



Fishing Line



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PNG Hosts WCPFC Meeting Successfully



- Minister Semri officially Opening the WCPFC Meeting at Crowne Plaza, Port Moresby.

By Steven Poning

Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority has successfully hosted the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting held from 4th-22nd August this year. Scientists, fisheries managers and tuna representatives from 26 countries, Chinese Taipei and five territories in the Pacific attended the fourth annual session of the scientific committee.

The meeting was held so that the Scientific Committee could advise the Commission on the collection and analysis of scientific data from tuna fisheries operations throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Dr. Andrew Wright, Executive Director of the Commission said.

Dr Dae-Yeon Moon, Chairman of the meeting explained that "this information will be used to assess the health of

the main tuna stocks of yellowfin, big-eye, albacore, and skipjack tuna and advise the Commission on measures needed to promote their sustainable use and conservation". He said the Committee will also consider issues related to the status of other non-target species taken in tuna fisheries which include sea birds, sharks and sea turtles - particularly efforts to mitigate their catch.

The WCPFC made a record of 2.4 million metric tonnes of tuna catch this year with Papua New Guinea contributing 20% of the harvest. This figure reflects the previous record of 2.28mt for last year. Western and Central Pacific alone contribute over 50% of tuna catch globally.

Dr. Wright said during the opening of the session in Port Moresby that PNG is very proactive in terms of trying to promote the development of domestic tuna

This month we are so glad to launch our Corporate Plan for 2008-2012. This Corporate Plan will guide the Authority for the next five years. Fisheries Minister, Hon. Ben Semri officially launched this on Wednesday 30th July 2008. This Corporate Plan 2008-2012 is National Fisheries Authority's third blue print since its inception as a corporate entity in 2000. We have managed the country's fisheries resources based on sound management plans derived from the *Fisheries Management Act 1998*. The Authority gained its full corporate status in 2000, with a more leaner staff structure and as our responsibilities increased, we have gradually recruited more staff including casuals.

We also have a consultative meeting with Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) members and USA. This meeting was conducted prior to the 4th Scientific Committee Meeting which was held on the 4th - 22nd August. In this meeting PNA member countries which PNG is one of them have agreed to have limited access to US.

The government of Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority has successfully hosted the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) fourth scientific committee meeting. We have over 150 participants from Pacific Islands region, USA, Europe, Korea, China, Japan and Indonesia who have enjoyed their meeting in PNG. This meeting became

successful through immense support by private sectors both fishing and processing companies. The kind of support received from the private sector signify to the world that NFA has cooperated well with the private sector and I would like to commend them for the wonderful support. Our fish processing and fishing companies in PNG are very proactive and cooperative with NFA.

We will continue to maintain the relationship for the benefit of the country. The increase development in the fisheries sector for more fish processing plants in the country will eventually boost direct employment for our people.

We have also announced the PDF funds for the local fishermen/women and local fish farmers to access these funds. There are two sources of the funds available, one from the NFA budget to fund the community based projects and the other fund derived from the Multilateral Fisheries Treaty between the Pacific Island Countries and the United States of America for access by US purse seine flagged vessels into the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Pacific Island Countries.

Interested person can contact NFA and lodge proposals to secure these funds for fisheries development projects.

Sylvester B. Pokajam
Managing Director

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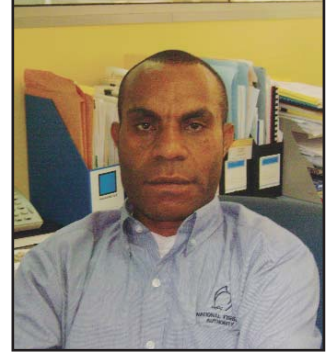
industry. He further added that not only promoting the development of tuna industry in PNG but also abroad because tuna is a shared resource. "PNG is co-operating with other members of the commission to promote sustainable utilization of resources", he said.

Speaking during the opening of the meeting Fisheries Minister, Honorable Ben Semri said that the average catch over the last five years from this fishery now exceeds 300,000t which exceeded 400,000t in 2006 for the first time. Minister Semri said almost 150,000t of this catch is now processed on shore with majority of PNG's export heading for Europe and US.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority,

commended the fishing industry and other corporate entities for their genuine cooperation and assistance towards the hosting of the meeting. He said the kind of support from the private sector signify to the world that we fully cooperate in the development of our fisheries sector. On behalf of the National Fisheries Authority, the Board and the Minister, he thanked the following organizations for their support:

- PNG Fishing Industry Association - K10, 000
- RD Tuna Cannery (PNG) - K5,000
- Frabelle (PNG) - K5,000
- South Seas Tuna - K5,000
- PNG Ports Corporation - K5,000
- National Development Bank K5,000
- Fair Well Fishery - K17,500
- International Food Corporation - K5,000



