

elSSN: Being Applied



This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire PNGUoT community, including our esteemed faculty and students, "Vice Chancellor Professor Ora Renagi

stated in celebration of this achievement.

review in September 2024.

This achievement is a significant milestone for PNGUoT, This achievement highlights PNGUoT's commitment to allowing its engineering graduates to gain enhanced post graduate and employable mobility enabling them to work globally without additional qualification assessments.

Furthermore, it provides free graduate membership and a streamlined pathway to gain full membership leading to international recognition as professional engineers.

In celebrating this achievement, Vice Chancellor Professor Ora Renagi stated, "this remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire PNGUoT community, including our esteemed faculty and students." He expressed his gratitude to the Dean of Engineering, the Heads of the four engineering schools, and all faculty and students who contributed to reaching this significant milestone.

Civil Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Mining Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Mineral

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) Processing Engineering (Honours). As part of the Washington is now offering engineering courses that have been Accord, these engineering degrees are now recognized granted full accreditation by Engineers Australia under the in countries such as the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, prestigious Washington Accord, following a comprehensive and other member countries, opening doors to advanced education and international career opportunities.

> world-class education and global competitiveness for its graduates as enshrined in its vision and mission.

> PNGUoT embarked on the accreditation journey for its engineering programs in 2017, with the goal of aligning its offerings to international standards.

> This process was boosted by the support of the PNGUoT Industry Advisory Board, comprising key representatives from various mining companies including Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited, Exxonmobil, Ok-Tedi Mining Limited, and others throughout Papua New Guinea. A special mention goes to the Chairman of the Industry Advisory Board, Dr Luke Liria.

The accredited engineering programs include the Bachelor of In 2019, the engineering courses attained provisional accreditation, meeting the Engineers Australia Stage 1 Competency Standards and the PNG National Qualification

Story Continues on page 2...



Framework (PNGNQF) level 8.

Professor Renagi also paid tribute to the former Deans of the Engineering Faculty, late Professor John Pumwa, late Dr. Moses Kavi, and late Dr. Gabriel Arpa, recognizing their essential roles in developing the accreditation programs during their tenures.

Dr. Shoeb Syed, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, emphasized that accreditation is an ongoing process, requiring continuous collaboration with industry partners and stakeholders to maintain high educational standards.

He further stated the need for PNGUoT to maintain the accredited standards and teaching practices with continuous funding and training for staff in the coming years.

He further highlighted that the conditions that came with the award are being addressed and will be lifted in May 2025. The next review

for maintaining full accreditation will be conducted in 2029.

PNGUoT extends its heartfelt appreciation to the industry, government agencies, and graduates for their invaluable support throughout this accreditation process.

Your contributions have been vital to our success.

As the institution moves forward, PNGUoT remains committed to providing quality engineering education that has been offered since the 1960s, contributing significantly to the nation's human capital resources.

The accreditation of the engineering programs sets PNGUoT as a leading higher education institution in the country, committed to preparing our graduates for the real world.

PNGUoT 2025 SRS Executives Successfully Sworn-In

By Rachael MANKO (Intern)

The office of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) Student Representative Senate (SRS) successfully hosted the swearing-in and induction ceremony of the 2025 SRS members at the Crossroads Hotel in Lae, Morobe Province, on Thursday, February 27th.

A total of 18 SRS members, inclusive of the 2025 SRS President, executives from the SRS office, as well as senators from the 13 schools in the university were officially sworn in.

In attendance was the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Ora Renagi, who shared about the vision, mission & values of the PNGUoT and further elaborated on the four pillars; Academic Excellence, Research, Partnership (strategic), and Organization. "Ensure to be innovative enough to be content when not given an employment opportunity after graduating from PNGUoT," Professor Renagi encouraged the sworn-in SRS members and shared the university's 5-year vision and strategic plans to achieve it.

The university is gradually moving into a 'paperless system' and Professor Renagi highlighted the university's need for more professors and stated that current professors must mentor current doctors (PhDs) to publish and become professors. Also in attendance was the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Kaul Gena, who strongly emphasized on the 'Zero Tolerance of Alcohol' policy.

When asked about what his top priorities would be for his term as the SRS President, and how he plans to achieve them, Mr. Brenth Karol said that his first priority would be to ensure that there is harmony, peace, and unity within the student body among different year levels and he believes that one way of uniting students and establish common ground would be with the initative of the SRS Sports.

"My second priority would be trying to voice student concerns to the administration using the right platforms so that we don't just cause unnecessary disruption but make the admin aware of what affects the students".

Mr. Karol said, he trusts that knowing the right channels of communication would enable the SRS to speak properly to the administration and they could respond to students' concerns immediately without causing unnecessary disruption, delay of classes, unwanted protests, or things that could have been easily controlled.

The SRS office stands as the voice and a representative of the 3,000 to 3,500 students of the university to the university's administration and management.

The SRS executives are expected to settle into their respective roles and perform their duties as the voice and representatives of the student body as soon as possible.

Director of Student Services & Facilities Center (SS&FC), Mr. Andrew Wiavi, PNGUoT Registrar, Madam Veronica Thomas, and the Union Board Manager, Mr. Gabby Numbo were also present.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNIVERSITY OF **TECHNOLOGY**

'The Reporter' quarterly newsletter of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) and is published by the Public Relations Office.

VISION

"A leader in scientific research and technological innovation that is impacting society"

MISSION

"To produce world-class through excellence in cutting edge research, and the innovative application of science and technology"

Our Core Values

- **High Ethical Standards**
- **Professionalism**
- **Diversity and Inclusivity**
- Innovation and Initiative
- **Pride and Passion**

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Vice Chancellor's Message



Welcome to the First Quarter Edition of the University's **Reporter Newsletter!**

We are now well into the first semester, and it is inspiring to see our first-year students settling in—building friendships, engaging with their lecturers, the embracing vibrant academic environment PNGUoT.

Our dedicated staff began the year with great energy, successfully delivering an extended two-week orientation and registration program for the first time. This effort ensured that every student was welcomed and well-prepared for their journey ahead.

