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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A new vision for sustainable development

New dawn in South Pacific

As political stability and a massive natural gas project power Papua New Guinea's economy to new heights, Japanese companies are taking advantage of the wealth of investment opportunities as the government's ambitious and dynamic Vision 2050 plan sets new standards for socioeconomic development in the South Pacific country.

An emerging force in the Asia-Pacific region and one of the world's fastest-growing economies, Papua New Guinea is fully embracing foreign direct investment (FDI) and taking advantage of the many lucrative opportunities that exist in the oil and gas, mining, agriculture and tourism sectors.

A proud, traditional and diverse nation that boasts more than 850 indigenous languages among its 6 million citizens, Papua New Guinea is improving its key infrastructure, such as transport and information and communications technology networks, and investing substantial amounts in the development of better education and health facilities as part of a huge socioeconomic development plan known as PNG Vision 2050. Launched in November 2009,

the initiative aims to generate

and Minister of Lands, Physical Planning and Mining wealth, create employment

Puka Temu

Deputy Prime Minister

and make the nation more selfminister. sufficient.

"PNG Vision 2050 is a beacon of fresh hope for our people and future generations," says Prime Minister Michael Somare. "The plan maps out the future direction our country should take, reflecting the hopes and aspirations of our people."

A stable democracy since the election of the present government in 2002, the country's economy has been largely unaffected by the global downturn. The business-friendly policies of Prime Minister Somare are transforming the country into a regional investment hub.

"Papua New Guinea is enjoyrates are low, while foreign reing political stability, which serves are at a record high.

The key driver of the exportis an important prerequisite for sustaining policy developoriented economy is the agriculment and providing assurance tural industry, which produces a to investors and our citizens," wide range of products includsays Puka Temu, deputy prime ing cocoa, coconut, tea, sugar, rubber and palm kernals. Papua Papua New Guinea has New Guinea is also blessed with many natural resources such as

enjoyed impressive economic growth in recent years with oil, gas, gold and other minerals.

"PNG Vision 2050 reflects the hopes and aspirations of our people and maps out the country's future direction."

Prime Minister Michael Somare

gross domestic product (GDP) member of the А up 6.2 percent in 2009 following Commonwealth of Nations, a similar-sized jump in 2008. having gained independence That positive trend is seen as from Australia in 1975, Papua continuing, with GDP forecast New Guinea has been a key to grow 8.5 percent in 2010. trade partner of Japan for many Inflation levels and interest years, with Japan the secondlargest donor of aid. The Asian country enjoys a strong presence on the island through the work of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"We have enjoyed a cordial relationship with the Japanese government," states Temu. "JICA is doing an excellent job here and providing money for new infrastructure, better edu-

cation and health facilities." These solid bonds will be reinforced further through the construction of a massive \$15 billion integrated, upstream natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) development involving Japanese company Nippon Oil Corp. and other industry giants. The state-of-the-art project comprises a dozen well pads, production wells, gathering systems and processing plants, associated gas facilities and a gas pipeline between the central highlands region and a major

Moresby. It is expected to double Papua New Guinea's GDP as it will generate up to 6.6 million tons of gas per year when fully operational.

LNG plant near the capital, Port

"We are joining" the exclusive club of gas-producing nations and Japan will play a key role in this success."

Deputy PM Puka Temu

With the Papua New Guinea government holding a lucrative 19.4 percent stake in the project, ministers plan to establish a sovereign wealth fund to manage the estimated \$50 billion windfall from tax and dividends over the next 20 years. Japan is a key target market for LNG products, along with China, India, South Korea and Taiwan.

"This LNG project will transform our country," says Temu. "We will join the exclusive club of gas-producing nations. The first shipment of gas will leave before the target date of 2014. We are signing land agreements for the downstream gasoline industry and already have many Japanese companies present.

"Japan will play a critical role in terms of participating in the purchasing of our gas. It is a win-win situation and improves regional cooperation." Revenue from the LNG plant will play a key role in funding PNG Vision 2050.

