

Newsletter: PNG LNG myth | Pacific Update | 2015 aid stakeholder survey launch

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PNG Update: presentations and podcasts

The PNG Update at UPNG on June 18-19 was opened by the PNG Finance Minister, the Hon James Marape. Listen to his “LNG is a myth” speech [here](#): “We are clouding our vision thinking that LNG is a waterfall of money. It is how we maximise use of all the resources in this country that will unlock our development potential.”

The Minister went on to emphasise the importance of expenditure control due to the fall in commodity prices, especially oil, and committed to keeping the deficit below its budgeted level.

Other podcasts, speeches and presentations can all be found [here](#).

2015 Pacific Update: 15-16 July in Suva

The [2015 Pacific Update](#) (15-16 July at the University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva) is less than two weeks away. This annual forum gathers policymakers, academics, and development practitioners to present research and discuss the latest economic and social developments in the Pacific region. An [updated program](#) [pdf] is now up on the web. There are more than 60 papers and 18 sessions on topics such as gender inequality, aid and development, trade, migration, tourism, education, disaster risk management, and macroeconomic and fiscal policy. The Update this year is being organised jointly by the Development Policy Centre, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank Institute, and the University of the South Pacific’s School of Economics. The event is free and open to the public. For more details, [visit our website](#).

Australian aid stakeholder survey

Phase I of the 2015 Australian aid stakeholder survey will open on Monday. This first phase is limited to selected stakeholders, who have already been contacted. The second phase, open to all, will be run later this year. Please take advantage of this important opportunity to provide feedback to the aid program. For more information on this year’s survey, [visit the website](#).

Upcoming events

2015 Pacific Update

15-17 July, University of the South Pacific, Suva. [Details here](#).

The fish is the friend of matriliney: reef density and matrilineal inheritance in Melanesia

Friday 31 July, Acton Theatre. 12.30pm—1.30pm. [Register here](#).

2016 Australasian Aid Conference

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

Blog highlights

Is Australia [paying too much](#) for AIIB membership?

How does NZ [stack up](#) in its latest DAC peer review?

GBV [on the streets](#) in Timor-Leste

On the blog

[Economics at the University of Papua New Guinea, 2015](#) by Michael Cornish

[Economics at the University of Papua New Guinea, 1969](#) by John Langmore

[Migration and development in an Australian context](#) by Henry Sherrell

[Maternal mortality and GBV in the Pacific: common drivers call for collaborative approaches](#) by Nancy Waites

[Innovation in development... is it worth the hype?](#) By Penny Farrell

[A big week for Pacific labour mobility: SWP reforms and the microstate visa](#) by Stephen Howes

[A big week for Pacific labour mobility: backpacker reforms](#) by Stephen Howes

[NZ aid reviewed: doing alright, however...](#) by Jo Spratt

[Not just a domestic problem: everyday discrimination against women in urban Timor-Leste](#) by Angie Bexley and Maj Nygaard-Christensen

In brief

[Weekend links: post-conflict cash grants, Iran weapons, analysing ISIS, development podcasts, and Tongan kava clubs](#)

[Finally! Julie Bishop speaks out about PNG-Australia money laundering](#)

[Child marriage in emergencies: new evidence from the Syrian crisis](#)

[Sticker shock: what the AIIB will cost the Australian aid program](#)

[Red Cross no longer sending AVID volunteers](#)

[The 2015 PNG Update](#)

[Weekend links: humanitarian aid, two fearless advocates, Saudi solar power, World Bank critics, and looking](#)

[beyond growth](#)

[Health sector first casualty of Myanmar aid cuts](#)

[The development of Northern Australia: a little aid, and more Pacific labour](#)

This is the fortnightly newsletter of the [Development Policy Centre](#) at Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, published every second Friday.