Well done to all involved!

This year also began with historic milestone—the accreditation of five engineering programs under the Washington Accord. This achievement has elevated

PNGUoT's standing, earning

recognition from industry leaders, diplomatic missions, multilateral partners, overseas universities, and political figures. This is a testament

to our commitment to excellence and further cements our reputation as a world-class institution.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch PNGUoT's Strategic Plan 2025-2029, which will chart our course for the next five years. This plan is built on four key pillars:

- Academic Excellence
- Research. Innovation. and Development
- Strategic Partnerships
- Operational Excellence

As Papua New Guinea celebrates 50 years of independence, PNGUoT proudly marks 60 years of academic service to the nation. This is an opportune time to reflect on our past, celebrate our achievements, and lay the foundation for the next 50 years of impact and growth.

As we move forward, let us embrace change, drive innovation, inspire excellence in everything we do—whether in teaching, research, or partnerships with industry, government, and communities. Let PNGUoT be the hub of knowledge, discovery, and technological advancement by:

- Equipping our students with the skills and expertise to excel in the workforce
- Transforming science technology and into real-world solutions through research, consultancy, and entrepreneurship.

Let 2025 be a year of excellence!

Enjoy reading, and let's continue shaping the future together.



Trukai- PNGUoT Smart Farmer Training Program Progresses with Batch 5

By Malai JOHN (Intern)

A total of 100 local rice farmers from the Momase and Highlands regions have undergone their Trukai Smart Farmer training program at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT), which was conducted in February.

The aim of this program is to train and educate local farmers about new ways and methods of farming, specifically promoting the new irrigation rice farming system.

Trukai Industries Smart Farmer Project Site Manager at PNGUoT, Hansel Mainuwec, said this training will empower local rice farmers to grow and produce rice in their gardens. He stated that although rice is a staple food, it is currently not a staple crop in PNG.

"We are starting off with these farmers to go back and start planting rice, and we are emphasizing irrigated rice farming to crop rice with water instead of dryland rice farming. Irrigated rice farming yields more than dryland farming."

"The irrigated rice farming system will help local production of rice and make rice the staple crop in the garden," said Mr. Mainuwec.

More than 500 rice farmers have undergone this training conducted at PNGUoT and Pacific Adventist University (PAU) since its inception.

The Trukai- PNGUoT Smart Farmer training program officially commenced in 2023, following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), which promotes academic and professional collaborative rice research and training.

The modules taught during the training are jointly developed by Trukai and PNGUoT's School of Agriculture (SoA).

A lecturer from PNGUoT's School of Agriculture and trainer, Dr. Spencer Poloma, said the interest from farmers has been increasing each year, which indicates that the training has impacted many farmers, and they see the importance of irrigated

rice farming.

Dr. Poloma acknowledged the partnership with Trukai, saying PNGUoT is happy to be part of an effort that is making a positive contribution.



"We got this climate change, which causes variations in rainfall patterns that are not normal compared to what they already know, and they also see that rainfall is not optimum now to support the growth of rice and other crops, so they are taking this keen interest in irrigated rice farming," said Dr. Spencer Poloma.

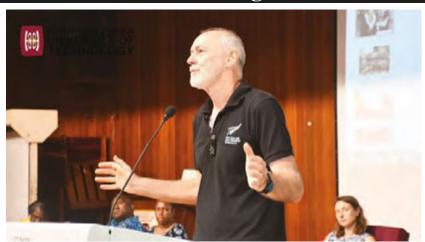
So far, 385 farmers have been trained under this program at PNGUoT, from the first to the fourth batch, and this year, they are looking forward to graduating more participants.

Mr. Mainuwec stated that as part of the program, they will visit farmers that have graduated and are currently practicing the new method of farming to help motivate the farmers in training

The Smart Farmer training program, conducted from the 13th to the 24th, included theory sessions at the School of Agriculture (SoA) and practical sessions that were conducted at the farm site on campus.

It is part of a 20-week program that will continue with participants conducting knowledge transfer demonstrations in their respective villages over the next 18 weeks, after which they will be assessed and eligible to graduate.

New Zealand High Commission Visits PNGUoT



PNGUoT was privileged to host at New Zealand High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Peter Zwart for a brief visit to our Taraka campus during the orientation week!

This timely visit aimed to raise awareness about the NZ Maanaki Scholarship to PNGUoT students.

His Excellency Zwart officially welcomed by Vice Chancellor Professor Ora Renagi, and was given the opportunity to speak to students at the Duncanson Hall.

Thank you for visiting PNGUoT!



Postgraduate Students Challenged to Strive for Excellence

The Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, Research and Innovations (PSRI) held its Orientation program for postgraduate students on the 28th of February, to mark the beginning of a transformative and exciting academic journey.

The event themed "Empowering Change Makers: Research for a Better Tomorrow" reflected on the essence of postgraduate studies, as an avenue to acquire knowledge, and become changemakers through the use of research and innovation.

Addressing the postgraduate students and esteemed guests was Acting Dean of PSRI Dr Shoeb Syed, who commended students for pursuing advanced studies, saying their decision reflects their commitment to excellence and the desire to make a meaningful impact.

"Whether your field is engineering, agriculture, environmental science, business or any other discipline, your work has the potential to shape the future of Papua New Guinea. You are here to ask the tough questions, challenge the status quo, and create solutions to improve lives and build a better tomorrow."

This year PSRIenrolled a total of 239 students which includes

104 new students, and 135 continuing students, marking an increase in student enrollments from the 160 students enrolled last year.

Furthermore, PSIR is also offering several new programs expanding the faculty. The programs include Master of Applied Mathematics, Master of Applied Economics, Master of Science in Accounting, Master of Science in Applied Chemistry, and the Master of Science in Climate Change and Renewable Energy Access (MREA) which will commence in the second semester (June) of 2025.

During the orientation program, the students were challenged to strive for excellence, manage their time, collaborate with others, and uphold high standards.