One of the greatest challenges facing the government is land reform. Some 97 percent of the country's total land is "cusindigenous people that cannot be taken away. This "locked" land has hampered development and deterred investors for many years, but Temu, who is also minister of lands, physical planning and mining, has led reforms that mean companies are now assured legal rights over sites and facilities. "Investors can now invest

tomary" - traditional land of

confidently in customary land as they will have tenure security," he says.

With the vision of utilizing land to improve the quality of life of all citizens, the Department of Lands and Physical Planning aims to promote the best use of terrain in Papua New Guinea by ensuring that an orderly process exists and land is made avail-

able for sustainable economic and social development. Services are delivered through a range of responsible and coordinated land management strategies and activities.

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Offering tourists a "one-stop

shop" of products and services,

the travel agency's range of

packages includes accommoda-

tions, tours, flights and trans-

fers, diving and fishing excur-

Meanwhile, the government

is placing an increased empha-

sis on education and the devel-

opment of human resources as

it looks to attract investors and

boost living standards. The

large LNG project includes the

upgrading of a technical college

for 800 students, providing

training for mechanics, electri-

cians, plumbers and carpenters.

this aim is the University of

Papua New Guinea. Established

in 1965, the university has

graduated more than 15,000

students. It offers programs in

medicine, health, law, science,

humanities and social sciences.

merit sees no limit," says Vice

Chancellor Ross Hynes. "We

"Our quest for excellence and

Helping the nation achieve

sions and other activities.

PANORAMA REPORTS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Green light to growth

Substantial investment in infrastructure and technology means investors are playing a key role in the shaping of Papua New Guinea's future via enterprise, commerce and industry.

The commerce and industry sector in Papua New Guinea has struggled to develop itself in recent years, meaning major investment opportunities exist throughout the sector.

The government is focusing on the creation of a value-added industry and the development of infrastructure through publicprivate partnerships (PPP).

"For any country to develop, the most important thing is infrastructure, such as proper roads, bridges, communications networks, education facilities and health services," says Gabriel Kapris, minister of commerce and industry. "We have achieved a lot in the last five years and this political stability means our economy is growing rapidly."

In partnership with Commerce and Industry Secretary Anton Kulit, Minister Kapris is concentrating on value-added products instead of the export of raw materials.

"By focusing on downstream processing we are creating jobs for Papua New Guineans and developing the capacity for them to access better technology, which **Gabriel Kapris** Minister of Commerce and Industry

is very important," he explains. "We are encouraging a policy of PPPs and our main objective is to develop agriculture such as palm oil, coffee, cocoa and even rice, and make logging our secondary sector rather than the primary industry." A key ingredient of its future

economic development is the new Pacific Marine Industrial Zone (PMIZ), which means fish caught in local waters qualify for special status under the European Union's (EU) "rules of origin" program. Fish will be exported to the EU as a Papua New Guinean product and be exempt from duties.

"The PMIZ is very important as our waters are rich in fish will now be in a better position to take advantage of the rules of origin legislation and would like to encourage investors from



are a very important partner in our development and the introduction of new technology. We are trying to make Papua New Guinea as competitive as other countries and are ready to work

closely with investors." One shining example of Papua New Guinea's desire and determination to attract major overseas investors is the development of its first free trade zone. Called Sandaun Free Trade Zone (SFTZ), the venture offers foreign partners a series of benefits and incentives.

Based in the northern provsuch as tuna," says Kapris. "We ince from which it takes its name, SFTZ will allow firms to take tax holidays, promote their products with the help of government resources, and reduce other countries — particularly red tape for permits and visas.

capital Vanimo, the zone is being created by Sandaun Free Trade Development Ltd. The massive project includes new industrial parks, power plants, sewerage and water systems, information and communications technology networks, housing, seaports, schools, health clinics and entertainment facilities New hotels and resorts are also planned in conjunction with the Border Development Authority. The brainchild of Forestry Minister Belden Namah, SFTZ is an innovative step forward in the country's development as a regional economic hub and offers investors a valuable strategic location in the heart of the Asia-Pacific region.

"We are looking for investors to come and sign a joint venture agreement with the new national company, Sandaun Free Trade Zone Development Ltd.," Namah says. "Once they sign they will be eligible for mining and fishing licenses in Sandaun Province, and will also be eligible for a forestry concession that is currently being surveyed from 155,000 hectares."

