



Fishing Line



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Maritime Delimitation Project Ends Successfully



- Attorney General, Dr. Allan Marat (left) His Excellency Parei Tamei High Commission of PNG to Solomon Islands and Sylvester Pokajam Managing Director of NFA during the signing of the MOU on Maritime Delimitation Project.

Three nations signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Port Moresby after they successfully completed the first phase of the maritime delimitation project.

Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands signed the MOU in March 2009 to mark the technical work program for a claim to the Otong Java Plateau undertaken by technical officers from the three countries.

The signing of the MOU was in time for them to make a single joint submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the continental Shelf before its deadline in May this year.

The MOU was signed by Mr Gabriel

Pepson, Acting Secretary for Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Excellency, Mr Samson Pretrick, Ambassador for Federated States of Micronesia based in Fiji and His Excellency, Mr Bernard Bata'anaisia', High Commission of Solomon Islands to Papua New Guinea.

Initially, a State party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is required to submit its claim for an extended shelf 10 years from the date of its ratification of the convention. However due to an overwhelming number of coastal states not able to meet this requirement, a new time line was set by State Parties to extend the deadline to May 2009.

Dr Allan Marat, Attorney General said

From the Managing Director's Desk

Welcome to the second issue of the Fishing Line News for 2009. I have great pleasure to enlighten you on some fisheries developments and international meetings that we have attended and hosted in Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority has successfully hosted the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Secretariat Meeting in Port Moresby from 9th -11th March 2009. The CTI on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) aims to bring together six (6) governments in a multilateral partnership to conserve extraordinary marine life in the region that covers all or parts of the Exclusive Economic Zones of Indonesia (Central and Eastern), Timor-Leste, the Philippine, Malaysia (part of Borneo), Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

The Coral Triangle (CT) is a region defined by areas containing 500 or more species of coral and is often referred to as the "Amazon of the sea". The area is widely acknowledged as the epicentre of marine abundance and diversity on the planet. Accordingly to Nature Conservancy, the CT area has more than 600 coral species in some areas (more than 75% of all known coral species), 53% of the world's coral reefs, 3000 fish species, and the greatest extent of mangrove forests of any region in the world. This meeting has led to the World Ocean Conference

(WOC) summit to be held in Manado, Indonesia from the 11th -15th May 2009.

We have attended the Regional Observer Program; Third International Working Group Meeting in Guam, USA from the 17-21 March 2009. In this meeting we have pursued Regional Observer Program to the WCPFC and discussed the issues of independent and transparent observers on fishing boats. PNG through the National Fisheries Authority maintains that National Observers should be on board all fishing boats. The meeting has not come to a conclusion yet, as to what should be finally done on the Observer Issue in the Western and Central Pacific Region.

Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority has participated in the European Seafood Exposition (ESE) in Brussels from the 27-29 April 2009. Minister for Fisheries Honourable Ben Semri led the PNG contingent to the exposition. Since the commencement of PNG's participation in the ESE there are more demand now for our products and people have come to realize that PNG is producing some of the best seafood in the world. Currently PNG's seafood export has penetrated into EU markets with 5% duty free.

Sylvester B. Pokajam
Managing Director

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this MOU signing was a sign of cooperation between the three neighboring countries, essentially, to avoid potential disputes by undertaking a single joint submission. "This is a historical event for Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in the Ontong Java Plateau area and likewise for PNG and Federated States of Micronesia also in the Mussau and Eauripik Rise areas." He said.

"As small island developing countries which lack adequate resources, had its challenges for our officials to address a complex set of scientific guidelines to claim an extended continental shelf. By working together in a single joint sub-

mission has served its purpose in the end. Sharing of knowledge, providing assistance to each other, through pooling of resources as good neighbors sharing maritime borders," Dr Marat said.

He said the claim for an extended continental shelf subject to the requirements of the Convention is a right given to coastal States to exploit the shelf's natural resources both living and non living resources. "I believe this would be an opportunity to gain potential economic development for our countries in other resources other than the living resources we are all too familiar with", Dr Marat said.

Change of Role



• Max Weman new enforcement coordinator for Wewak and Vanimo.

Mr Max Weman has taken up a new responsibility as Enforcement Coordinator within the Enforcement Unit of the Monitoring Control and Surveillance Group of the National Fisheries Authority.

He has left the licensing officer position with the Licensing and Data Group and has moved into the MCS Group. This change has been effective as of 27 May 2009.