The importance of time management and completing their program within the timeframe was stressed on by Pro Vice Chancellor Academic, Professor Shamsul Akanda, as well.

PSRI was also delighted to introduce Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholar (QECS) Mr. Musyoki Mwangangi, who will be on the QECS scholarship for two years, pursuing his Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering.



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PNGUoT To Collaborate with the National Energy Authority

By Delma MANUKI (Intern)

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Energy Authority (NEA) aimed at creating collaborative efforts in providing accessible consultancy services in energy related matters.

This strategic partnership will establish strong relations between the two organizations, paving way for collaborative policy reviews, and research, and training.

PNGUoT Vice Chancellor, Professor Ora Renagi expressed that the institution is ready to take on the challenge because energy is a project needed in the rural and urban communities as well. "I am really happy and proud to sign the MOU. We have a lot of capacity in technology here with the intellectual property that all of my staff have. We have to be seen to be exercising this knowledge capacity that we have and then impacting society positively."

The National Energy Authority's (NEA) is responsible for ensuring that households and businesses in PNG will have access to reliable and affordable electricity in the near future. Their core functions are policy making and regulations of the energy market, including electricity and downstream gas industry, under the energy laws in PNG.

NEA's Managing Director Ronald Meketa said the target is to provide 70% of households in PNG with electricity by 2030, and

100% by 2050, and partnerships like these are vital to achieve such targets.

PNGUoT being a recognized institute of Higher Education will collaborate with the NEA to provide guidance on policies, training and research activities, and this will also pave the way for on-the-job training for students.

Mr. Meketa concluded before signing the MOU that they are committed to supporting PNGUoT projects on campus, which includes the solar rooftop project under the Sustainable Energy Research Institute, which could not be completed due to financial constraints.



"We are looking forward to more collaboration in this space. We need all our partners to put our hands together and collaborate including our government at the district level, provincial level, national level, therefore by signing this MOU with PNGUoT it will be beneficial to us all," Mr. Meketa added.

PNGUoT Partners with Theodist

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) has established a new partnership with Theodist Limited following a contract signing which took place on the 20th of February.

As part of this partnership, Theodist won the contract to supply 980 laptops to first-year students for the 2025 academic year.

PNGUoT Vice Chancellor Professor Ora Renagi expressed delight in partnering with Theodist, saying the institution has a good relationship with Theodist, and the contract signing strengthens that partnership. He added that the partnership with Theodist compliments the strides the university is taking to be a world class university, by improving and expanding the mode of learning to online, along with the accreditation and benchmarking of academic courses to industry standards.

"I am very happy to sign the contract for the procurement of laptops. We have always sourced resources from Theodist but this is the first time we are entering into a contract agreement, and I know this will surely enable us to deliver the best for our students and the university".

During the signing, Theodist CEO Kumar Baliah spoke about the company's ongoing commitment to supporting education in Papua New Guinea.

"At Theodist, education has always been a key part of what we do. For over 50 years, we've worked with schools, universities,

and communities to provide the tools and resources they need to succeed," said Mr. Baliah. "This partnership is an important step in making sure students have the technology they need to do well in school and prepare for the future." He said the partnership is a sign of their commitment to supporting the education sector in Papua New Guinea and providing students with the tools and resources they need to succeed.

In addition to providing the laptops, Theodist will also offer ongoing support through its service and repair center in Lae. This means students and staff will have access to help if any issues arise with the laptops throughout the year.

"We are thankful to PNGUoT's leadership and the Unitech Special Committee on Procurement for trusting us with this important project," Mr. Baliah added.

"Together, we can empower students, strengthen communities, and help build a better future for Papua New Guinea."



Students Commemorate International Day of Forests

By Rachael MANKO (Intern)

The students and staff from the School of Forestry from the PNG University of Technology (PNGUOT) celebrated the International Day of Forests (IDF) at the Lae's Botanical Gardens on Friday, March 20th.



Staff and students from the School of Forestry (SoF) commemorating the day of Forests at Lae's Botanical Garden.

This year's International Day of Forests highlights the vital role of forests in food security, nutrition, and sustainable livelihood. This year's theme, "Forests and Foods," connects forests to global efforts to combat hunger, protect biodiversity, and address climate change. "Forests have been given to us for free since the beginning of time, and as foresters it is our duty as custodians to protect them and ensure the practice of sustainable forest management so that the future generations can also have the privilege of enjoying the rainforests and all they have to offer," said Mr. Nalish Sam, the Deputy Director of Forest Research Institute (FRI) and the keynote speaker at the event.

The International Day of Forests (IDF) is celebrated each year on March 21, following its official proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly in November 2012, and since 2014 the PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) has made March 21 a day to remember. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the vital role forests play in sustaining life on Earth.

Governments, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to participate in activities such as tree-planting events, conservation initiatives, and educational programs to emphasize the significance of forest ecosystems.

The first seedlings for the Lae's Botanical Garden, where the annual event usually takes place, were brought in from Kokopo. The whole purpose and function of the garden is for conservation, research, education and protection and has been under the care of FRI. The garden is divided into sections where trees species collected from different parts of the country are kept in various sections as part of FRI's conservation efforts.

With more than twenty (20) years experience working with the

Forest Research Institute, Mr. Sam emphasized on the importance of maintaining the garden and said that FRI has been collaborating closely with Lae City Authority (LCA) and LCA has been tasked with the responsibility of maintaining and looking after the garden.

"Today is a symbolic day and we, as students from the School of Forestry at Unitech, have gathered here to commemorate the significance of the day by planting trees," said Shadrack Mickdu, a final-year student and the president of the School of Forestry students. As an awareness, he urged everyone to take responsibility by looking after and preserving our forests so that we can enjoy the future benefits of our forests.

He added that, as a developing country, the country has seen the cutting down and clearing of forests in order to bring development. However, all these has resulted in causing pollution and soil erosion, thus further damaging the forests and destroying ecosystems, as well as polluting natural water systems.