Tourism is playing an increasingly important role in Papua New Guinea's economic and social development, with the country's lush tropical rainfor-Centered in the provincial ests, sandy beaches, mountains and exotic wildlife drawing visitors from Japan and beyond.

Its stunning natural beauty and physical charms offer a diverse range of memorable experiences and locations, with excursions and adventures available across the main island, as well as its smaller islands.

Up to 100,000 tourists visit each year, of which the vast majority arrive at Jacksons International Airport in Port Moresby before taking part in eco-tourism trips or diving, surfing, white-water rafting and hiking. Accommodation is provided by hotels, guesthouses, lodges and village resorts. runway, extension runway Due to the tough terrain, visipavements, runway extensions

tors travel by air on a network provided by leading operators Air Niugini Ltd. and Airlines PNG. The airline industry has been given a huge boost with the recent announcement by the Asian Development Bank to provide \$480 million for infra-

waters of Bootless Bay, Airways structure, security, and safety Hotel is a unique Papua New improvements and upgrades Guinea hotel. Located close to at Papua New Guinea's 21 airports through an ambitious Jacksons International Airport, project that will see the govits wide range of luxury suites ernment inject \$85 million and and executive rooms are comthe private sector a further \$75 plemented by first-class facilimillion. Aviation officials say the ties such as wireless Internet. a health and racquet club (picmajor works, which are due to for completion in 2018, will open tured on opposite page) plus up new economic opportunities gourmet restaurants. The hotel is increasing its capacity and as the country strives to achieve international standards at all of building luxurious apartments as it prepares for an influx of its airports.

"The \$640 million airports upgrade project will focus on runways and help to improve safety standards."

Flying high on natural charms

Joseph Kintau, CEO of Civil Aviation Authority

foreign business executives. "The improvements will primarily concentrate on the

General Manager Kevin Yaxley. which service is measured."

Helping people make the most of all Papua New Guinea has to offer is leading Japanbased tour company specialist

"We are unique because we are a transit hotel as well as a resort hotel with wonderful facilities," says Airways Hotel "We are the benchmark by

are dedicated to the pursuit, ad-Nestled in the side of a majesvancement and dissemination tic mountain and boasting specof knowledge, understanding tacular views of its own botaniand wisdom." cal gardens and the crystal clear

Caring and Sharing in Economic Prosperity for All

and the safety aspect of airport operations," states Papua New

Guinea Civil Aviation Authority

CEO Joseph Kintau.

As part of its mission to maximize income-earning potentials, create jobs and achieve sustainable growth for everyone in Papua New Guinea, the Department of Commerce and Industry is breathing new life into cooperative societies.

The proactive and hugely democratic concept, which sees small groups of people, usually rural dwellers, pooling resources such as cash crops, retail and credit facilities to grow economically, was first introduced into PNG by the colonial administration in 1947. For around 30 years, co-ops were vibrant business entities, but when the country became independent in the mid-1970s, the movement all but dried up. In 2000, however, the government established a Cooperative Societies Unit in an attempt

to resurrect the movement. Since then, it has registered six Cooperative Associations and almost 500 Societies.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Gabriel Kapris lists some of the benefits members of a co-op enjoy: "From being your own boss, having access to resources, obtaining maximum prices for products and the possibility of obtaining an import or export license, cooperatives give everyone the chance to participate in economic activities and develop both themselves and their environments. We have an overwhelming number of applications and the numbers received increases each week."

The social benefits are as important as the economic ones. Co-ops are based on the values of self-help, equality and solidarity, and members display honesty, openness, responsibility and care for each other.

Cooperative Societies Unit

Dept. Commerce and Industry: Moale Haus. Sir John Guise Drive Waigani, NCD, P.O. Box 375, Papua New Guinea Tel: +675 325 9225 Fax: +675 325 6108





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As Papua New Guinea continues along the path of social and economic development, so the Department of Transport remains at the forefront of change as it steers a steady course through major new investment in air, sea and highway networks.

<u>Don Polye</u> Minister for Works. Transport and Civil Aviation



could not be more timely as it comes at a time when we are thinking very seriously about the future of our network of roads, airports, wharves, navigational aids and other related infrastructure facilities."

