

UPNG-ANU Partnership: 2019 Annual Plan

Summary table

Name of Organisation	Development Policy Centre, Australian National University
Project title	UPNG-ANU Partnership
Project objectives	Faculty strengthening, collaborative research and outreach, faculty and student exchanges and partnership management

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Section 1: Overview

Executive Summary

2018 was the first year that we were able to deliver the full range of activities envisaged under the partnership. We plan to deliver a similarly strong year in 2019.

Major goals for 2019 include the following:

Faculty strengthening

- Maintain a full complement of staff at UPNG with four ANU Lecturers – two in economics and two in public policy – as well as a Project Coordinator/Associate Lecturer.
- Each ANU Lecturer to deliver three to four courses in the academic year to a mix of undergraduate and postgraduate UPNG students
- Assist UPNG to move into the third year of its new Masters of Economics and Public Policy, with an expanded and more gender-balanced student cohort.

Collaborative research and outreach

- Co-host a successful 2019 PNG Update with UPNG SBPP.
- Further the collaborative research program and blog.

Faculty and student exchange

- Hold a successful ANU-UPNG Summer School program at ANU in Jan/Feb 2019, and plan for the next one in Jan/Feb 2020.
- Continue to promote two-way academic visits and talks.
- Host the annual ANU economics exam at UPNG.
- Continue with the ANU Scholarship in Economics program.

Partnership management

- Secure a second phase to the project.
- Undertake planning and logistics, ensure compliance and oversee other issues related to project implementation and reporting.
- Liaise with all key stakeholders.
- Maintain our strong M&E system.

The risk matrix has been updated. The main risks in the coming year concern the end of the project, PNG's parlous fiscal state, political interference with the university, and the need for reform to improve university performance. Without a second phase, sustainability of project goals will be doubtful. However, greater clarity is required about the university's direction of travel before an extension can be entered into.

Section 2: Implementation Plan

Strategic output/outcome 1: Faculty Strengthening

Teaching

Five ANU staff will be lecturing at UPNG during the 2019 academic year.

- Dr Manoj Pandey (Lecturer in economics)
- Dr Bao Nguyen (Lecturer in economics)
- Dr Nemat Bizhan (Lecturer in public policy)
- Dr Amanda Watson (Lecturer in public policy)
- Mr Dek Joe Sum (Partnership Coordinator and Associate Lecturer in economics).

To overcome teaching shortages, and enable the MEPP to continue, the partnership will support a small number of internationally qualified teaching staff to teach MEPP courses, subject to the MEPP being offered, as it did in 2017 and 2018. An indicative list follows:

- Dr Francis Odhuno (teaching first and third trimester MEPP courses)
- Associate Professor Martin Davies (teaching second trimester MEPP course)
- Associate Professor Eugene Ezebilo (teaching first trimester MEPP course)

Initiatives to improve teaching

- **Textbooks and SBPP librarian** The project is funding SBPP to hire a librarian to establish a dedicated library. In this second year of funding, the library is expected to be opened in the new SBPP building.
- **Internet for student learning material** Due to internet difficulties at UPNG, a network assisted storage device and a wireless hard drive have been purchased to assist with accessing files and lecture notes when the internet is down. These devices need to be transferred to the new building and made operational.
- **Tutor induction** Building on the success and positive feedback from prior years, a tutor induction will be held again, in March 2019

Engaging students and building links

- **Film discussion nights** Following on from the success of the 2017 and 2018 programs, Dr Amanda Watson and Mr Rohan Fox will again coordinate the 'UPNG Inspired' film nights. These film nights provide students and faculty with the opportunity to watch relevant films and engage in informed discussions about the issues raised, often with guest speakers present. Dr Amanda Watson and colleagues will host the film nights at UPNG, and Mr Rohan Fox will maintain the Facebook page.
- **Student associations** In 2019, the partnership will again allocate a budget of up to 5,000 Kina per semester for student-led learning and outreach initiatives in economics and public policy. Funding to the Economics Student Society (ESS) and the Public Policy Association (PPA) will require the submission of a formal budget to partnership staff and the approval of the Dean SBPP. It is hoped that this year the PPA will be revived.
- **Guest lectures** Staff will invite guest lectures to speak in their courses, which allows students to strengthen their professional networks and increases their exposure to leading PNG public and

private sector actors.

- **References** Staff will provide final-year students with written references for employment on request

Graduate outlook, outcomes and links

The annual economics exam will be conducted in 2019. This exam helps with our own monitoring, and assists students who may wish to apply for a DFAT scholarship in future. The exam also forms part of the criteria to determine who will be selected for the ANU Masters scholarship, should future funding be secured.

As part of the partnership's effort to maintain contact with UPNG alumni, Mr Rohan Fox will continue to promote and expand the partnership's economics alumni Facebook page for recent graduates.

In previous years, tracing studies were completed that follow the career profiles/trajectory and opinions of economics graduates from UPNG. This year, the research will attempt to follow a panel cohort- both the graduates surveyed in prior research, as well as a new cohort of graduates a year on from graduation. Mr Rohan Fox will collaborate with UPNG colleagues on this research.