"Coming out here and planting trees is something that I think a lot of people should be doing," said Delilah Bagah, a first-year Bachelor of Science in Forestry student. She added that because the world is changing as well as the climate, we have to maintain our forests to preserve our forests because we are already slowly losing our forests and trees to loggers.

With PNG known for being home to the third largest rainforest in the world and the threats of illegal logging companies logging our trees seems inevitable, the scientists and foresters are working to ensure that the rainforests are protected at all costs.

Attending the event to commemorate the day were over sixty (60) students from the PNGUoT School of Forestry and their technical staff, staff from FRI, members from LCA, and other stakeholders.

The event ended on a high note with everyone planting trees at an allocated section at the Botanical Garden.



Students during the program at the Lae's Botanical Garden.



Queensmen Society of Economics Public Lecture a Success

By Rachael MANKO (Intern)

The Queensmen Society of Economics from the School of Business Studies at the PNG University of Technology (PNGUoT) successfully hosted a public lecture at Duncanson Hall on Monday, March 17th.

They invited Dr. Pete Connolly, a security and strategy expert with a distinguished 33-year career in Defence and extensive experience in military leadership. His lecture was focused on his research on Chinese Statecraft in Melanesia (and PNG), which explored the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, as a geoeconomic strategy which poses as an important topic given the geopolitical initiatives in the regions.

The President of the Queensmen Society of Economics, Mr. Charles Edward Sorman, thanked Dr. Connolly for making time available to give a very insightful lecture. He said the idea behind the public lecture was to help the students understand that Economics is not just about corporate life, but it is about so much more.

"As aspiring economists, understanding geoeconomics and politics is crucial because global markets, trade, and financial systems are deeply influenced by political decisions and international relations."

"Policies on trade, sanctions, tariffs, and economic alliances shape economic opportunities and risks. Political stability impacts investment, inflation, and market confidence. In short, economics doesn't exist in a vacuum—political and geopolitical factors directly shape economic outcomes, making this knowledge essential for informed decision-making."

The Queensmen Society of Economics is an association that was launched in 2022 and consists of all Applied Economics Students and Staff in the School of Business Studies.

The association is called "Queensmen" because Economics is considered the queen subject in the world of social sciences and humanities.

According to Mr Sorman, its purpose is to foster connections and create opportunities as well as host events and programs

centered around economics, political sciences and International relations to broaden and enhance the knowledge and understanding of students' economic applications. He expressed his delight at the turnout of the first event.

"It was awesome to see that it was not just a lecture but we had participation from the audience that made it more of an open dialogue and it was amazing to see how the audience articulated their questions and points on the topic."

Mr. Sorman added that Dr. Connolly's lecture resonated with a majority of the audience which consisted of Econ students and staff, and it served as an inspiration and encouragement about the potential of an economics degree and how it can bring such an impact in certain areas of countries and their connections.

Also present at the public lecture were the PNGUoT Vice Chancellor, Professor Ora Renagi, students from engineering courses and other schools within PNGUoT, and staff members.

The Queensmen Society has other events planned out for this year, mostly similar to the public lecture.



Students and staff from the School of Business Studies after the Public Lecture.

Their annual symposium will be hosted in semester two (2) and they're trying to run more events such as workshops and competitions to encourage and grow the association for what it is now.





PNGUoT Celebrates MASTAMAKS- Surveyors Day

Story and Pictures Supplied

The School of Surveying and Land Studies (SSLS) at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) has been the home of professional surveying education for over 50 years. On Friday the 31st of March, this long history of surveying pride and passion was observed by students, staff, and guests, as they commemorated Global Surveyors Day at the Sandover building.

Head of School Dr Andrew Pai said the role of surveyors has always been at the heart of civilizations greatest achievements, from charting unexplored territories, to building the foundations of modern infrastructure.

"Surveyors have shaped history, created nations, and transformed landscapes whether it is in the bustling cities or the remote countryside. Surveying is more than just a measurement, it the silent force that drives development... surveyors are not just technicians, they are innovators, problem solvers and guardians of progress."

"We play an indispensable role in ensuring effective land administration and tenure security, supporting infrastructure development and urban growth, facilitating environmental sustainability and resource management; and Advancing geospatial innovations and technology-driven solutions."

Surveying is considered of the oldest professions in the world, dating back to Ancient Egypt. In an article written by SSLS Associate Professor in Geodesy Dr. Richard Stanaway, he described the methods used then, and how the profession has evolved with new knowledge and technology.

"...surveyors using plumb bobs, water levels and ropes precisely set out the great pyramids and measured field boundaries so that they could be reinstated after each annual flooding of the Nile... Later in Roman times, surveyors set out straight arterial roads across the Roman Empire and aqueducts to transport water to cities and towns which were also designed and laid out by surveyors. Nowadays, surveyors use the latest advances in technology to measure the Earth to accuracies unimaginable even fifty years ago when Papua New Guinea was preparing for its independence."

At PNGUoT, the Department of Surveying and Land Studies as it was known then was one of the first academic departments to be set up at the institution, in 1967. At the time, the Sandover Building was still being built, and some lectures were conducted under the trees until the building was completed. In 1970, the institution hosted the first graduation, of which the first four graduates comprised of Surveying students who received their diplomas. They were Late Mr Allan Bale, Late Mr Kisokau Pochapon, Late Pomaliau Salaiau, and Late Mathew Paiap. Reflecting

on the yester years and sharing his experience as a registered surveyor, was former Surveyor General, and Lands Secretary Mr Luther Sipisong, who graduated from the Department in the 1980's.

He emphasized on the importance of the profession and encouraged students to become registered surveyors after they graduate, and join the Surveyors Association as this will help them progress in their careers. Dean of Built Environment Professor Gonduan in celebrating Global Surveyors Day said it is important to celebrate the history of the profession, and to remember that all other built developments, relies on the precision of the Mastamaks.

The students were also reminded to embrace the evolving technology in surveying, and strive to the best they can as aspiring professionals in an important field for study.