Civil Aviation Changes nprovements to the aviation

combined with a series of regulatory reforms

have led to a surge in demand for services from locals, tourists and foreign businesspeople.

Lower ticket prices, larger planes, increased

competition and a wider range of destinations

are cited by the Department of Transport as

the key reasons for such successful growth.

Furthermore, a multibillion-dollar LNG project, led by two of the world's largest oil companies,

is slated to boost passenger numbers by more

than 7,000 a year, with the growth of mineral

exploration also adding fresh impetus to the

"Over the past five years, we have reformed the civil aviation sector considerably by restructuring the administration," explains Polye.

"We now have an open-skies policy and invite

competition from overseas carriers and operators. We would also like to establish direct con-

nections to Japan, China and Europe, as well as opening up the Pacific region by building on our

While Papua New Guinea has hundreds of

small airports, Jacksons International Airport in

Port Moresby remains the key gateway to the

Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Passengers

can access all of the world's major cities from

the premier port of entry, with direct flights to

Australia, the Solomon Islands, Singapore, the

The Department of Transport has ambi-

tious expansion plans for the main airport and

projects are also in the pipeline for regional

airports in Lae, Madang, Tokua and Kargan.

The ability to handle larger aircraft would pave

the way for a flood of opportunities for invest-

ment in tourism-related industries, including

hotels, local transportation, food and beverages

success with flights to Australia."

Philippines and Hong Kong.

rapidly growing economy.



Japan — to consider investment here. Japan has been our second-strongest trading partner for many years and they

living in coastal regions or mountainous areas, the importance of providing citizens based in such rugged and difficult terrain with a decent and affordable transport network cannot be underestimated.

By modernizing and expanding the transport networks, the government is improving the quality of life for people and sending out a powerful signal to potential foreign investors from Japan and beyond that now is the ideal time to invest in the country.

Papua New Guinea's road network covers an estimated 30,000 km and its long-established aviation sector is one of the region's best develand I would like to see Japan involved in more local mega-projects," he states. "Our policy emphasizes good governance, export-driven economic growth and the fostering of rural development, poverty alleviation and human resources development, for which transport infrastructure improvement and development is a cornerstone to keep the wheels of the economy turning.

"The corporate plan is a challenging one and articulates the core functions that will assist us in achieving efficient and effective management, implementation, monitoring and coordination and control of the department's responsibilities. The successful implementation of this plan

Transport, and Civil Aviation, is the construction of a road network in the smaller islands. The \$800 million project is being funded by the Asian Development Bank. In addition, Minister Polye is hopeful further funding for the ambitious Trans-Island Highway project will be secured in the near future, most likely in conjunction with the private sector. The 600-km-long highway would link the capital, Port Moresby, with the nation's second city, Lae, and the highland province, where there are large-scale mining and agricultural operations that have received heavy investment from foreign companies, including enterprises from Japan. The project would

"Our policy emphasizes good governance, export-driven economic growth and the fostering of rural development, poverty alleviation and human resources development, for which transport infrastructure improvement and development is a cornerstone to keep the wheels of the economy turning."

oped, with regular flights between towns and cities on the mainland and remoter locations on the country's smaller islands. In addition, the coastal shipping services sector links nearly 20 commercial ports and hundreds of little wharves and jetties, providing vital access to goods and services for people in rural communities.

In order to meet the challenges posed by the development of its transport sector, the forwardthinking government, led by Prime Minister Michael Somare, has undertaken a series of measures under a corporate plan. The ambitious blueprint is connected to the national transport development plan — a "Road Map" that provides a clear and defined strategy for sustainable improvements in the transport sector.

According to Don Polye, minister for works, transport and civil aviation, Japanese businesses are set to play an important part in many of these projects, thanks to their excellent knowledge, experience of the sector, high quality equipment and state-of-the-art technology.

"Japan has always been a key region for us

is based on principles of active participation and commitment from everyone, including other state line agencies, the private sector, provincial governments and the people in our communities.'

With dozens of infrastructure projects worth a total of \$3.8 billion in the pipeline, it is an ideal time for Japanese investors to enter Papua New Guinea and take advantage of the huge potential for growth and revenue.

