



# Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

ISSUE No. 6

November - December, 2009

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## Five Pioneers of New Fisheries Degree Program



• Fisheries students pose for photograph with their invited dignitaries after graduation at National Fisheries College, Kavieng.

The National Fisheries College and the University of Natural Resources & Environment achieved a milestone when five students graduated in Fisheries and Marine Resources on 27th, November 2009.

The graduation is a testimony of collaborative effort by National Fisheries Authority, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) through the University of Bremen and the Government of Papua New Guinea through the Office of Higher Education.

Five students including two females made history by becoming the first ever to graduate with bachelor's degree in fisheries and marine resources from the University of Natural Resources and Environment. The University's fisheries programme came of age in Kavieng, National Fisheries College when the Chancellor of the University Sir Rabbie Namaliu conferred the five pioneer fish-

eries students. The degree students are namely; Christopher Binabat, Joseph Kendou, Robinson Liu, Priscilla Warambin and Jane Wungen.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority said the future sustainability of marine resources heritage will depend significantly on the commitment and the capacity to grow and nurture national human resources under the established diploma and degree program. Mr Pokajam said PNG is the leading fisheries nation of the Pacific and a dominant force in regional tuna fisheries management and development. "I believe our commitment to skill and capacity building through the effective operation of the National Fisheries College is a significant contributing factor in placing PNG in this leading position", he said.

## From the Managing Director's Desk

Year 2009 was a successful year as we have managed to achieve most of our goals and objectives throughout the year. We have completed some of the major projects such as importing and installing of world class Food Testing Laboratory Equipment at Kilakila in Port Moresby which was funded at over K1 million by National Fisheries Authority and National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA). This facility has a capacity for testing chemicals on any fish, meat, food and live fish.

We also had a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a Jetty and Fish Market in Wewak recently. This is a multi-million kina project which was funded by Japanese Government through JICA and the National Fisheries Authority.

PNG through the National Fisheries Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation have also hosted the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) meeting in Port Moresby. Furthermore NFA has successfully hosted 2009 World Tuna Forum here in Port Moresby. This was well organized and most participating countries commented highly on its organization.

The Ministers of the Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) met at the Republic of Kiribati in October 21, 2009 and

approved the establishment of PNA Secretariat Office. This office was proposed to be established in Majuro, Marshall Islands. The parties to Nauru Agreement countries are Federated State of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

One of the core objectives of establishing the secretariat is basically for securing greater economic benefits from the tuna resources and to coordinate and harmonize the management of common stocks for the benefit of their people. This office is expected to be established on 1st January 2010. We have also attended Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Tuna Commission) meeting in French Polynesia from the 7-11 December 2009.

Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority led the contingents from Foreign Affairs Department and PNG Fishing Industry representatives to attend this meeting. This was a significant meeting as we have discussed conservation measures that we have adopted in 2008. Some of the conservation measures include the two months FAD closure and depletion of big eye tuna stocks.

**Sylvester B. Pokajam**  
Managing Director

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Mr Pokajam also commended the second batch of diploma students who graduated under the same programme. He said only seven students graduated last year (2008) but this year the number has doubled.

He said PNG through the National Fisheries College/National Fisheries Authority offers courses that attracted regional students from other Pacific Island countries.

There were also graduates in Certificate of Post harvest and the Observer program. "Mr Pokajam said, through the commitment of our fisheries observer program and the National Fisheries College and support from the Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, PNG leads the

region in fisheries training. With the establishment of the fisheries observer training section within the college we are now the only institution in the region endorsed to deliver the new regional standard fisheries observer qualification without teaching and technical inputs from the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Our fisheries observer tutors are now the first and currently the only certified regional observer trainers", Mr Pokajam said.

He said this is an excellent achievement for all concerned and a further indication of our leading role in regional tuna fisheries management. In 2010 observer courses will also be reserved for regional students.

## Aquaculture & Food Safety Issues Updates

Aquaculture and inland fisheries development in PNG is in infant stage compared with the Asian region. However, there are number of current developments which boost inland and aquaculture fisheries especially in the Highlands. National Fisheries Authority has taken a bold step by injecting funding for aquaculture projects throughout PNG over the years.

Aquaculture is currently one of the fastest growing food production sectors in the world according to WHO Technical Report Series number 883. With over-exploitation in the fisheries sector in some regions, initiatives to strengthen environmentally sound and sustainable aquaculture development, particularly among small-scale producers, need to be pursued to ensure maximum contribution to world food security, as recognized by FAO.

There are many different methods of farming fish, ranging from intensive commercial operations to extensive small-scale or subsistence systems, and food safety hazards vary according to system, management practices and environment.

Trematode infections and foodborne disease associated with pathogenic bacteria, residues of agrochemicals and veterinary drugs, and heavy-metal contamination have all been identified as hazards. The origins of such food safety concerns are diverse, ranging from inappropriate aquaculture practices to environmental pollution and cultural habits of food preparation and consumption. Thus, as aquaculture makes its transition to a major food-producing sector, proper assessment and control of any food safety concerns are becoming increasingly important.

Aquaculture development in Papua New Guinea is increasing rapidly whiles simultaneously food safety is also a concern to public health that NFA through ACU is embarking on taking initiatives to organize in-house training about Good Aquaculture Practice through Awareness. NFA ACU section organized a successful training regarding food safety in Port Moresby recently.

For more information, contact **Leo Rupo**, Audit & Certification Officer.

## Ministers Agree to Setup PNA Office

The Ministers of the Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) met at the Republic of Kiribati on 21st October 2009 and approved the establishment of the PNA Secretariat Office. This office was proposed to be established in Majuro, Marshall Islands. The parties to Nauru Agreement countries are Federated State of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Palau and Nauru.

Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority Mr Sylvester Pokajam said that the Ministers from the PNA countries have signed this agreement basically to secure greater economic benefits from the tuna resources and coordinate and harmonize the management of common stocks for the benefit of their people. The Ministers' Declaration is called "Bikenibeu Declaration".

According to PNA meeting outcome, PNA office will be established on 1st January 2010. The functions of the PNA office as stated in the Bikenibeu Declaration are as follows;

- ▶ Develop strategic fishing conservation and management initiatives for the party;
- ▶ Develop initiatives to maximize the sustainable direct and indirect economic benefits to the parties;
- ▶ Maximize the profitability of the fishery and ancillary industries within PNA;
- ▶ Serve the commercial needs and aspirations of the parties; and
- ▶ Develop measures for PNA waters to be globally recognized as a sustainable managed and certified tuna fishery.

The Ministers noted the serious impact on the Bigeye Tuna stock by fishing by distant water longliners and purse seiners in the high seas that continue to provide a safe haven for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The ministers agreed that further work will be taken on closure seas areas.

Mr Pokajam said the PNA currently has a vessel day scheme for purse seine fishing vessel whereby permission to fish for certain number of days is sold and traded to fishing vessel operators. The PNA is looking at developing a vessel day scheme to apply to longline fishing vessels by the end of 2010.

The PNA is also examining a new initiative to generate increased benefit for their domestic economies from the region's tuna fisheries, reflecting the importance of catches in their waters for global tuna supply.

## Aquarium Beautifies NFA Office



• This is a box of aquarium consisting of sedentary resources including reefs and corals.

The National Fisheries Authority's head office reception area has been beautified with a box of aquarium. The reception area is now looking very attractive with this beautification. NFA clients and staff are impressed with the aquarium as this is the emblem of the inhabitants of the sea. This aquarium consists of, sedentary resources including corals and reefs in the sea.

This is one of the projects that was undertaken by SEASmart program. Currently there are two types of programs especially; Management Area Plan (MAP) and Resources Assessment Management (RAM). The Resource Assessment and Management is the process of evaluation that provides vital information on the abundance of marine aquarium resources and marine habitat ecosystem.

The SEASmart program was established in 2008 by EcoEZ Inc and the National Fisheries Authority of Papua New Guinea to establish technical, environmental and management best practice guidance for the development of sustainable equitable and profitable marine aquarium trade in PNG. Furthermore the SEASmart program plays dominant roles in educating our resources owners at the village level on proper conservation methods of using the sea and its resources for their benefit and also for future generations.

For further information on SEASmart Program; log onto [www.seasmart.ecoez.com](http://www.seasmart.ecoez.com)

## Fisheries College Students on Training



• Certificate in Fishing Operation (CFO1) students from National Fisheries College in Kavieng unloading their catches after a fishing trip practical session. Mr Samol Kanawi (white in colour), CFO tutor, standing at the back, closely monitoring the lesson.

## NFA Participates in China Fisheries Show



- The NFA Team with the PNG Fishing Industry participants and official from the PNG Embassy in Beijing standing in front of the PNG stall.

The National Fisheries Authority has participated in a very successful three-day China Seafood Exposition.

The exposition was held from 3rd to 5th November 2009 and was comprised of about 500 different companies and organizations of the world.

Papua New Guinea participation was through the National Fisheries Authority which also includes representatives of the PNG Fishing Industry.

The China exposition this year was held in Qingdao Province of China. The 2007 and 2008 Exposition which NFA also attended were held in Dalian Province. These are the two major tourism attraction spots for China and for staging such expositions.

As part of NFA preparation towards participating at such expositions, there is usually active coordination with the PNG Embassy in China and also at other expositions in other parts of the world. Ms Welete Wararu, Executive Manager for Provincial Support and Industry Development and Team Leader to the China Exposition 2009, said that there has been great support from our PNG Embassy of China for three years, since 2007 towards the fisheries sector's participation in the China Fisheries Expositions.

NFA would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, Mr John Momis and his staff for their continued assistance to NFA for the transportation of our seafood products into China and for taking the time out to be with NFA during the exposition.

## Biological Standard Committee Approves PNG Fish Quality Control Export Standard



- Mr Chris Nipper, technical expert from Shimadzu in New Zealand explaining the use of an High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) machine which he installed at the Kilakila Laboratory.

The Biological Standard Committee of National Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology has approved the Papua New Guinea Fish Quality Control Export Standard to be the National Standard to be used by all in Papua New Guinea.

The fish Quality Control Export Standard has been the working document used by the fishing industry for all their fishery export products. The Audit and Certification officers of NFA have reviewed the standard this year (2009) and the NISIT Board has endorsed the reviewed document and gazetted it as the PNG National Standard, thus becoming the Fisheries Food Safety Standard for the Government of Papua New Guinea.

This can be used by other government agencies such as National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority, Independent Consumer & Competition Commission and the Health Department to apply on sub-standard fishery products like canned fish that are being imported cheaply into Papua New Guinea.

Mr Timothy Numilengi, Audit and Certification Co-ordinator said with this standard in place, PNG Government can now ensure that safe and good quality fish products are being imported, which will continue to provide guarantee and market access for our seafood processors and exporters. He said the standard has been thoroughly reviewed to accommodate current market trend globally on sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.

Overall, this is a significant achievement for the National Fisheries Authority in maintaining our Competent Authority status as approved by our major trading partner, the European Union.