One of the students, Yvette Lakamanga said there has been a sense of appreciation for the role of surveyors and the part they play in development, since enrolling to study at the SSLS and hopes more people can know and understand what surveyors do. "I didn't realize that surveying actually impacted us a lot. Other areas like civil, mining... architecture and construction management – they all still come back to surveying."

As the Global Surveyors Day was observed, so was the rich history of PNGUoT in training surveyors, who have played the important roles of ensuring cities, towns, roads, airports, ports, major buildings and other forms of development and are located and built correctly.



Students during the celebration of Global Surveyor's Day at PNGUoT's Taraka Campus.



PNGUoT Launches Women Empowerment Committee

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) has launched a Women's Empowerment Committee of Management (WECM), which will serve as the committee responsible for facilitating women's programs at the university.

The Chair of the Committee and Head of the Communications and Development Studies School, Dr. Rachel Aisoli-Orake, said there are many issues faced by women in their different capacities, and this committee hopes to be an avenue for women to have a voice. She added that it is not restricted to professional women; it also extends to students and spouses of male staff as well. "The composition of women at PNGUoT is made up of those three categories: professionals, students, and spouses. Hence, this committee represents all of these women. We all have our different challenges, juggling work, studies, and managing homes. At the end of the day, we are all women."

The committee was initiated by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ora Renagi, and supports the university's Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Policy. It was initially established in 2022 following their participation at the Breakfast with a Lady, hosted by Eve Magazine in Port Moresby. Her Excellency Lady Emeline Dadae, and her panel of women leaders discussed the topic "Transforming a nation through women leaders."

During his speech at the official launch, Professor Ora Renagi said traditionally, men and women have been prepared to perform separate roles; however, the objective is to ensure there is harmony. "Plan activities that will help to change the mindset of our society to



From left: Dr Orake and Professor Ora Renagi during the official opening.

respect each other and build up a society in which we can live together and help one another. It is not impossible." He pledged his support to the WECM, saying that empowerment occurs when women rise up in confidence and have the authority to provide leadership.

The launch of the WECM coincided with the International Women's Day program on the 8th of March, with the theme: "Accelerate Action: Empower Her Voice."

Representatives from the three categories of professional women, students, and spouses (both citizens and non-citizens) were all present.

Bi-annual Short Safety Course Equips Industry Professionals

By Rachael MANKO (Intern)

Workplace safety is a growing concern for individuals working in high-risk industries, such as mining, oil and gas, construction, and manufacturing. To address this, the School of Communication for Development Studies (SCDS) at the PNG University of Technology (PNGUoT) in Lae, Morobe Province is providing a biannual two-week safety course called 'Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Risk Management' is provided by.

The course takes place mid-year during the semester break and again between November and December. It Equips participants and industry professionals from both private and public industries with the skills and knowledge needed to minimize and reduce risks and improve safety standards in the workplace.

Founded and initiated by PNGUoT's Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Garry Sali in 2011 when he was the Head of School for the Communication for Development Studies, the short course program has been successfully running for over ten years and has equipped professionals from various industries throughout the country with necessary safety management strategies.

According to the Principal Lecturer, Mr. Jack Yaro, who coordinates and trains the participants undertaking the short course, the course has seen an increasing number of participants from different industries and major corporations who are seeking to improve the safety culture in their workplace.

"Many of the participants that take up this short course training come from high-risk industries where safety is paramount, and upon completion of the training they are awarded with a certificate Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3."

"We have course modules for each Certificate level, and we cover all the modules within 14 days of extensive training for both lecture-based and onsite practical experience to acquire appropriate skills and knowledge in the OHS workplace."

The participants are given assessment tasks to carry out within the two weeks, and submit them back to the trainer to measure the level of competency and how well they have acquired the skills in each certificate level. Mr. Yaro, added that the training is not aimed only at employees and participants from big industries, but anyone who has a keen interest in learning about safety can register for the course, which includes those who have completed or dropped out of high school but were unable to further their studies at tertiary institutions.

The SCDS and Mr. Yaro have received positive feedback and acknowledgements from past participants of the course from several industries around the country, sharing how the training has equipped and enhanced them with invaluable safety and risk management skills and knowledge and has helped them get promoted to take up certain roles in their workplaces.



Environmental Officer from New Britain Palm Oil who had attended the training in 2022 said in an email, acknowledging the SCDS and Mr. Yaro. The participant was awarded as the top safety officer in April, 2023, during the World Safety Day and was elevated to a Safety Officer in the construction site.

Apart from the training being offered as a biannual short course, students in the SCDS undertake the subject as 'CD 328: Workplace Safety and Risk Management' in the second semester of their third year as undergraduates of SCDS at PNGUoT.

MCSSSA Celebrates International Pi-Day

Story and Pictures Supplied

The Mathematics and Computer Science Staff and Student Association (MCSSSA) successfully organized a lively and engaging Pi Day event, which brought together not only Mathematics and Computer Sciences students but also students from other schools.

International Pi Day is an annual celebration dedicated to the mathematical constant π (pi), which represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. The day is observed globally by mathematics enthusiasts and institutions to promote awareness and appreciation for mathematics. Pi Day is celebrated on March 14 (3/14) because the date resembles the first three digits of pi (3.14). The celebration was first established in 1988 and has since grown into a worldwide event that includes educational activities, competitions, and mathematical discussions.

The event featured various activities designed to test and celebrate mathematical skills in an enjoyable manner. Among the competitions held were the Pi recitation challenge, chess, Sudoku, Pac-Man, Rubik's Cube, speed math, and other games that incorporated mathematical strategies. For instance, chess required players to calculate moves ahead using logic and probability, while solving a Rubik's Cube involved pattern recognition and algorithmic thinking.

Prizes were awarded to the winners of these competitions, recognizing their outstanding performances and dedication. Apart from academic activities, the event also featured a karaoke session where students showcased their singing talents.

This highlighted the idea that academic excellence is not the only measure of talent—some students, despite not excelling academically, demonstrated remarkable musical abilities. The highlight of the evening was the Pi recitation contest,



Computers set up for the celebration.