"Japanese companies need to come here and have a closer, in-depth look at our business environment and what we have to offer. We have to build up our construction industry, our facilities and our road network; therefore, we need public-private partnerships," the minister says. "I believe that if we continue to improve our infrastructure and our services, people can change their mind-set and the outlook can change completely.'

One major road project being overseen by the Department of Transport, which operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Works,

Don Polye, minister for works, transport and civil aviation

open up a realm of investment opportunities in a wide range of industries and a large part of the country that has yet to be discovered by foreign commercial entities.

Henry Parakei, secretary of the Department of Transport, sees the renewed focus on the transport sector as the catalyst for growth and a key ingredient of the country's social and economic evolution.

"After more than 30 years of independence, Papua New Guinea is at a major turning point in its development and a cornerstone for improved social and economic development in transport infrastructure," he says. "Our corporate plan

"After more than 30 years of independence, Papua New Guinea is at a major turning point in its development and a cornerstone for improved social and economic development in transport infrastructure."

Henry Parakei, secretary of the Department of Transport

Papua New Guinea highways will get a major face-lift.

and telecommunications. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) also plans to transform the regional airport at Gurney in Milne Bay Province into the next international airport.

Flag carrier Air Niugini Ltd. is the country's leading airline and is majority-owned by the government. Its modern fleet comprises Fokker F-100, F-28 jets and Dash 8 aircraft that suit the requirements of flying within the unique Papua New Guinean terrain, and a Boeing 767 jet for international routes. It has a number of codeshare deals with other international airlines, including Australia's Qantas. These coveted agreements further reinforce Papua New Guinea's emergence as an important destination in the region.

Provincial niche charter players such as Tropicair and Heli Niugini are also gaining a stronger foothold in the fast-growing market for domestic and international air services. As the Department of Transport and CAA continue to work closely to improve airport infrastructure around the country, the airlines are meeting the increased demand through improved route mapping, scheduling and load factoring. A recent major restructuring and streamlining of CAA divided the entity into two divisions: regulatory and nonregulatory. The latter has three units with a largely commercial mandate: PNG Air Services looks after operational matters such as air traffic control; PNG Airports Ltd. is responsible for airport infrastructure development; and PNG Airport City Developments handles all projects related to the development of airport precincts. Opportunities exist for luxury hotels, business and industrial parks and office blocks within the airport boundary, through either joint

ventures or private sector projects. However, it is not only in the sky that major transport investment is due to take place, with maritime trade extremely important to the country's economic and social prospects. Cargo ships carry large quantities of key export commodities such as coffee, cocoa, spices and oil to destinations throughout the region and beyond.

"We are looking to build a massive port that will act as a regional hub," says Minister Polye. "It would facilitate maritime trade with countries like Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. Further development and expansion of our port is crucial, as I believe it will soon become the most important port of its kind in the region."



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PANORAMA REPORTS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Forestry fuels the future

Sustainable forest management lies at the heart of Papua New Guinea's forestry sector as officials seek to secure the country's magnificent rain forests for future generations while promoting downstream processing that will create employment for thousands of people.

Blessed with tens of millions of hectares of forests and with a firm commitment to the environment through sustainable forest management, Papua New Guinea is creating thousands of jobs in its lucrative forestry sector.

And with the battle against climate change playing an increasingly important role in the shaping of governmental policy around the world, Papua New Guinea is leading the way in the development of environmentally friendly forestry projects.

Home to some of the world's largest and most spectacular woodlands, the country's 35 million hectares of forests comprise trees of high-quality tropical hardwood. As one of the few sectors able to operate in the remote areas of the country, the forestry industry provides valuable jobs and income for countless villagers in rural communities.

Concerns over logging prac-

tices and deforestation were among the first issues dealt with by Forestry Minister Belden Namah following his appointment to the highly prestigious post two years ago. His ministry keeps a watchful eye on the industry and oversees the duties and activities of the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA) — led by Managing Director Kanawi Pouru. The authority monitors and controls the wood and forest-based industries and manages forest re-



our people and means we will sources. Founded in 1993 when experience a lot of growth in the it replaced the Department of forestry industry over the next Forestry, the PNGFA aims to few years."

