Mt. Kare used geographic knowledge to confirm oral and traditional histories of land and the right to its ownership. This process was used to identify genuine landowners and resolved existing land disputes utilising an innovative method that combined geographical, sociological and cultural knowledges that prevailed then. In PNG, customary landowners in many cases are not recognised and or engaged in the projects. This is due to the difficulty faced when understanding land rights based on oral traditions and its relationship to geographical features used as landmarks. Past studies have shown that there is a lack of effective community consultation and participation with landowners particularly in the mining sector. Consequently, this study have employed quantitative and qualitative intergradely in the field work. These includes interviews, field observations, physical boundary walk along boundaries, questioneers and active involvement of landowners in Mt. Kare, Tagili and Paiela. Hence the Mt. Kare project is situated between Enga and Hela provinces of PNG having a very complicated cultural background. The process of land study uterlised have sucessfully established the foundation of land
studies in PNG in the natural resource sector. The process proved to be an innovative and economically sustainable approach. It was obvious from the study that geographic features and clan's genealogy can be relied upon. Furthermore, further research into social organisation, clan histories and migration can shed more light to this study. Finally, findings from this study presents important areas for future research where statistical and geographic methodology can be used to quantify and justify sociological and anthropological meanings in land in PNG.

**Beyond mere compliance: Towards professional and ethical standards in the practice of social mapping and landowner identification in PNG’s oil and gas industry.**

*Bill Sagir, Lecturer and researcher, Division of social science, University of Goroka*

*Email: sagirb@unigoroka.ac.pg*

Social mapping and landowner identification (SMLI) studies are mandatory in the oil and gas sector as required under Section 47 of the Oil & Gas Act, 1998 (as amended). Since the passing of this legislation, oil and gas companies have produced preliminary and full-scale SMLI reports and submitted them to the Department of Petroleum and Energy (now Department of Petroleum). Since the passing of this legislation, oil and gas companies have produced preliminary and full-scale SMLI reports and submitted them to DPE. The reports however are of varying quality, some good while others were not. For the companies, compliance, or being seen to comply, with Section 47 was enough. This paper argues that oil and gas companies should go beyond mere compliance with Section 47 of the Oil and Gas Act. They should, together with the Department of Petroleum, as the state agency administering the Oil and Gas Act, set professional and ethical standards that the consultants they hire to do the SMLI studies should adhere to. Drawing on the author’s experiences as a SMLI consultant, specific cases of what could be regarded as unprofessional and unethical practices are discussed.

**Resource revenues in PNG: why so low?**

*Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre,*

*Email: stephen.howes@anu.edu.au*

According to the most recent GDP figures, the resources sector makes up 35% of the PNG economy, but mining and petroleum taxes make up only 2% of total taxes. This is paradoxical because the resource sector is rich in rents, which should be taxed at above average rates. This paper asks why the resource revenue take is so low, and what can be done about it.

**Parallel Session 4c – Education and performance**

**Discussion on sustainability of the tuition fee-free education policy in PNG**

*Andrew Julius, Lecturer, Pacific Adventist University*

*Email: korekamane@yahoo.co.uk*

Though much has been written about the successes and failures of the Tuition Fee-Free Education (TFFE) policy in Papua New Guinea, there is a need for in-depth discussion on sustaining the policy not only now, but also in the future. This paper argues that the sustainability of TFFE policy is an important development issue. In particular, it attempts to discover how the National Department of Education (NDoE) aligns its sectorial strategies (and medium term development plans) with department’s vision, mission, objectives and goals. It is essential that planning (both strategic and operational) by past and current governments focuses on continuity of TFFE policy. The paper uses literature review and online data to discuss the issue of TFFE sustainability. It gives details of policy timing, political parties and duration of the policy by comparing the past to current experiences; discusses sectorial strategic plan and medium term development plans relating the policy; and also presents data analysis of TFFE fund allocations. The paper also uses percentages and average values to
compare and contrast specific data relevant to support the findings. There are two important findings. Firstly, the ruling political parties in 1981, 1993 and 2002 announced implementation of free education policy just before national general elections. The earlier attempts lasted less than 18 months because of the change in governments. Secondly, the data revealed lack of TFFE funding consistency in the last decade. ‘Political will’ in the last five years (2012-2016) was remarkably high. This raised the question to the sustainability of the TFFE policy in Papua New Guinea in the long term.