Mr Weman commenced employment with the National Fisheries Authority in 2002 as enforcement officer and moved over to licensing in 2006. He served as licensing officer for three years.

Mr Weman was sincerely thankful for having gained some experience in the area of licensing and was grateful to the management for realising his potential in enforcement responsibilities.

He will now serve the NFA as enforcement coordinator under the Enforcement Unit of MCS and will be based in Wewak.

He will oversee the enforcement activities in Wewak and Vanimo. He will be working out of Wewak due to Wewak being one of the busiest ports in the country in terms of fisheries activities. Mr Weman said Wewak is strategically and centrally located in the area of sea where most fishing activities are being carried out. Therefore it is crucial that NFA positions an officer who would be reporting on the ground from there to the headquarters in Port Moresby.

He said there is already a patrol boat based in Wewak called Ponjai Warrior that will be supporting surveillance and enforcement work in Wewak and Vanimo.

He added that as more fisheries investors are coming in the country, more and more transshipments are expected out at Wewak and Vanimo, thus there will be increased responsibilities in the area of surveillance and enforcement in Wewak and Vanimo.

Mr Weman will be in charge of both Wewak and Vanimo.

NFA and NAQIA Celebrate a Milestone



- From L-R Mr Blaise Paru, MD for Equatorial Fishing, Mr David Freyne, Attache-EU Delegation PNG, Mr Andrew Yamanea, MD for NAQIA & Mr Sylvester Pokajam, MD for NFA posing for a photograph after the unveiling of plaque at the laboratory, Kilakila, Port Moresby.

Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority will now have a world class standard Food Testing Laboratory for all food types, including fisheries products.

This facility was funded at the cost of over K1 million by National Fisheries Authority in partnership with the National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA). Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority officially opened this facility on 2nd April 2009. He said at the opening ceremony, "this is a big achievement and a milestone for National Fisheries Authority and the country at large. This facility has a capacity for doing laboratory testing on any meat, food and fish."

He said NFA and NAQIA will work together to foster this development in fisheries through the use of the new laboratory. For the first time in the history of Papua New Guinea since independence it will now have a food and fisheries testing laboratory in the country.

"We need such equipment as we have been sending our products down to Australia for testing which takes a lot more time. Now we will utilize this facility which is good for the industry and consumers." He said NFA has signed MoUs with Police, Defense, Provincial Governments and NAQIA. This was one of the many milestones we have intended in the development of fisheries and every organization should follow this principle." Mr Pokajam said.

He said food safety is a global problem, and is particularly of concern in countries that do not have adequate systems for control and monitoring to ensure reasonable food safety standards are obtained for the export of their commodity. The laboratory plays a very pivotal role in the regulatory systems in ensuring safe production of food. "I am pleased this country now has a world class facility that should boost consumer confidence." Mr Pokajam said.

Mr Andrew Yamanea, Managing Director of National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority thanked NFA for the important initiative. He said he was pleased to be a partner and collaborator in institutional strengthening, capacity building and trade facilitation.

NFA Donates Vehicle to Police Department



- Mr Sylvester Pokajam (middle) officially handed over the key to the Police Commissioner Mr Garry Baki.

The National Fisheries Authority has donated a brand new vehicle to the Police Department to effectively carry out its surveillance and enforcement duties.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority presented the key of a new Toyota Land Cruiser (4x4) to Mr Garry Baki, Police Commissioner in the presence of other senior officers of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) and NFA staff at the police headquarters in Port Moresby.

Mr Pokajam said this gesture is important for the implementation of the MOA between NFA and RPNGC. He said the MOU is in an infant stage but this assistance will pave the way for police officers to carry out delegated functions of enforcement and surveillance. He said NFA has similar existing MOA with PNG Defence Force to conduct 10 fisheries patrols annually and this is the most effective type of arrangement that NFA has framed. He said managing and developing fisheries resources in Papua New Guinea needed effective and efficient management arrangements to achieve set objectives."

Mr Pokajam said NFA has recognized the value of cooperation between the parties in ensuring sustainable development of fisheries resources and to enable our presence for deterrence and protection of the nation's fisheries resources. Mr Pokajam said the Police will use this vehicle to support them to combat IUU fishing that continues to undermine the existence of enforcement. He called on the police to look after the vehicle properly as such assets are very expensive nowadays.