Strategic output/outcome 2: Collaborative Research and Outreach

The PNG Update

The PNG Update is the signature event of the ANU-UPNG partnership, and is firmly established as the premier forum for the discussion of research and analysis related to contemporary economic and social issues in PNG. This year we aim to build off the excellent feedback provided on the 2018 Update to run another successful event in 2019.

The 2019 PNG Update will be held in June 13-14 2019, at UPNG's Waigani Campus with the theme "Development and Diversity".

The PNG Project

The PNG Project provides the framework within which collaborative research under the partnership is pursued. The breadth and depth of research has increased over the life of the project to cover in 2019 some 30 projects under the four headings of: economics; governance and elections; service delivery, and gender.

Funding for PNG Project research comes from a variety of sources. In addition to the Moresby-based faculty, the Partnership currently funds 100% of the costs of Research Fellow Michelle Rooney; 50% of the costs of Research Fellow Grant Walton, 25% of the costs of Research Fellow Dr Terence Wood; and 100% of a Research Officer (Rohan Fox).

PNG Project databases

- **PNG Elections Database website:** Updating for the 2017 elections is almost complete, and the updated Database will be launched in 2018.

- **PNG Budget Database website:** The [PNG Budget Database](#) will again be updated twice annually, when the Final Budget Outcome (FBO) is released, and then at budget time.

Research, policy and training workshops

We aim to run the following workshops in 2019 (please note that this is an indicative list only). We aim to bolster the research of SBPP academics through these workshops. Where practicable, these training sessions will be open to participants from other UPNG faculties and PNG institutions:

Training title	Date
Tutor Induction – Mr Rohan Fox	March 2019
PNG Update – Media Workshop – Mr Rohan Fox	June 2019
CHELT workshop	Second half 2019

Mr Rohan Fox will run the annual **PNG Update Media Workshop** in advance of the PNG Update to ensure widespread media coverage of the event.

Publications and presentations

A number of publications are expected to be supported by the partnership in 2019. A number of ANU research staff in the Crawford School plan to give seminars at UPNG in 2019. Both ANU and UPNG academics will present at the PNG Update.

Outreach

- **The Devpolicy Blog** Devpolicy.org is the online public outreach portal for the Development Policy Centre at the ANU. This website is used for communicating and discussing much of the development, economic and public policy research relating to PNG undertaken by ANU. The partnership grant supports editorial work on blog posts about PNG. In 2019, we will continue to publish posts related to PNG and the broader Pacific. We will again publish a hard copy PNG: Devpolicy blogs book for 2018-19, which provides an alternative channel for disseminating information. The books will be made available at the 2019 PNG Update. A new Facebook page is also making full-text versions of Devpolicy Blog posts available on Facebook, to increase access to this work among PNGans who are able to access Facebook, but not webpages such as blogs, without additional data costs through their mobile providers.
- The **UPNG Blog Incentive Scheme**, launched in 2018, will continue. This scheme encourages blog submissions from UPNG staff and students. The scheme offers 200 Kina for blogs written by UPNG staff and students that are published on the Devpolicy blog.
- **The Devpolicy PNG Newsletter** will continue to provide regular PNG partnership related news every four weeks. Mr Rohan Fox will continue to coordinate this newsletter, which covers partnership related research and blogs, and provides general partnership related updates.
- **Other engagement** Project staff will continue to participate in a variety of workshops, meetings with government, donors and the private sector. Staff will also engage with the media and other public outreach.

Strategic output/outcome 3: Faculty and Student Exchanges

Masters students

The partnership has a long term ANU scholarship program to support the most promising UPNG graduates in economics through post graduate study of a Masters in International and Development Economics (IDEC) at ANU. The scholarship is intended to provide a pathway for the top economics graduate from UPNG each year to complete post graduate study at ANU and then return to a faculty position at SBPP.

Two long-term ANU scholarship recipients completed their final semesters at ANU in 2018, and will in 2019 return to UPNG to take up faculty positions. A third student will continue his studies and is due to complete his final semester in H2 2019. A fourth student, and the first female holder of this scholarship, will commence her studies at ANU in 2019. A fifth student has been selected for 2020 subject to satisfactory completion of a year of tutoring.

Summer school

The inaugural 2018 Summer School supported the learning and development of the top undergraduate performers in economics and public policy at UPNG and prepared them to achieve their highest potential in their final year of study. The 2018 Summer School was a great success, with ten students from UPNG completing a six-week intensive program of study at the ANU, and the positive results and feedback support the case for its repetition in 2019 and beyond. The 2019 Summer School will take place from 16 January to 21 February. Students will attend subjects in their designated stream (public policy or economics) and will have the opportunity to attend the Australasian Aid Conference, as well as attending meetings with relevant members of parliament. Students will also be able to attend a variety of social and cultural experiences to give them an understanding of life in Canberra.

We will also prepare for the 2020 Summer School. Getting passports for the 2019 Summer School was very labour intensive, and we will look this year to alternative mechanisms.