Staff and students engaging outside of their normal lecture routines during the program.

where students impressed the audience with their extraordinary memorization skills. The winners of the contest were: First place: Florence Palin – Applied Mathematics, Third Year – 115 decimal places; Second place: Jonah Margis – Applied Mathematics, Second Year – 106 decimal places; Third place: Ismael Vai'i – Computer Science, First Year – 55 decimal places; Fourth place: Jacinta Rikar – Computer Science, First Year – 53 decimal places.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the generous support of Mr. Sarsoruo and Dr. Mohsen, who sponsored the winners of the Pi recitation contest.

Their contributions and encouragement made the event even more meaningful.

During the event, Mr. Sarsoruo delivered a brief but insightful talk on the values of pi and how mathematics is applied in everyday life. His words reinforced the significance of mathematical concepts beyond the classroom.

Special appreciation goes to the judges of the Pi memorization contest for their meticulous verification and tracking of results. Their dedication ensured the integrity of the competition.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all Mathematics and Computer Science students, from first-year to final-year, who worked tirelessly to organize and execute the event. Their commitment played a crucial role in making the celebration a resounding success.

The event was well attended, with a packed room filled with energy and excitement from students from various schools also participated, demonstrating a shared enthusiasm for mathematical exploration.

Faculty members engaged with students in discussions on mathematical concepts, making the occasion both educational and enjoyable.



Mr. Sarsoruo during presentations of the celebration program.



PNGUoT Remembers Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare

By Abednego PETER & Malai JOHN (Intern)

On the 26th of February, students of the Papua New Guinea of Technology gathered to commemorate the life of the country's first Prime Minister and one of the founding Fathers Late Sir Michael Thomas Somare.

Based on the theme, "Get to know him: learn from his life", the two-part event started off with the walk of sorrow, at 6:00 am which saw students march around the administration area, and stopped to read out tributes led by representatives from the four regions.

"Late Grand Chief, Sir. Michael Thomas Somare was a leader who understood that true governance comes from serving the people with mobility, integrity and respect," - Momase region; "Late Sir. Michael Somare portrayed unique qualities such as his strength of character on wavering integrity, his deep sense of humility, and his sense of vision for this nation as a leader through this political career," - Southern region; "Sir. Michael Somera's leadership is the testament of said visions and unwavering dedication in uniting a diverse nation," - Highland's region; "Now more than ever, let us step up to the level of determination and courage that Sir. Michael displayed, and let us work together to address the unique challenges of economic development and create a brighter future for the next generation," - New Guinea Islands region.

The annual Remembrance Day program, was introduced in 2021 by the Student Representative Senate (SRS), and has become a tradition to reflect on the life and leadership of the nation's founding father with this year's theme. The evening program at Duncanson Hall featured speeches from student leaders and University of Technology Vice Chancellor Mr.Ora Renagi, each highlighting Sir Grand Chief Michael's remarkable qualities.

Agriculture President Jeromu Kwalam described him as a man of wisdom, humility, and unity. "Remember the quality, his leadership, his humility, these define a great leader," he

said. He reminded students that Sir Michael valued people's opinions, formed the Pangu Party in 1967 with a vision for independence, and always sought to unite Papua New Guineans. He encouraged students to adopt the same vision, courage, and wisdom in their own lives.

Business Studies President Emmanuel Goga emphasized determination and service to humanity. "Never give up on your dreams," he urged students, recalling how Australians once questioned where PNG's future doctors, engineers, and lawyers would come from. Sir Grand Chief Michael confidently pointed at the mothers and said, "Those will bear me doctors, engineers, pilots, and lawyers."

Applied Physics President Miyo Tony Turcovic stressed Sir Michael's emotional intelligence and strategic thinking. "He controlled his emotions and never let them control him," he said. He spoke about how it took Sir Michael and his team three years to write PNG's Constitution and how he had a vision for developing the country's natural resources. He quoted Sir Michael's words from EmTV: "Envision something we have never seen in 10-20 years."

Engineering representative Brendan Wakeri praised Sir Michael's innovative mindset and ability to see opportunities where others did not. He described him as a leader who laid the foundation for PNG's progress in infrastructure, education, and governance, inspiring future generations to build and develop the nation.

Vice Chancellor Ora Renagi closed the event with his speech, calling Sir Michael not just a leader but a father figure to the nation. He encouraged students to develop authority, leadership, and integrity, saying, "You graduate with authority, I will be a proud person." He urged them to carry forward Sir Michael's dream and make meaningful contributions to the country.

The event ended with a closing prayer, leaving students inspired to uphold Sir Michael's legacy of unity, wisdom, and service.







FIRE AND AMBULANCE HANDED OVER

By Malai JOHN (Intern)

A new fire and ambulance building, built to assist staff and students with fire and health emergencies was handed over to Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) on Friday 07th of February.

Vice-Chancellor for PNGUoT, Professor Ora Renagi said, "The building is purposely built to serve as a bay for the fire truck and ambulance incase, of emergencies that may arise within the university's vicinity."

"The university lost three (3) staff houses through fire incidents in the past years, and this building is here to make sure that this type of incidents will never happen again."

Professor Renagi thanked United Engineering Consultants and Contractors Pacific Limited (UECCPL) for completing the project within the given timeframe.

UECCPL signed the contract for the new fire and ambulance building with PNGUoT on November 2023, and work began on December 2023. The project was put on hold due to some structural issues, but it resumed on October 2024 and was completed on the 03rdof March, 2025.

Despite the challenges and difficulties faced, the contractor managed to complete the new fire and ambulance building within the given time frame of approximately nine (9) months. UECCPL worked tirelessly to complete the building within the short period of time due to the need and urgency of the building along with the facilitates.

The fire and ambulance service of PNGUoT will work hand-in-hand to make sure the building is operational along with its staff and facilities.

Chief Security Officer for PNGUoT, Michael Are said, "We've sent four (4) of our new fireman recruits down to Port Moresby to undergo a ten (10) weeks training, and after the training they will be stationed here (Fire department) to assist with fire emergencies.

