

# Newsletter: PNG debates | SDGs and heartache | Financing for development | Aid conference registrations



by Development Policy Centre

14 August 2015

## **PNG debates: advisers and the economy**

Papua New Guinea has been in the headlines in Australia in recent weeks for two reasons.

First, there was the surprise announcement that PNG wanted donors to fund positions directly in the government, rather than sending advisers. Stephen Howes unpacks the history behind this position, and adds his own **support** to it, arguing that “aid-funded personnel would be more productive if in-line”.

Second, PNG Treasury released its Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook for 2015, writing down revenue budget projections by 20% to below 2014 levels, and projecting a 9% deficit if expenditures are not cut. You can read Paul Flanagan’s analysis of these “frightening figures” **here**.

## **SDGs and heartache**

What do the Sustainable Development Goals have in common with country music? A lot apparently, if our latest blogs are anything to go by. Terence Wood **warns** that the SDGs are complicated, and might just break your heart. Benjamin Day **looks to** Kenny Rogers for advice, arguing that the key to success for the SDGs will be “*knowin’ what to throw away / And knowin’ what to keep*”. But Joy Kyriacou **argues** that just like Taylor Swift’s evolution from Nashville country to New York pop, the SDGs are the MDGs, but more grown up.

## **Focusing on financing**

With the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa now over, its time to take stock of the outcomes.

Ewen McDonald of DFAT and Jonathan Kings of MFAT in NZ – the two most senior aid officials in their respective countries – [argue](#) that Addis will be of particular benefit to the small island developing states in the Pacific and elsewhere.

Robin Davies takes a more sceptical look at two claims commonly made in the lead-up to Addis: that there have been falls in aid to both the Least Developed Countries and to countries graduating from low income status. Both claims appear in the conference's negotiated outcome document and in various other places. It turns out that neither is true. You can read Robin's unfolding critique [here](#) and [here](#), with more to come.

### **Registrations open for 2016 Australasian Aid Conference**

Registrations for the 2016 Australasian Aid Conference, to be held on 10-11 February, are [now open](#). The conference has been a sell-out in previous years, and early bird pricing will only be available until 10 November. Our call for papers is still open until 15 October, with more details [available here](#).



### **PNG quantitative skills workshop**

In the latest collaboration between ANU Crawford School of Public Policy and the University of Papua New Guinea, a two-day Quantitative Methods Workshop [was held on 29-30 July](#) in Port Moresby.

Led by Devpolicy's [Anthony Swan](#), 27 participants from a wide range of government institutions – UPNG, the Department of Education, the National Statistics Office, the Bank of PNG, and the National Research Institute – worked hard to master the statistical intricacies of Excel and STATA.

The workshop, supported by the Australian aid program, was designed to help increase the capacity of researchers in PNG to utilise quantitative methods in their research and policy analysis.

## Out of the rubble: recovering from the Nepalese earthquake

On Thursday 27 August, World Vision Nepal's National Director Liz Satow will share her experience of the 2015 earthquakes and how World Vision has been working with communities, the Government, and other NGOs to restore services. [Register here](#).

## Progress report

Our progress report for the first half of 2015 is [now available on our website](#)—see how the Centre has been tracking in what has already been a busy year.

## Events

*Out of the rubble: recovering from the Nepalese earthquake*

Liz Satow, World Vision International Nepal. Thursday 27 August, Barton Theatre, 12.30pm. [Register here](#).

*2016 Australasian Aid Conference*

10-11 February 2016. Call for papers and registrations now open. [Details here](#).

## Blog highlights

Not just a recipient: James Batley [looks at PNG's aid](#)

Robert Bestani argues the [AIIB is not worth the hype](#)

Debunking *The Australian* [on refugee claims](#)

## On the blog

[Two dogmas of development financing: aid to the Least Developed Countries](#) by Robin Davies

[Indigenous peoples in development policy and development in indigenous affairs](#) by Janet Hunt

[Shake it off: the SDGs grew up and got out of Nashville](#) by Joy Kyriacou

[Papua New Guinea's aid program in the region](#) by James Batley

[AIIB: much ado about very little](#) by Robert Bestani

[From Addis to the Pacific: financing for development in small island developing states](#) by Ewen McDonald and Jonathan Kings

# DEVPOLICYBLOG

Two dogmas of development financing: on the aid receipts of least-developed and transition countries by Robin Davies

Shifting in-line in Papua New Guinea by Stephen Howes

PNG's frightening fiscal figures by Paul Flanagan

The SDGs, Kenny Rogers and making choices by Benjamin Day

Why the SDGs will break your heart by Terence Wood

## In brief

Weekend links: W. Arthur Lewis remembered, Worm Wars redux, don't worry be happy, and more...

Solomon Islands Election Results Database

Pulling our weight on refugees? Nope, nope, nope

Weekend links: the Middle East, FAO debate, the private sector, and more...

PNG researchers boost quantitative skills in Moresby workshop

*This is the fortnightly newsletter of the **Development Policy Centre** at Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, published every second Friday.*

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The Development Policy Centre is part of the Crawford School of Public Policy under the College of Law, Governance and Policy at The Australian National University.

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