



Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

ISSUE No. 5

September - October, 2008

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Another Tuna Joint Venture for Madang



• (From L-R, seated) Hon. Gabriel Kapris, Hon. Ben Semri, Mr Huang and Mr Rivera signing the joint venture fishing agreement in Port Moresby.

Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority will continue to benefit from fisheries investments in the country. RD Corporation of Philippines and Fairwell Fishery of Taiwan have signed an agreement with the government of PNG to build a fish processing plant in Madang. The plant will initially cost US\$40 million (K260 million) which is expected to be established within the government's proposed establishment of Pacific Marine Industrial Zone in Madang Province.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on August, 20th 2008 by Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Gabriel Kapris, Minister for Trade and Industry and company representatives.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Hon. Ben Semri assured investors that PNG is a place to enjoy investment. " In light of this development I can safely say that PNG is at a threshold of becoming a major tuna processing hub in the region that would not only benefit PNG but also our neighbouring Pacific Island countries", he said.

He extended his invitation to other Pacific Island countries to consider this opportunity in PNG especially the marine park. He said currently 30% of tuna caught in PNG is processed onshore, however, PNG government through NFA intends to increase that to 75%. General Manager of Fairwell Fishery, Mr Jesse Huang and President

From the Managing Director's Desk

It is with great pleasure to announce that on behalf of Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority, Minister for Fisheries Honourable Ben Semri has officially handed over fully furnished office of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in Pohnpei, Federated State of Micronesia, to the chairman of WCPFC. It cost US\$ 120,000 for the furnitures and curtains. We supplied curtains for the whole building and furnitures to their conference room and the office of the Executive Director of the Commission. The conference room has been named as PNG Rumana, and will be one of the offices of our own within the Commission.

We have successfully attended some of the very important meetings in the region. We had PNA or Parties to Nauru Agreement meeting to finalize Total Allowable Effort (TAE) and Party Allowable Effort (PAE) for the Vessels Day Scheme (VDS) for 2009 fishing period. In this meeting we have agreed to do away with three-year management period to a fix management period under the Parties to Nauru Agreement meeting on VDS.

From September to October we attended the 4th Technical Compliance Committee (TCC) Meeting held in Pohnpei. Simultaneously, we also attended Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) management workshop meeting in Samoa. This was attended by Mr Augustine Mobiha, Mr Ludwig Kumoru and Mr Noan Pakop of NFA.

In Indonesia I have Attended WWF-CTI or Coral Triangle Initiative workshop on the 21-24 October 2008. In the workshop I have made a presentation on Conservation Management Measures that we have in Papua New Guinea. There was also a CTI meeting held in Manila from 21-25 September and it was attended by senior government officials. Same issues on the triangle initiative was discussed.

We have also attended US treaty meeting in US on the 27-31 October to talk about the broader cooperation stock.

Sylvester B. Pokajam
Managing Director

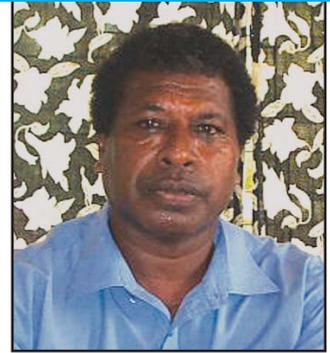
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of RD Group of Companies, Mr Rodrigo Rivera thanked the government of PNG and NFA for allowing them to establish business in PNG, particularly, through this joint venture. Mr Huang said this new processing facility will boost further fishing activities and marketing of tuna products to the world markets.

He said as new opportunities pop up, the creation of local employment and

new local business to support the operations will be realized and will contribute substantially to the local economy. Mr Rivera said this great country headed by Prime Minister, Sir Micheal Somare and ably supported by great ministers give them a chance to be of service to this nation. "We want to leave a legacy of altruism, integrity, quality and service", Mr Rivera said.

Staff Profile



Name: Mr. Paso Pohei
Age: 50
Martial Status: Married with 6 children
Qualification: Masters in Public Administration, ANU Australia,
Current Position: Manus Provincial Fisheries Advisor

Mr Pohei comes from Manus Province. He attended Pombrut Primary School from 1966 - 1975 and continued to Sogeri Senior High School and did form 5 and 6. In 1978, Mr Pohei attended Laloki Cooperative College and obtained a Certificate in Business Management Development in 1979. In mid 1980, he got a job with Manus Provincial Government with the Department of Commerce as a Business Development Officer. He later undertook studies in Diploma in Business Development at the Administrative College in Port Moresby, and completed the program in 1981.

In 1997, he undertook Post-graduate Diploma studies in Development Management at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. He again pursued further studies at the same University and completed his Masters in Public Administration.

Mr Pohei returned home with flying colours and spent most of his time with Manus Provincial Administration and delivered some of the things he learnt and studied in Australia. He became the Manus Provincial Planner and worked in that capacity from 1999 to 2006.

He later joined the fisheries division and took up the position of principal fisheries advisor in October of 2006.

He said, he is enjoying fisheries work and finds it quite challenging because he had not studied fisheries but he is very keen in learning new things. He has bigger plans for the fisheries division and will be working very closely with the NFA to carry out its functions in the province.

NFA Provides Technical Assistance to Tuna Canning Companies



• NFA Thermal Processing Analysts, Timothy Numilengi and Christopher Kevin showing canned tuna products ready for testing.

Frabelle (PNG) LTD is the second tuna canning plant in PNG and is located in Lae city that started producing pre-cooked vacuum packed frozen loins for the EU market in 2006. In 2007 the company has decided to can tuna for the EU market as well as for local market. The company has sought technical assistance from NFA in establishing the canning process, which is a very critical process in a canning industry. In canning, proper process time and temperature is required for product sterilization before it is safe for human consumption.