Professor Kaul Gena thanked the UECCPL for working within the budget and the given time frame to complete the project. Professor Ora Renagi concluded by urging the fire and security department of the university to make sure that the two operational services are prompt when emergencies arise.



The new fire and ambulance building located next to the security office at PNGUoT's Taraka Campus in Lae.

PNGUoT Strenghtens Tie with NGCB

By Malai JOHN (Intern)

Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) signed their third Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Gaming Control Board (NGCB) on the 19th of March, 2025, to continue engaging students for their industrial training (IT).

Vice Chancellor Professor Ora Renagi said these partnerships with industries will help build the university into a world-class university, and importantly allow students to experience the workforce before they graduate.

"The reason that the university locked-in work experience into the curriculum is so that students can go out there, feel what the real issues are, and use those challenges to learn and then apply in industries," said Professor Ora Renagi.

The partnership between PNGUoT and NGCB was initially created in 2023. This partnership is purposely to engage students in the industries for their IT allowing them to have a feel of the real situation in a working environment before leaving school.

It is an internship training that NGCB provides to the students of the School of Communication for Development studies (CDS) where they engage six (6) final year students each year for their IT.

The NGCB has done this for the last two years (2023 and 2024) and this year (2025) marks the third year of engaging PNGUoT students from the department of C4D.

"For now, the partnership is for the Communication and Development students only, but as we go on, we will consider other departments, scholarships and other requirements," said the Acting Human Resource (HR) Manager for NGCB, Beatrix Ramblijambi.

"The university is always proud to associate with industries because that's what we are here for, to train young men and women to come and work for the



Professor Ora Renagi also made mention that the university is working towards benchmarking and accrediting the Communication and Development courses which will give access to students to find employment overseas like other engineering courses.



From left to right: Dr. Orake, Professor Ora Renagi, and Beatrix Ramblijambi during the official MoU signing at PNGUoT's Taraka Campus in Lae.

NFTMC Hosts Microbiology Sampling Training

By Phyllia PISEP

The National Food Testing and Monitoring Centre (NFTMC) through Papua New Guinea University of Technology's (PNGUoT) School of Applied Science, successfully conducted a one-day training course with the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) last week Thursday.

This short training course is specially tailored for the needs of NFA to carry out environmental microbial sampling on food processing facilities, to meet the Asian Market demand through Chinese Food Safety Laws.

The training course highlights the importance and different environmental sampling in food processing areas; and understanding the concept behind methods for analysis of test samples. It covers scopes of; ensuring food safety, regulatory compliance, protecting brand reputation, operational efficiency, risk management, public health protection, cost savings, and continuous environmental sampling improvement.

NFTMC's Manager, Justin Narimbi said, "we see ourselves as an important player to enable fish trading for the country and we are proud and happy about the part we play and contribute".

The establishment of the National Food Testing and Monitoring Centre (NFTM) is one of the many positive outcomes of this ongoing mutual relationship between PNGUoT's NFTMC and NFA.

NFTMC plays a significant role in providing analytical testing services to the fisheries sector in Papua New Guinea. The fisheries sector supports the livelihoods of fishers and processors and enhances the country's reputation in international markets. This, in turn, contributes to economic growth and food security in PNG.

NFA as the Competent Authority (CA) plays a crucial role in enforcing fisheries safety standards and regulations in Papua New Guinea, ensuring that fish and fisheries products are safe for consumption and comply with national and international

standards. Their key roles include; Regulation and standard setting, inspection and monitoring, certification and licensing, risk assessment and management, capacity building and training, surveillance and enforcement, public awareness and education, collaboration with other agencies, and emergency response.

These participants went through a half day of theory and proceeded to the second half of practice at the PNGUoT's Mess.

Participants of the training are staff from the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) under the Audit & Certificate Unit (ACU). A participant said, "this training is very useful to what we do under ACU within PNG borders and also for NFA to meet PNG's largest demand for fish market – that is the Asian market".



"NFTMC hopes to facilitate more of these short trainings in the future, not just with NFA but other interest clients as well", he added.



The five participants including a training facilitator after completing the second lag of the course at PNGUoT's Taraka Campus in Lae.



PNGUoT Recieves K50, 000 Scholarship from Badili Hardware

By Abednego PETER (Intern)

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology received a K50,000.00 scholarship funding from Badili Hardware, aimed at sponsoring five top students to pursue their studies.

This was announced on Wednesday, the 26th of March.

During the event, Vice Chancellor Dr. Ora Renagi expressed his gratitude to Badili Hardware for offering this support. He highlighted the importance of proper training to ensure students are ready for the workforce, praising Badili Hardware for recognizing the growth and improvements within the university.

"I'm truly delighted for the sponsorship of Badili Hardware for five students. This is the partnership that should be encouraged between industry and the university."

"When the industry is seeing that the university is providing the right training, then they come to invest. And so, this is an investment in the students of our university."

PNGUoT stands out as one of the leading institutions in the country, dedicated to producing graduates who are ready for the workforce across various fields. For the past several years, PNGUoT has built strong partnerships with numerous business houses, corporations, and organizations, notably receiving scholarships that support student education.

Companies like Exxon Mobil, Ok Tedi Mining Limited, Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited and others have played significant roles by providing financial aid and skill development opportunities.



Recently, Badili Hardware introduced a K50,000 scholarship program, marking its inaugural sponsorship with PNGUoT, further strengthening the partnership with industry, aimed at promoting national development. Chairman of Badili Hardware Mr. Ashok Kumar, confirmed that this is the first time the company has partnered with PNGUoT for a scholarship initiative. "I want to thank the Vice Chancellor for giving us an opportunity to associate with a prestigious university," he said.

He acknowledged the success of the university under Professor Renagi's leadership and emphasized Badili Hardware's commitment to giving back to the community through education.

The scholarship program is designed for students entering their second year who achieve a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of four. Badili will cover close to 90% of tuition fees, provided that students maintain their grades. Mr. Kumar expressed his confidence in continued growth and collaboration with the university, stating, "we want to associate with you on a very long-term basis."





