

Updates

**The ACP and ACP-EC
Council of Ministers Meetings
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
28 May – 2 June 2006**



No. 2 – March 2006

Welcome! Bienvenue! Bem-Vindos!

Sir Peter Welcomes ACP and EC Delegates

Chairman of the PNG Events Council, Sir Peter Barter assured the delegates to the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states and the European Commission (EC) Council of Ministers meetings that Papua New Guinea is looking forward to welcoming them at the end of May.

Sir Peter also announced a trade, tourism and investment display planned for May 28th to June 2nd 2006.

Provincial governments and administrators have been invited to participate with their people and businesses to show their principle industries and cultural heritage.

Provinces have been given the option to build their traditional house at the Sir John Guise Stadium.

Sir Peter has also invited the Opposition Leader, Peter O'Neil to participate and show the cultural strength of his Ialibu people and the contribution made by the petroleum and gas industries in the Southern highlands province.

MSG Countries Invited to Participate

Member countries of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu have been encouraged to participate in this cultural and trade display. Foreign Minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu extended the invitation during his visit to Vanuatu this month.

Port Moresby City Prepares for Visitors

The National Capital District Commission has started a major clean up campaign in the city. Street vendors and betelnut sellers have been encouraged to operate within the city regulations on where they can sell their wares. The greening of the Waigani, Gordons area has been completed and repairs to the roads are continuing.

Provinces Will Participate in Village Concept

Some provincial governments have already committed funds to support the PNG Village Concept. Governor of Enga, Peter Ipatas was the first to respond with a cheque for K30,000. This money will be used to construct a building from Enga and the province's participation at this event.

Bougainville Enthusiastic about Cultural Display

Bougainville has responded positively to the invitation to participate in the Village Concept. Provincial Administrator, Peter Tsiamalili thanked the Chairman of the PNG Events Council, Sir Peter Barter for inviting his province to a meeting for the New Guinea Islands region to discuss the Village Concept. Bougainville is keen in showing its rich cultural diversity by constructing a traditional house and displaying a special canoe. The deputy administrator Patrick Koles attended the meeting and conveyed the administrators commitment.

East New Britain Supports Concept

Governor of East New Britain, Leo Dion has indicated his provinces support for the preparations in showcasing Papua New Guinea's diverse culture and investment potential during the ACP-EC Council of Ministers meetings. Governor of East New Britain Leo Dion was represented by his executive officer, Timothy Masiu, at the briefing for the New Guinea Islands region in Kokopo. He conveyed Mr. Dion's support. East New Britain is one of the provinces which has benefited a lot in project funding from the European Union. Some of the EU funding covered water projects and rehabilitation of educational institutions implemented by the Gazelle Restoration Authority.

East Sepik to Participate

The East Sepik Province will build a *haus tambaran* and participate in showcasing the province. Acting administrator John Alman notified the PNG Events Council Secretariat this week of his province's commitment to the efforts by the government in making the ACP and EC Council of Ministers Meetings a success. The province will also be contributing K30,000 to the PNG Village Concept.

Gulf and Oro Travel to Port Moresby for Briefing

The provincial administrators of Gulf and Oro traveled to Port Moresby to be briefed by the Coordinator Alan Oaisa about their participation in the trade and cultural exhibition. They will discuss their provinces' participation with their departments and advise the PNGEC on their position. Both provinces support the national government's initiative in inviting provinces to participate and display their unique features.

Refurbishment at the Conference Venue

Work on refurbishing the conference venue at the Indoor Sports Complex is progressing well. The landscaping of the grounds is almost completed and the major work in carpeting air-conditioning of the main conference venue is progressing. The painting and carpentry work in the offices and the main conference venue is nearing completion.

Youths Want to Participate in Flower Arrangements

PNG has a lot to offer in its native flora and a youth group from Chinsura Street in Port Moresby is keen to display this through their floral arrangements in the offices, foyer and the main conference venue. Spokesperson for the group Mrs Mary Saun said their vast network of grassroots youth and women's group around the country will ensure that plants, orchids and special flowers from the provinces are included in the display. Their showpiece will be a display of the bird of paradise made from the everlasting or straw flowers from the Simbu Province.

Conference Office Allocation

Office allocation for the ACP-EC Secretariat and the VIPs will be finalized after the draft is approved by the respective secretariats in Brussels. The floor plan indicating the offices has been sent to them and when approved this information will be included in the Delegates Handbook.

Director General of the PNG Events Council Secretariat, Ambassador Aiwa Olmi who is the coordinator for the Venue said that once approved the work on voice and data cabling will follow so that telephones, fax and computers are installed, networked and commissioned by the second week of May.

Special Tour Packages for Visitors

Tour operators have already prepared special pre-ACP-EC and post-ACP-EC tour packages for visitors wishing to visit tourist destinations around the country. Air Niugini is offering tour packages while the popular Melanesian Tourist Services is offering special pre and post ACP-EC Sepik River cruise for six nights aboard the luxury cruise ship *MV Melanesian Discoverer*. The Tourism Promotion Authority, TPA will carry this information on the specials in their website www.pngtourism.org.

Delegates Accreditation Form 1

Access to the conference venue, functions and related events will be by security identification once the accreditation application is approved. All overseas delegates, guests, and the host country must submit the Delegates Accreditation Form 1 no later than April 30th 2006. The deadline for the PNG delegates is April 13th 2006. Accreditation Form 1 is available from the PNG Events Council Secretariat Media Coordinator Ms Anna Solomon at: asolomon@global.net.pg

Media Accreditation Form 2

All media covering the ACP-EC must apply for accreditation by filling in the Media Accreditation Form 2 and sending it to the PNG Events Council Secretariat. The overseas media will not be given a visa to enter Papua New Guinea unless their application is approved by the Media Unit of the Department of Prime Minister and NEC. You can get the Media Accreditation Form 2 from the Media Coordinator: asolomon@global.net.pg

Hotels and Accommodation

All major hotel agreements have been signed and the PNG Events Council is confident that there will be more than adequate rooms for the delegates and official traveling to PNG for the meetings. Director General of the PNG Events Council Secretariat, Ambassador Aiwa Olmi said the hoteliers' positive response has shown that they are prepared to show the visitors that Papua New Guinea's hotels are of international standard and they are ready to offer true PNG hospitality. More information on travel and accommodation from Ms Erigere Singin: esingin@global.net.pg



The Sir John Guise Indoor Sports Complex (right), venue of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers meeting in Solomon.