Russel Kitau, Doctor of Education Candidate, Lecturer – Division of public health, School of Medicine UPNG

Email: rkitau25@gmail.com

Roller-coaster is a Professional Doctor of Education thesis by publication. It describes the key steps I have taken as lecturer in public health to use my teaching and learning activities as opportunity to address my own research higher degree needs. As Acting Chairman of the Division of Public Health (DPh) at the UPNG School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) at the commencement of the study, I needed to address my own professional development needs in order to better support colleagues in similar situations as me to address their own needs. Four main goals were set: to develop skills in literature search and reviews; develop understanding and hands-on-experience with qualitative thematic analysis; develop skills in basic quantitative analysis; and strengthen my academic writing and publishing capacity by sharing and disseminating research findings through peer reviewed journals, newsletters, conferences and other presentations. Instead of researching a single topic in-depth outside my routine teaching activities as is usually the case with conventional PhD, the professional doctorate allowed me to write for different kinds of audiences and to submit a portfolio of research outputs based on my day to day work. Two related research questions were: a) what were the main challenges and opportunities involved in using teaching and learning activities to achieve my research higher degree goals; and b) how can this experience help me to better support colleagues in similar situations. To answer these questions, a mixed methods approach, informed by a range of transformational and pragmatic world views including empowerment, participatory learning-by-doing, and auto ethnography, was taken. The paper presents the main findings, significance of the study towards knowledge base and recommendations for future collaboration.

Cushioning State Funding Declines of Universities

Aivat Epeli, Director, Kavieng University Center

Email: kavienguc@gmail.com

Higher education plays an important economic and social role in PNG not only because universities generate new knowledge and equip individuals with these knowledge for use by government, the professions, and business but also offers forums, such as this (PNG Update Conference) for discussion or debate by an audience such as this from varied professional backgrounds. Adequate State funding of PNG universities has never been (and will never be) on, despite assertions to the contrary. Circumstances that validate this statement are three-fold: Firstly, higher education is planned and conducted during times of financial hardships, insecurity and profound uncertainty. Secondly, the country’s population growth rate of over 2% is rising exponentially with ensuing demands on universities for access and equity in juxtaposition to steady decline of the State’s financial contribution to universities. And thirdly, financing of universities suffers from “doctrinal crisis”. As obvious in the World Bank’s Structural Adjustment Program of the nineties, economic theory presents higher education as a low profitable investment considering rise in graduate unemployment, perceived inconsistency in labor market needs and graduate outputs, and costs to the Government of student unrests. Thus, in a situation where higher education is not a priority investment area yet universities are expected to affect the climate for investments and contribute to the productivity of PNG’s workforce, universities must move from passivity to proactive stance both in generating revenue to supplement government financial support and in handling finances. Herein is a duty of any higher education institution – the responsibility to effectively and efficiently use scarce resources from government and society to continue to perform the functions of research,
teaching, and community service. This is a challenge familiar to policy-makers and managers in PNG, and they will no doubt accept it head-on in the coming PNG Update Conference.

**Regional influences on anthropometric and performance characteristics in PNG: a work in progress**

*Kieran Sciberras, Honours Research Student, School of sport and exercise science, James Cook University*

*Email: kscib4@gmail.com*

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a country made up of 22 provinces and has a population of over 7 million people, with over 852 known languages between them. The country itself is drastically different between each region, with landscapes varying between mountainous in some parts and low lying seaside in others. Previous research has indicated that persons who live in certain regions or have certain genetic backgrounds may have superior physiological and anthropometric characteristics compared to those from other regions. The study will consist of the testing of up to 1500 participants who are within two distinct groups. Group A consists of students within educational organisations (secondary schools, universities etc.) and group B consists of athletes who have represented in a spot at the provincial level or higher. Participants completed a questionnaire that asked about their Heritage and completed various forms of anthropometric and performance testing. The results suggest that birth province of the Father, the birth province of the participant and the province in which the participant spent a majority of their childhood have a significant impact on some anthropometric and performance characteristics. This may indicate that anthropometric and performance characteristics may be influenced not only by inherited factors but also by environmental factors that occur during childhood. The information gathered by this project can be used to determine which areas of PNG are host to certain physical and performance attributes. It may also assist in discovery and development of talent within PNG to assist the country’s future sporting aspirations. The results from this research may also open the door to further research in the area of specific environmental influences and their relationship with development of performance attributes.

**Parallel Session 4d – Sustainable development**

**Making the Best Use of the SDGs in PNG**

*Kia-Henry Nema, Governance Programme, UNDP*

*Email: khnema@gmail.com*

PNG ardently welcomed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the new global development agenda. It was launched in September 2015 by the UN General Assembly and came into force in 2016, with a lifespan of 15 years until 2030. The SDGs were meant to build on the gains and lessons learnt of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). SDGs carried with it a strong emphasis on sustainability and social inclusion. PNG was proactive in embracing the principles with the development of the Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (StaRS) in 2015. SDGs are well linked to all the key strategic plans and priorities of the government. However, effective implementation of it remains a challenge. SDGs have 17 goals, 169 targets and more than 200 indicators and argued as ambitious. Learning from its MDGs experience, the government is leading a prioritisation process to adopt a set of goals and targets that is contextually relevant and feasible. While the government wants to take corrective measures to avoid the mistakes of the MDGs, some of the mistakes are likely to be repeated through ‘goal displacement’. The upcoming Medium-Term Development Plan 2018-2022 is a good opportunity for mainstreaming the SDGs into key strategic thinking and an approach to its utilisation. The APEC also provides a platform to learn from other member states and their experiences to improve PNG’s development approach.
Ecocentric and Strong Sustainability Strategies for sustainable, broad-based and inclusive development in PNG