PNGUoT Farm Sells 10, 000 Hybrid Cocoa Clones to Wafi - Golpu

By Abednego PETER (Intern)

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology's (PNGUoT) Agriculture Farm successfully sold its first bulk order of 10,000 of the eighteen variety hybrid cocoa clone seedlings to Wafi-Golpu in March.

Those seedlings were grown at PNGUoT's farm budwood garden and commercial nursery.



The official handover of the cocoa seedlings to Wafi-Golpu at PNGUoT's Farm-Taraka Campus.

This was a key milestone for the PNGUoT farm following its continuous partnerships with other projects.

These seedlings were purchased by the Wafi-Golpu Joint Venture (WGJV) under their cocoa program, in partnership with the PNG Cocoa Board, for K55,000 and were handed over to the Buimo Correctional Institute. This program will be used to plough inmates' valuable farming skills while contributing to the local cocoa industry.

Mr Joseph Kimagl, Farm Manager at PNGUoT Farm, spoke about this milestone and the effort behind this achievement.

"To raise 10,000 seedlings is very hard work. Many will say they have the capacity but when I work, I see that it's not easy to produce 10,000 seedlings...Wafi-Golpu came in a big way. Their demand in their program is very high. By the end of this year, we should have about 100,000 seedling capacity just to cater for the high demand."

"These cocoa seedlings are sold for five kina per poly bag".

He highlighted that the farm aims to promote all 18 varieties of hybrid cocoa clones by not allowing farmers to purchase only one or two varieties. He also emphasized the importance of confirmed orders and timely payments for smooth operations.. Kimagl added, "The PNGUoT partnership with the PNG Cocoa Board is serious business, so we will ensure that our seedlings have to go to the farmers."



Inmates loading cocoa seedlings after the handover.



"Do the payment, after three months, you get your seedlings. Because we cannot do the cloning and when no one comes to buy it, then it's a loss to us. It's better to make a 75% upfront payment so that we can manage efficiently," added Kimagl.

PNGUoT's Agriculture Farm is an important part of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, and it focuses on producing high-quality seedlings and supporting agricultural research. The farm has facilities like a Budwood garden and a commercial nursery, which allows it to grow 18 varieties of hybrid cocoa clone seedlings for farmers and institutions.

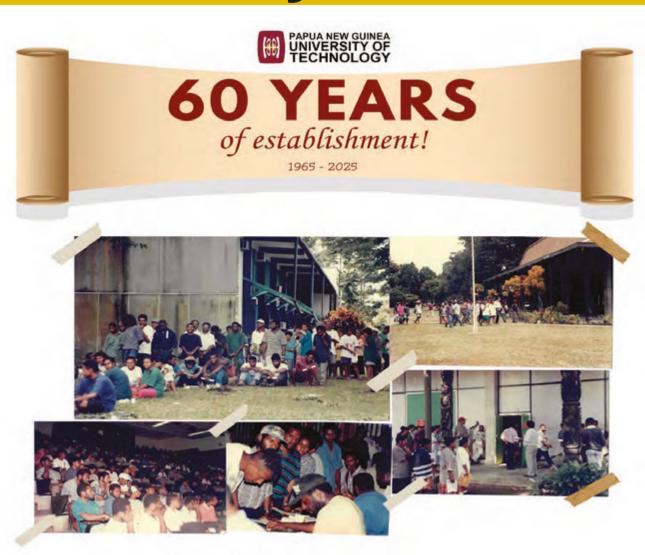
The farm not only provides practical learning for students but also works with partners to improve farming in Papua New Guinea. Through its work, the farm helps in advancing agriculture and supporting community development. WGJV Sustainability Project Manager Mrs. Sheila Harou, praised Unitech's reliability.



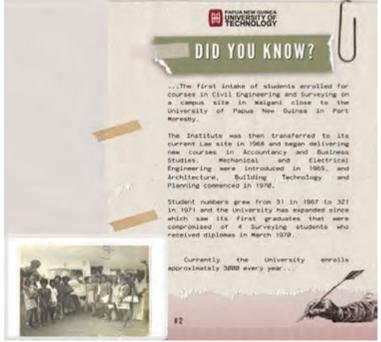
"Preparation of the seedlings is on time, and you won't find such quality here. It's an institutional arrangement. When you go to farmers themselves or cooperatives, they are yet to pick up their actions. But with a bigger institution like PNGUoT, I think it's more reliable."



Listory Lubs









PNGUoT: HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Traveling away from home for the first time to pursue further studies can be an overwhelming experience.

This sentiment is common among first-year students, and this year was no exception. As the transport and security staff awaited arrivals at Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport, students approached the buses, surrendering to the academic journey that lay ahead.

It's impossible to tell how many friendships will blossom in this new environment. While some students quickly gravitate towards seniors and old friends, others embark on the adventure of making new connections.

We took the opportunity to speak with several first-year students about their thoughts on entering this unfamiliar territory:

"Coming to a new place scares me, but I know the thrill would be worth it." - Jonelle Kamo

"Its overwhelming leaving home but also exciting to take up the new challenges in a new setting/environment" – Oshenaiah Kamo

"It was very sad that I had to leave home but I know this will be a great experience leaving my comfort zone to explore linfe on my own" – Wamsie Wamala "I was very emotional leaving my family to study in a different province but I know it is God's plan." – Gretel Nonoga

"I was so emotional leaving my families and friends behind" – Allan Cesare Manduli

"Not happy but enthusiastic on new challenges" – Mathew Mesmin Jr

"Being at Unitech is a privilege but also a challenge as a first-year student. But by the warm welcome from staff and friends, I can really feel the learning atmosphere." – David Variu

"It was scary leaving home, but the thought of coming to Unitech PNG was exciting because it will be a place to make new memories and friends" – Mathew Saura

Though these reflections come from just a few students, they embody the emotions that past and present students experience when arriving at PNGUoT for the first time.

The first few days of uncertainty often fade with academic deadlines, new friendships, and memorable experiences that shape this chapter of their lives.









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