

**"PNGCCI HELPS YOU DO BETTER BUSINESS"**



# Keep In Touch

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## PNG is on Target to Achieve APEC Goals

- from Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation News

An independent report has found that Papua New Guinea has made significant progress to achieve its free trade and investment goals as part of the APEC process. The report also praised reforms underway in Papua New Guinea to increase transparency.

The "IAP Study Report Papua New Guinea" is a review of the implementation of Papua New Guinea's Individual Action Plan (IAP) to achieve APEC's free trade and investment goals. Compiled by Independent Expert, Mr. Gordon La Fortune from Grey, Clark, Shih and Associates of Canada, the report covers thirteen specific issue areas relating to the realization of APEC's goals.

In the report Mr. La Fortune highlights the structural reforms introduced in PNG since the mid 1990's that have made significant progress toward achieving free

trade and investment objectives.

"The Tariff Reform Program and the decision to establish the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission are the most important steps taken to date," Mr. La Fortune said.

"Although the ICCC was only established in 2002, it has made steady progress in regulatory review and de-regulation. So long as the political will exists to support the Commission and its work, there is no reason to believe that it will not enforce competition laws in fair and transparent manner."

Mr. La Fortune was complimentary of the work of the Investment Promotion Authority to introduce reforms that increase transparency and make PNG more attractive to investors.

"The IPA is working to reduce barriers to investment by eliminating the Reserved Activities List in favor of the more open Cottage Business Activities List. It is also seeking to eliminate 'special arrangements' or 'time factored' incentives and Ministerial discretion in favor of transparent legislated tax incentives that would apply to all investors."

He also praised amendments to the government procurement system which is being amended, including elimination of Ministerial Waivers. He noted that these changes to government procurement should limit the use of sole source procurements and move towards greater transparency. He concluded that the objectives outlined in the report can be achieved so long as Government continues to support the program and can make budgetary resources available.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

**All Provincial Chambers:**  
Please submit all Government charges to PNGCCI office.

We're on the Web!  
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## 2005 PNGCCI Officers



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## Fiji Trade and Investment Mission Goes to Papua New Guinea

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Fiji Islands, Hon. Kaliopate Tavola, headed a Trade and Investment Mission to PNG from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

The mission is made up of about 14 private sector representatives.

PNGCCI was invited to the official opening of the trade display in Kumul Room, Holiday Inn at 9am on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The hotel premises were available for one-to-one business meetings after the trade display.

The delegation spent two days in Port Moresby and one day in Lae before returning to Fiji.

This event promotes cordial and mutually beneficial relationship between Fiji and PNG. It creates a favorable environment for future joint-venture agreements and strategic alliances.



## Expand Your Business with Regional Growth

-from CACCI Profile 2/2005

Your global reach must begin with your neighbors. This is what business people in the Asia Pacific region are being advised with faster growth having shifted towards the region.

The Asian Development Bank and other international institutions are saying: Asia is where the action is. The Asia Pacific is now the fastest growing region. Business people must capitalize on growth in the region.

The elements of sustainable growth: foreign investments, regional trade facilitation, development of SMEs and corporate restructuring.

## Information on the Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations

-from EU Trade News

On 20 January Trade Commissioner Mandelson delivered a speech at a meeting with civil society in Brussels. This speech set out his policy of putting a strong priority on development in the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). He also provided a memorandum addressing various questions commonly raised on EPAs. In a speech at the London School of Economics on 4 February, Mr Mandelson went further to set out an action plan on how the EU, the WTO and the G8 can use the global trade agenda to help developing countries.

The Commission had a useful meeting ("listening mode") with NGOs in Brussels on 3 March. Several NGOs made presentations focussing on various aspects of the EPA process, including tariff revenues, food security, EPA alternatives, regional integration, trade related issues and intellectual property rights. Representatives from ACP countries helpfully clarified some

misconceptions concerning the EPAs. The European Union is planning a follow up meeting to respond in detail to the points made by the NGOs.

The World Bank has published a study on EPAs (Hinkle, Newfarmer). The Commission does not agree with all the arguments but welcomes the Bank's overall approach as constructive (i.e. EPAs hold considerable promise for development if a range of criteria are fulfilled).

A range of technical talks scheduled for March will focus on the state of ACP regional integration in West and Central Africa, SADC and the Caribbean. Time is short and we need to move quickly if we are to make credible progress in helping ACP regions become more competitive and attractive to traders and investors.

## Renewal of State Leases

Further to the Annual General Meeting about landowners claim to Madang Town after expiry of land leases, honorary lawyer advice that no basis for such claim. The advice is that once land has been alienated to the Crown then it remains as Crown land and is no longer a customary land.

Usually the registered proprietor of state leasehold land will make an application to the Land Board for a renewal of the state lease for a further 99 years prior to the expiration of its term.

For more information refer Section 119 of the Land Act which deals with payment for improvements on the expiration of lease.

## We Want To Hear From You

Tell us what you think of  
Keep in Touch Newsletter

Your opinion matters! Send us your comments and suggestions, enquiries, or topics you would like to see in future issues. Share your provincial chamber stories, events and activities.

Contact us at [pngcci@global.net.pg](mailto:pngcci@global.net.pg) or fax at 3213057. Be sure to include your name and contact information.