Name: Peter Pirape
Age: 34
Marital Status: Married
Qualification: BA UPNG
Current Position: Training Coordinator

Mr Pirape comes from Kagua in the Southern Highlands Province. He attended Saint Anthony's Sumi Primary School in his province from 1981 to 1986 and after gaining a high school placing, was selected to attend Saint Joseph's Tari High School from 1987 to 1990. Mr Pirape completed his high school studies successfully and gained further selection to do Grade 11 & 12 at Passam National High School (ESP) from 1991 to 1992. After completion of National High School studies, Mr Pirape made his way into University of Papua New Guinea in 1993. He undertook studies in Organizational (Industrial) Psychology from the School of Humanities and Social Science and he was awarded Bachelors degree in 1997.

After completing university studies, he joined UPNG as a tutor for one academic period in 1997 to 1998. He then left for Post PNG Ltd as a Human Resource Officer where he worked in the Human Resources Section from 1998 to 2000. However, Mr Pirape resigned from Post PNG Ltd due to personal reasons.

He joined Ergotech Industry Training & Services as Management Trainer in 2005. After a short employment period with this training organization, he left to join PNG Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) in November 2005 as Advising Officer - Industrial Relations (HRM). Soon after he was promoted to Advising Officer - Policy & Procedure (HRM) section in 2007 and again as Acting Manager - Human Resources. In November 2007, having realized the many contributions he was making towards research and development of various workplace policies in IRC, including assisting the Strategic Human Resources Advisor in driving the DPM piloted IRC Devolution Project, the Commissioner General of IRC nominated Mr. Pirape to be one of the three IRC Organizational Design (Restructure) team members to assist an expert Organizational Design Advisor to restructure IRC. Mr. Pirape was working on the restructure of IRC when he resigned to join NFA as a Training Coordinator on 28th April 2008.

On the 19th of May 2008, Mr. Pirape started formal employment with NFA as Training Coordinator attached to the Human Resources Section. Asked about his views of NFA, he says with a smile, "NFA is a fairly new and evolving organization that has the potential of developing our fisheries sector and I am proud to join NFA and I hope to contribute meaningfully in my capacity as a Training Coordinator".

NFA & RCPNG Sign MOA to Combat Illegal Fishing Activities



• MR Pokajam, NFA Managing Director and Mr Baki, RCPNG Commissioner signing the MOA at NFA Office, 11th Floor, Deloitte Tower, Port Moresby.

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and the Royal Constabulary of Papua New Guinea (RCPNG) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to work together on combating illegal fishing activities in Papua New Guinea waters.

The MOA is specific to RCPNG members to assist with the enforcement of the Fisheries Management Act 1998 and its regulating instruments to ensure sustainable use of fisheries resources, investigations and prosecution of fisheries matters. The signing also allows members of the Police Department to supply the much needed support within the inshore fisheries areas patrolled by inshore-crafts which have been bought by NFA. This area will come under the respective Provincial Police Commanders care and control.

The common workable areas pertaining to this Agreement are as follows:

- a) cooperation in taking action to prevent and deter fisheries offences according to law;
- b) the National Fisheries Authority to call upon and utilize the services of RCPNG in carrying out fisheries compliance services when required;
- c) the provision of cost efficient, effective and responsive compliance services to NFA's clients and stakeholders;
- d) address the need for RCPNG to manage its personnel and resources in a manner consistent with MOA;
- e) both parties to have mutual reciprocal/joint surveillance and enforcement programs;
- f) to enable fisheries officers to attend basic investigation and prosecution training at the RCPNG Training College; and
- g) the need for empowerment of fisheries enforcement officers as Police Reservists to the RCPNG for the purpose of general enforcement duties.

The MOA was signed on July 28, 2008 between NFA Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam and Mr. Gary Baki, the RCPNG Commissioner and was witnessed by key senior officers of both parties.

Mr Pokajam said during the signing ceremony that the agreement will be reviewed every two years from the date of this signing. The NFA will support the start of this Agreement with K0.5million (half a million kina) for services provided by RCPNG under this Agreement. NFA has a similar Agreement

Pokajam Calls on More Chinese Investment in Fishing



• Chinese delegates listening to Mr Pokajam's call during IPA & China Trade Symposium in Port Moresby.

PNG through the National Fisheries Authority called on more Chinese investors to invest in PNG especially in Fisheries. Speaking during the Investment Promotion Authority and Chinese Trade and Investment Symposium Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority called on the participants to establish fish processing plants to fish in PNG waters and to process in PNG.