"promote the management and wise utilization of the forest reforestry products has enjoyed sources of Papua New Guinea the fastest rate of growth in the as a renewable asset for the manufacturing sector in recent well-being of present and future years, with exports of these generations." At the center of its types of products up more than progressive policy is the man-200 percent since 1997. The agement of forest resources on majority of timber is exported, a sustainable basis to achieve with logs shipped to countries stronger economic growth, across Asia. Key export markets

"I encourage Japanese investors to take advantage of our forestry concessions and premium wood production."

for downstream processing.

This will create more jobs for

Downstream processing of

create employment and improve viable onshore processing. Under the careful guidance

of Minister Namah and his colleagues, the forestry sector is now more heavily focused on sustainable forest management and downstream processing projects than ever before.

"My priorities are sustainable forest management, a return on resources for landowners, and the fight against climate change," he says. "We have aligned ourselves with the office of climate change to ensure we

meet the global requirements

Belden Namah, forestry minister for this timber include Japan,

China, Hong Kong and South Korea, which among them comprise 80 percent of the market. Namah highlights the fact that many tables and chairs made from locally sourced logs are actually finished overseas and then sent back to Papua New Guinea as evidence that the sector needs to develop and evolve if it is to be more successful

"By concentrating on downstream processing, we will have more control over our logs, more sustainable forest management

on climate change issues, and and younger trees will have from 2010, any new permits for more time to regenerate," he log exports will only be issued explains.

> Not surprisingly, Japanese companies are among the many overseas enterprises that are exploring the unlimited investment opportunities among the country's wilderness.

"We have one Japanese company operating in the eastern region and they are doing very well as they are experts in reforestation," says Namah. "Since they are doing so well, I encourage other Japanese investors to come and take advantage of our forestry concessions and premium wood production. I do not want a monopoly, I want the market to be open so other industry players have the chance to enter."

Deputy Prime Minister Puka Temu agrees that Japan can play a vital role in the ongoing development of the forestry business due to its valuable experience and knowledge of the fast-growing industry.

"Japan has been helping us in the forestry sector and is influencing our forestry policy," he explains. "They are helping us add value to our forestry products but we also want Japan to participate in quality control and development. They can help us produce agricultural products as they have the technical expertise and knowledge."

Meanwhile, plans to develop a more commercial, efficient and productive agriculture industry



The Health and Racquet Club, Airways Hotel.

that will boost export levels are gathering pace as the country looks to take advantage of its fertile soil and excellent climate. The highlands area boasts some of the world's oldest agriculture systems, but access is limited due to inhospitable terrain.

The government is investing huge sums in the sector, including substantial spending on key transport infrastructure like roads, wharves, and airstrips.

"We have a 10-year agriculture plan to develop this sector, but it is vital we develop transport networks," says Temu. "We want to move into more commercial agriculture because our land is excellent for certain commodities

- for example, we have some of the best organically grown "Our land is great for certain commodities we've some of the best organically grown coffee in the world."

Deputy PM Puka Temu

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Border

coffee in the world. Our national exploration going on." agricultural plan is empower-Meanwhile, the ing our people further as they Development Authority is invitalready possess first-class agriing tenders for vital infrastructure works along the border with cultural skills and knowledge." Rich in minerals and metals, Indonesia. The construction program includes roads, bridges,

the country's mining sector offers major FDI openings. A gold exporter since the 1930s, the country operates several world-class open-pit mines and smaller-scale operations.

"We have very favorable mining conditions and leading gold mining companies are visiting us," adds Temu. "Political stability and government assurances are attracting these top companies and we have a lot of power plants and schools. THE UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA P.O. BOX 320, UNIVERSITY 134 PAPUA NEW GUINEA T: +675 326 7200 / 7201 F: +675 326 7187 PR&M@upng.ac.pg www.upng.ac.pg

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With sustainability and wise forest management as top priorities, the government of Papua New Guinea is promoting opportunities in downstream processing through joint ventures, a wide-scale initiative that will create jobs and a fair deal for the landowners and population at large, allow greater control of resources and give younger trees more time to grow...Join us in our bid to protect the environment and create a better quality of life.



Papua New Guinea Forest Authority P.O. Box 5055, Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea Tel: +675 327 7841 Fax: +675 325 4433