David Lindsay Mowbray, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainable Development, UPNG

Email: davidlindsay.mowbray@gmail.com

Papua New Guinea has StaRS. The author argues that most governments and individuals who commit themselves to sustainable development, including in PNG, have got it all wrong. They are also committed to the capitalist system based on continuous growth, Earth exploitation, to anthropocentric values and planetary management. They are committed to weak or “business as usual” sustainability. Furthermore we must do what is necessary to resolve global warming and minimise climate change. But will the outcomes of APEC be consistent with both a commitment to strong sustainability and resolving climate change? The author argues for both strong sustainability and strong action on climate change. We must bring about a substantial change in our thinking, our values, our personal behaviour, our social and ecological way of doing things and a new economics all based on an “Earth repair” and “Earth Wisdom” approach, on ecocentric values, sustainability values and sustainable economics. We must respect and comply with the laws of Ecology. At present across the world most nations, including PNG, have too high an ecological footprint. Globally we have breached important planetary boundaries and approach ecological tipping points (eg carbon). “No civilization has survived the ongoing destruction of its natural support system. Nor will ours.” We must passionately commit ourselves to achieve personal, social, economic, ecological and institutional sustainability. This is the only way we can achieve Vision 2050; the principles of ecological sustainability, social equity, intergenerational equity, economic justice, ecological justice, inclusiveness, participation, transparency, ecological wisdom, and peace and non-violence; the 17 Sustainable Development Goals; to minimise climate change; and the “5Ps” of “people, planet, peace, partnership and “p’enuity”’ We can do it and do it the PNG way. All Papua New Guineans and all Papua New Guinea (all living things) deserve and can have a sustainable future.

Sustainable Urban Design, Planning and Management for PNG Cities and Towns

Mathew Komabo, Architect & Urban Design Researcher

Email: mkomabo.whiskey@gmail.com

The urban centers of Papua New Guinea with Port Moresby especially our capital city had been experiencing a lot of changes in terms of development over the last decades. With the necessary preparations to host the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) this year (2018), Port Moresby is at the forefront of preparing itself to meet the APEC general expectations. However, in the process of doing so by transforming the city’s image and general perspective with the recent infrastructure developments, we have come to realize that one of the most important concepts of development in urban areas is Sustainable Urban Development. In this context while undertaking the development activity, we have lack the important principles of sustainability in the areas of Urban Design, Planning and Management of our cities and towns. It is important to understand that Urban Design and planning guides the evolution of cities and towns and are producing the desired outcomes in the general public best interest. Urban Design and careful planning ensures that the overall sustainability of a city is improved with every development activity or initiative that is affecting a city or a town. With the continuous increase of population in the urban areas through the rapid process of urbanization, cities begin to encounter some of the toughest challenges in terms of providing the best and basic government needed services with the increasing environmental, social and economic problems. The scale and pace of the urbanization process is opening up unforeseen possibilities. Large concentrations of people and goods provide increased opportunities for creativity, larger labor markets, and higher levels of productivity, not to speak of the cultural and political opportunities associated with urban life. Urban explosion also poses daunting challenges. It can result in unemployment, insufficient investment in basic services with the resulting environmental and social problems.
The Population and Development Dichotomy: Where does PNG Fit in?

Alfred Faiteli, Doctor (PhD) - Demography/Population Studies, School of Natural and Physical Sciences, UPNG

Email: afaiteli@gmail.com

This paper attempts to show the theoretical insights of understanding the population and development dynamics and rationality from a global perspective and then try to suggest where PNG would relevantly fit as we progress into the future. The discussion will centre on population and its relationship to development issues and argue whether or not population is affected by development or vice versa. This will include shedding some light in creating an understanding of the population and development dynamics and complexities with statistics and examples from both the developed and developing countries with a particular focus on PNG. The key demographic variables of fertility, mortality, migration will be highlighted in relation to their impact on population change (size, growth, composition, density, distribution, momentum & projections) and development. Key development strategies such as MDGs/SDGs will be discussed from both an optimistic and pessimistic view taking into account the demographic backgrounds of developed and developing countries and in more particular, the case of PNG. This will draw the discussion to a conclusion by situating PNG in this population debate and population-development transition and suggest ways of re-conceptualising, re-positioning and understanding the relationship between population and development in PNG in a more realistic way.