Police Commissioner Garry Baki thanked the National Fisheries Authority for the brand new vehicle. Mr Baki assured NFA that this vehicle will be used to carry out enforcement and surveillance duties. "I look forward to working together with NFA to effectively manage our fisheries and marine resources in our country", Mr Baki said.

PNG Hosts CTI Meeting



• Environment & Conservation Minister Hon Benny Allan leads the Minister from six countries to sign the declaration.

Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have successfully hosted the Coral Triangle Initiative Meeting in Port Moresby from 9-11 March 2009.

Minister for Environment and Conservation, Honourable Benny Allan officially opened the third senior officials and ministerial meeting. He said majority of Papua New Guineans that live along coastline depend on inshore marine resources for income and food security and this initiative will greatly benefit PNG.

This meeting was a paramount event in the CTI calendar as the six ministers from the Coral Triangle Area have adopted the final regional plan of action for CTI. This has brought the foundation for the creation of a new secretariat focused on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security but most importantly a new Regional Fisheries Organisation (RFMO) that brings the Pacific and Asia in one forum to discuss matters of regional and global status.

The ministers from six countries of Indonesia (Central and Eastern), Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Malaysia (part of Borneo), Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have signed the Declaration which forms the basis for developing the "Leaders Declaration" during the World Oceans Conference (WOC) summit in Manado, Indonesia. This meeting had also fostered and brought together six (6) governments in a multilateral partnership to conserve the extraordinary marine life in the region that covers all or parts of the Exclusive Economic Zones.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority said NFA is taking a bold step to support CTI as NFA is one of the leading organisation in terms of fisheries development, management and conservation programs. He said just to name few; NFA has a fully functional Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) that monitors all fishing activities especially by boats in the seas, some management plans developed for all fisheries of national importance, protection of fish nursery grounds (eg. Mogado Square), Tuna Management Plan and other policies and fisheries development plans for the sustainability of fisheries and marine resources in PNG and the region at large.

Mr Pokajam revealed that in line with the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister's Commitment to Climate Change, National Fisheries Authority will continue to support CTI.

Maritime Women Acquire Fisheries Skills

Gulf women have recently completed a fisheries tailored training jointly sponsored by the National Fisheries Authority and Gulf Provincial Government.

The training was conducted by Women in Fisheries Program Leader, Ms Dorothy Worogop of the National Fisheries College.

The training was held from 18th - 25th February 2009 in which participants acquired Certificate in Women in Fisheries Training.

Ms Worogop said participants from the training came from all the districts of Kerema, Gulf Province. They acquired knowledge and skills in fisheries, particularly in Post Harvest, Quality Standards, Quality Assessment of Fisheries Products, Preservation Methods, Filleting, Packaging of Fish Fillets, Processing and Packaging of Prawns.

She said the women also had training in Fisheries Business, particularly, Fisheries Business Record Keeping, Cash flow Budgets, Costing, Pricing, Financial Reports - Profit and Loss Calculation and Marketing.

During a small closing ceremony, Ms Worogop the NFA and the Gulf Provincial Government, especially, Fisheries Division for funding the training. She said the National Fisheries Authority has always made such vital contribution towards development training and capacity building.

She took the opportunity to also encourage the women to be a catalyst for change in their communities, province and in the country as a whole the country.

She encouraged the participants to implement what they have been learned during the training as Gulf Province has an abundance of High Valued Fisheries Products that are in high demand in both the Domestic and International Markets.

He said NFA will provide support for CTI and its implementation of Regional Plan Of Action (RPOA) and also concentrate on the National Plan Of Action (NPOA) that exemplifies RPOA. Mr Pokajam also said that NFA has Committed and supported other meetings such as;

Logistics to a value of just over K200,000; Funded national workshops/conferences; Prepared to support CTI if clearly directed in the future; and will continue to provide technical advice and any other support necessary for CTI.

What is Coral Triangle Initiative?

The Coral Triangle (CT) is a region defined by areas containing 500 or more species of coral and is often referred to as "Amazon of the sea". The area is widely acknowledged as the epicentre of marine abundance and diversity on the planet. Accordingly to Nature Conservancy, the CT area has more than 600 coral species in some areas (more than 75% of all known coral species), 53% of the world's coral reefs, 3000 fish species, and the greatest extent of mangrove forests of any region in the world. (See Website: <http://www.coraltriangle.org>)