The most concern hazard is the presence of toxins from this pathogenic bacteria called *Clostridium Botulinum*. Without proper sterilization or cooking temperature, the presence of this bacteria can produce lethal toxins that can kill a person. Therefore, a lot of research has been conducted in the United States that has come up with the regulation for canned foods, which is currently applied around the globe including the EU. PNG is no exception and has to comply with this regulation for safe production of canned foods like canned tuna. As such, the company has engaged the services of Mr. Numilengi and Mr. Kevin to carry out Thermal Processing Test and the Cooking Schedule before commercial production can begin.

Establishment of correct thermal processing in a fish canning factory is very important. Mr. Numilengi reported that he had spent six weeks in the plant to accomplish the following:

- ▶ Temperature Distribution test - this is the test conducted on the retort facilities which is the sterilization chamber to ensure adequate steam line pressure is applied, all water and air is removed before the actual process schedule can start. Procedure for the operation of the retorts is also established.
- ▶ Heat Penetration test- this is the test required for each type of canned tuna products on the establishment of required cook time and temperature to ensure the product is safe for human consumption.

Mr. Numilengi spent four months to assist the company go into commercial production of nine various pack-style of assorted canned tuna currently export to EU markets and three for the local markets, branded as Isabella.

Mr. Numilengi undertaken trainings in New Zealand, Thailand and USA to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in such a highly skilled technical area. It took him two years to really master this skill and is now assisting the companies directly in their canning operation.

NFA Commits K5000 to PNG Ports Conference



• Mr Kasu (centre) with Mr Riches and other managers of PNG Port Services.

Business partnership is a mutual satisfaction for any organization to advance. National Fisheries Authority has sponsored PNG Ports Corporation with K5, 000 to support the staging of the Pacific Ports Association Conference that was held on the 21 - 23 May this year. NFA's sponsorship falls under silver category.

NFA sees that ports services are live-blood of maritime trade handling functions for the fish processing industry of PNG. Executive Manager for Corporate Services, Mr John Kasu presented the cheque on behalf of NFA.

Speaking while acknowledging various sponsors during a media conference, Chief Executive Officer of PNG Ports Corporation, Mr Brian Riches thanked all the sponsors for their generous support and commitment. He said the Objective of the conference is to promote regional cooperation, friendship and understanding between member ports and ports users around the pacific.

He said that with him doing the job, has saved the company a lot of money than to hire such expertise from overseas. Such expertise would cost about K500 per hour in the plant, excluding other costs which is very expensive.

"Apart from Frabelle (PNG) LTD I have also extended my service to International Food Corporation LTD in Lae and recently the South Seas Tuna Corporation LTD (SSTC) in Wewak. SSTC will shortly go into tuna canning as well, since their retorts and products have been tested. Once the process schedule and all necessary systems are in place they will start producing canned tuna," Mr Numilengi said.

Lastly, I enjoyed working with the fish canning industries in thermal processing because the work is very challenging and I have learnt a lot from different companies. Different canneries have different types of equipments, systems and it has its own problems. I tried my best to understand their systems before assisting them. I feel proud when I accomplish my job well and see that the canneries are going into commercial production and PNG canned tuna is exported internationally, and also on the local market. I smile when I see these products on the shelves. I can say that we have done well, so far, because there are no reports of anybody killed or sick by consuming our canned products either locally or internationally.

For more information, contact Mr Numilengi on 309 04443

NFA Participates in Manus Provincial Show



• Fish farmers gathering at the NFA stall during the show.

The National Fisheries Authority have participated in the Manus Provincial Show held from 15-19 September. The Show had a variety of activities including exhibitions from various business groups.

They were many exhibitions but NFA's exhibition was eye catching as more fish farmers and artisanal fishermen flocked in to collect Project Development Fund (PDF) forms and marketing information. A lot of the fish farmers expressed sentiments that they have worked hard for the last 10-15 years without any support from the government or any aid from donor agencies.

They were amazed to learn that NFA will assist fish farmers. Due to the geographical location and communication problem, most fishermen and fish farmers did not get the information regarding PDF in the media and this exhibition provided an avenue for the fish farmers to ask questions and know more about the fund.

Mr Paso Pohei, Provincial Fisheries Advisor thanked NFA on behalf of the provincial government for its commitment in supporting provincial fisheries activities. He also thanked Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director and the management team of NFA for the continuous support.



• From (L-R) Mr Thomas Negints, General Manager of South Seas Tuna Corporation presenting K5,000 sponsorship to Mr Augustine Mobiha, Executive Manager Fisheries Management for the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting held in Port Moresby, August 2008.

Fisheries College Participates in 2008 Career Exposition



• Mr Matia Rikis, Student Services Manager of NFC attending to Port Moresby Grammar students during the exposition.

By Steven Poning

National Fisheries College has participated in the 2008 Career Exposition organized by the Department of Education at Don Bosco Technical College in Port Moresby.

The theme of the exposition was "better information, better choices, better future". The exposition was held from 2 - 4 September 2008. Students from all over NCD and Central Province attended the exposition.

During the opening session, invited guest speaker, NCD Governor, Powes Pakop told the students that nothing is impossible in this world. He said if they can make the right choice with the right information they can do better than him. He called on the students to think beyond and excel in their career.

In a small closing ceremony National Fisheries Authority was given a certificate in recognition for its participation in the 2008 career exposition.

Speaking during the presentation, Mr Henao Tau Nauna, Acting Director of NCD Education Division thanked NFA and NFC for their participation. Mrs Lepapa Kopi, NCD Guidance Officer said, "Your exhibition will allow our students to make better choice for their future."

The exhibition attracted a lot of students in NCD and as result most of the students have raised questions regarding fisheries and NFA and NFC officers attended to the students efficiently.