Staff exchanges

We hope to again host a number of ANU staff and other Australian researchers at UPNG for research and the PNG Update (covered by the research and outreach budget). Opportunities for UPNG staff for presentations at ANU and in the region are at the Australasian Aid Conference in February 2019 and the Pacific Update (USP, Fiji) in mid-2019. ANU staff members plan a series of visits to UPNG with a focus around the PNG Update.

Strategic output/outcome 4: Partnership management

Partnership management

The project will provide two six-monthly progress and financial reports in the coming year, as well as contribute to the fortnightly Precinct reports.

As the project progresses, staff turnover can be expected to continue. Current uncertainty on funding support for a second phase also presents a risk to staff retention, in both Canberra and Moresby. Finding staff for short periods of time will be difficult.

Management priorities

Currently, UPNG staff are funded to end-2019, with the rest of the project funded to mid-2020 or longer as required for reporting. An early decision will be needed on a second phase.

Budget

The budget submitted for 2019 is \$2.308 million. At the current time our assumption is that the project will come to an end in Moresby in 2019, and in Canberra in mid-2020, however we hope to secure a Phase II to the project.

Section 3: Performance

1. Logframe / Theory of Change

- **The project takes a long-term approach.** Aid funding for this partnership may wax and wane (and we hope it waxes) but the project has been set up to be here for the long term, at least a decade. Of course, there is no guarantee it will last for a decade, but that is the intent: there is little point to setting up a shorter-term project.
- **The concept of partnership is critical.** Both parties have skin in the game. Both have made a long-term commitment to the partnership. Both are prepared to discuss and resolve issues in a transparent manner.
- **The benefits of the project are both direct and indirect.** Perhaps the most important, certainly the most tangible, benefits of the project are for the students who otherwise might receive no teaching, and certainly a lower quality of teaching. These are the future leaders of PNG after all. But there are also important indirect benefits – the systemic changes, the research and outreach. This dual approach serves as both a risk mitigation approach and as a way to maximize project value.
- **The project has and requires strong support from the highest levels.** Australia's former Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop MP initiated the expansion of the project during a meeting in mid-2014 with the then ANU Vice Chancellor, and the current Foreign Minister signalled her support by visiting the UPNG SBPP new building project in October 2018. It is strongly supported by ANU and UPNG at the highest levels. Given the difficulty of the project, this is critical for success.
- **The project has strong UPNG ownership.** The project is as much a UPNG initiative as an ANU one. It was the UPNG VC's initiative to seek a new MOU with ANU, and it was his drive that brought that into fruition. The SBPP Dean plays a critical role in providing day-to-day support to the partnership and its various initiatives. Without this, the project would undoubtedly falter.
- **The project takes an adaptive, learning-by-doing, and adjusting-as-we-go approach.** This is the

only approach that makes sense. We learn as we go, documenting what we learn along the way: for example, completing a “baseline report” in 2015 of the SBPP-Economics Division.

- **The project values continuity.** To develop good relationships, and to learn to be effective, staff need to be in place for as long as possible. Long-standing relationships between ANU and UPNG faculty are key to the success of the partnership. If project staff do well, we want them to stay for as long as possible.
- **The project is based on realistic expectations and seeks incremental gains.** It would be foolhardy to wish away the systemic challenges that UPNG faces in a range of areas. No external intervention can turn UPNG around, or even a part of the university. However, an external intervention can make a difference, and be judged a success, provided realistic expectations are maintained.

2. Reporting against Partnership Objectives

The project undertakes a number of M&E exercises, and also judges itself against a number of important indicators as set out in each annual plan. In each six monthly report, performance against the below indicators will be judged using a “traffic light” rating system.

INDICATOR
Faculty Strengthening
ANU lecturers in place and teaching at UPNG
Positive student evaluations of courses taught by ANU lecturers
Masters in Economics and Public Policy established, with last year’s cohort able to complete their second (final) year of this program
Improved teaching: increased use of course websites; improved availability of textbooks and/or notes to students; increased use by students of computers in the course of learning; increased use of evaluations
ANU-UPNG annual exam in economics shows increased number of students doing well
Opportunities for students to link with employers
Increased number of SPBB staffing positions filled
Greater emphasis in courses on critical thinking, development of problem solving skills, and PNG-related content where appropriate.
Research and outreach
Number of Discussion Papers and blogs produced on PNG
Extent of participation by UPNG staff in partnership research activities and output
Number of papers and attendance at PNG Update
Number of seminars/workshops at UPNG
Presentations relating to PNG at ANU
Number of UPNG staff presenting at PNG Update
Staff and student exchange
Number of ANU staff visits to UPNG
Number of UPNG staff visits to ANU and USP
Progress of Masters Students
Successful 2019 summer school and planning for 2020
Program management
Timely and comprehensive M&E and reporting
Project able to acquit and report expenditure on a timely basis
Visas and all logistics managed in a timely basis to visiting faculty (short- and long-term)
All required hiring undertaken in a timely manner, and staff turnover managed without excessive disruption
Strong filing and documentation
Clear policies in place to guide project management and to ensure contractual compliance