Mr Pokajam said currently PNG has processing and loining plants including; Fair Well (PNG) Fishing Net Mending and Ice Making Factory in Manus, South Seas Tuna Corporation (SSTC) a loining plant in Wewak, RD Tuna canners in Madang, the Proposed Pacific Marine Industrial Zone to be staged in Madang, Philippines/ Thai JV Tuna Canning plant to be established in Lae soon, IFC Tuna Processing Plant in Lae, Frabelle Fish Cannery and Loining Plant in Lae, Chinese Cold Storage Plant in Lae and of course Longline Processing in Port Moresby.

Mr Pokajam said fisheries is developing gradually as investors perceived that PNG through NFA displays sound management of fisheries resources and also clear and consistent government policy to promote and protect onshore fisheries investment.

National Fisheries Authority has licensed 10 Chinese purse seine vessels under the bilateral access agreement: Mr Pokajam called on the participants for more investment in fisheries as NFA is continuously managing fisheries and marine resources on a sustainable basis. This symposium showcased some of the Fish processing and plants in PNG as the delegation traveled to Lae and Madang respectively to see Tuna procession plants and canneries.

with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

He said police personnel have been working very well with fisheries enforcement officers in deterring illegal fishing activities "at all times and at odd hours too" in their areas of duty and he would want it further enhanced under this MOA.

Commissioner Baki responded that "policing is challenging both on land and at sea". He said RCPNG will do its best under this MOA in policing PNG waters. "This money will be put to good use to also assist RCPNG intelligence. "I thank NFA on behalf of the RCPNG for this assistance.

Minister Semri Launches NFA Corporate Plan



- Mr Pokajam and Minister Semri Shaking hands during the official launching of the Corporate Plan.

By Steven Poning

National Fisheries Authority has successfully launched the Corporate Plan for 2008-2012 on the 30th of July this year. This launching was officiated by Hon Ben Semri Minister for Fisheries. Speaking during the launching Mr Semri said that NFA is one of the leading fisheries agencies within our region in terms of performances and influences at the negotiating table and this Corporate Plan will drive the authority to fulfill its vision and its mission.

As a way forward this corporate plan anchors its vision on Effectively Managing our Fisheries and Marine Resources for Sustainable and Equitable Benefit. He said it is critical that NFA strives to fully implement the priority action areas that it has set for itself in order to edge closer to the achievement of this vision statement.

"As a minister responsible for the overall fisheries policies development, I would like to see that this Corporate Plan ensures that local participation in the industry is improved greatly so that our people may not become spectators instead become part takers", Mr Semri said.

He also said that aquaculture should also be developed in such a way that food security for our people is secured and sustained.

Meanwhile Tau Valu NFA Acting Board Chairman thanked Mr Sylvester Pokajam, executive managers and senior officers in successfully producing the corporate plan. He said it was collective ideas and information that eventually brought this corporate plan.

He said as a acting chairman it is a challenge to ensure that there is a strong, effective and transparent National Fisheries Board in place to guide and monitor the work programs of the authority.

Ice Making Facility for East New Britain



- (L-R) Governor of East New Britain, Mr Leo Dion receiving the ice making facility from NFA.

By Steven Poning

The artisanal fishermen will now enjoy in fishing ventures as the Kokopo Ice Making Facility was officially handed over to the provincial government by National Fisheries Authority (NFA). The facility was donated and constructed by Overseas Fishery Corporation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan.

This facility consists of ice making machine, an ice crusher set and a chest freezer. The total cost of facility is about K130,000 and has a capacity to produce 24 blocks of ice per day. Speaking on behalf of Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam of National Fisheries Authority, Mr Leka Pitoi, Industry Coordinator said that the Japanese assistance came about after PNG through the National Fisheries Authority allowed access for Japanese Fishing Vessels through Bilateral Fishing Access Agreement signed to fish in PNG's EEZ in 2006 after 19 years of absence. Mr Pitoi said this project is one of the first two projects by OFCF after PNG and Japan reestablished relationship in fisheries sector since 2006.

"ENB Province is fortunate that it is the first province to be the beneficiary of the OFCF programme apart from the National Fisheries College", Mr Pitoi said. He said to support the new development initiatives in the province, it is hoped that the importance of fisheries sector is elevated to a higher level as one of the priority areas. NFA ascertain that ENB province has the capacity to absorb such initiatives and capable of converting these assets into their economic value for the development of the province.

Meanwhile Governor of East New Britain Province Mr Leo Dion thanked NFA on behalf his people and commented NFA for initiating this crucial project in the province. Mr Dion said the country has gone into problems, ups and downs related to HIV/AIDS, robbery, high cost of fuel etc but with fisheries it's continuously developing optimistically. He said in 2006 an MoU was signed between NFA and ENB provincial government in partnership for management of fisheries development and now they have seen a lot of impacts from this MoU. "I would like to thank the Management and the staff of NFA for allowing a worthy project to be built in the Province", Mr. Dion said. He urged the people to make use of the facility by starting small business and access the facility.