



FROM THE MD's DESK



Dear Readers,

Welcome to another issue of our **Invest PNG Newsletter**.

This month was a more hectic one for us at the IPA. Apart from the buzzing of the upcoming 50th independence anniversary excitements, we have been engaging with the private sector and international stakeholders in our usual bid to promote PNG as open for business and present the investment opportunities in the country.

From participating in investment conferences to leading investment missions, we are going all out this year.

As you will note from the stories in this issue, we led an investment mission to Fiji comprising of local businesses, SMEs and Government agencies. The delegation was led by PNG Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso.

In this issue I pay homage to our country, Papua New Guinea, as we celebrate the 50th Independence Anniversary.

Despite the challenges we continue to face as a developing country, we must celebrate the fact that we are a sovereign country and we have the freedom to make decisions for ourselves and determine our own destiny.

As the theme of PNG's 50th Independence

Anniversary states, "celebrate our history, inspire our future", I would like to pay my respects to our forefathers and past leaders who have crafted the systems of our country to where we are today. It is their wisdom and courage that should inspire us to excel and deliver our respective duties with loyalty and distinction. And we must always draw our motivation from them.

In saying this, I would like to pay my respects firstly to the first Prime Minister and founder of our nation the late Great Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare for his vision and courage to lead a thousand tribes into forming one nation in 1975. I also pay respects to the rest of the Prime Ministers thereafter such as the late Sir. Julius Chan, Sir Paias Wingti, late Sir Mekere Morauta, late Sir Rabbie Namaliu, late Sir Bill Skate, Hon. Peter O'Neil and our current Prime Minister Hon. James Marape.

Each of these leaders contributed to where we are today. As good citizens of this country we respect them and are also reminded that we are not to judge our leaders. But we must learn from their characters and use their wisdom to build our own characters and learn and instill in ourselves the principles of integrity and honesty.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the same manner, I'd like to pay my respects to the past Managing Directors of the IPA who have contributed to the building of this dynamic Organisation.

I pay my respects to Mr. Nigel Agonia who was the serving Managing Director at the time of the transition from the National Investment Development Agency or NIDA to the Investment Promotion Authority in 1992. I also salute the leadership of Lady Aivu Tauvasa who served as the next Managing Director from 1993 to

1998. I also acknowledge the Managing Directors who although served for very short periods but still have high regards for IPA to date, such as the late Mr. Bill Veri, Mr. Thomas Abe, Ambassador Joshua Kalinoe and Ambassador Gabriel Dusava. I pay my respects to a cornerstone of the IPA who is now the Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister and NEC Ambassador Ivan Pomaleu.

These great men and woman have contributed to the formation of this thriving Organisation and as the current Managing Director of IPA, I am humbled and blessed to move this Organisation to greater heights.

I hope as we celebrate the country's 50th independence anniversary we can look beyond the challenges in the country and create a more positive outlook on our circumstances. We must change our mindsets so we can appreciate the blessings we at usual times, overlook. We should open up to attract fresh ideas to come in and make a shift in our outlook.

To our international audiences and partners, we thank you for your continued support and hope we can continue on this journey, together.

Happy 50th independence anniversary Papua New Guinea!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director,
Investment Promotion Authority

Fiji–PNG Business Forum 2025: Strengthening Trade, Investment, and Regional Cooperation



Nadi, Fiji - Businesses and government officials from Fiji and Papua New Guinea convened at the PNG–Fiji Business Forum this week to discover trade and investment opportunities, strengthen regional collaboration, and celebrate their shared Melanesian heritage.

The forum drew senior delegates, including Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small & Medium Enterprise and Communications, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, PNG Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Lands, Physical Planning & Urbanization, Immigrations & Border Security, Hon. John Rosso, PNG's Acting High Commissioner to Fiji, H.E. Bill Olmi, and representatives from the private sector and key agencies.

Hon. Kamikamica opened the forum by highlighting the close ties between Fiji and PNG. "We are not just trade and investment partners, but members of one Melanesian family, connected by history, culture, and shared aspirations."

He highlighted Fiji's commitment to supporting business-friendly environment, citing the presence of PNG companies such as Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC), BSP, and Credit Corporation operating alongside Fijian companies in PNG like Vodafone, Jacks, and Prouds.

"The South Pacific Stock Exchange and Papua New Guinea's PNGX Group are collaborating to develop stronger, more integrated financial markets. This is not just about capital – it is about confidence in a shared Pacific economy."

Hon. Manoa Kamikamica said Fiji has 127 investment opportunities worth almost USD 3 billion. He added that 27 projects worth USD 1 billion are being built,

and 20 more projects worth USD 1.6 billion are ready to start.

"The Koro Development Project by Lyndhurst Group, for example, will create up to 15,000 jobs and redefine Suva's commercial landscape," he said.

Fiji's focus areas for investment include renewable energy, value-added manufacturing, and technology infrastructure.

"Our focus is on investments that are sustainable and transformative. Google's subsea cable project is an example of Fiji's potential to attract high-tech global partners. We want more projects like this that enhance energy independence and stimulate economic growth."

Hon. John Rosso, spoke about PNG's interest in building closer trade and investment links with Fiji.

"Since March 2025, when we hosted the Fiji Deputy Prime Minister and his delegation in Port Moresby, both countries agreed to work together, solve common challenges, and explore new trade and investment opportunities," he said.

He noted that the PNG Business Delegation visiting Fiji includes both established companies and new small businesses in areas such as agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, financial services, and retail. They are exploring ways to do business with Fiji.

Acting PNG High Commissioner to Fiji, H.E. Bill Olmi reinforced the strategic significance of ongoing Fiji–PNG collaboration.

"Both governments recognise that trade agreements are not just about economics; they are about people, communities, and shared regional prosperity.

PNG and Fiji working together strengthens the entire Melanesian region," he said.

He also stressed that forums like this help turn discussions into real results.

He also stressed that forums like this help turn discussions into real results.

"Forums like this are essential for ensuring our economic and cultural ties are not just ceremonial but actionable. Today's discussions will translate into real projects, investments, and opportunities for our peoples," he added.

Following the forum's theme, 'Connecting our businesses; creating opportunities for our Pacific', both PNG and Fiji play important roles in the regional economy. Strengthening connections between businesses and people will create new opportunities and help unite the Pacific family, especially the smaller island states.

The mission was organised by the PNG Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) in partnership with Investment Fiji, the PNG High Commission in Suva, and Fiji's High Commission in Port Moresby.

"This conference is an important chance to build partnerships between governments and businesses, and to support trade and investment in the region," he added.

He highlighted the importance of working together to make both countries good places for investment. "Our being here shows PNG's commitment to cooperate, and I am sure Fijian businesses are also showing their commitment by investing in PNG," Hon. Rosso said.

Hon. Rosso also shared trade figures, noting that Fiji exports to PNG are over FJD 25.3 million (USD 10.93 million), while PNG exports to Fiji are FJD 7.9 million (USD 3.41 million).

Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce signs MOU with Nadi Chamber of Commerce



President of the Nadi Chamber of Commerce Mr. Lawrence Kumar (left) and President of the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce Mr. Rio Fiocco.

The Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nadi Chamber of Commerce aimed at exploring business opportunities for their members.

The MOU was signed along the margins of the business forum in Nadi, Fiji, hosted by the Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority in partnership with Investment Fiji.

President of Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce Mr. Rio Fiocco signed the MOU with his Nadi counterpart Mr. Lawrence Kumar.

Both leaders expressed their intentions to foster collaboration and explore potential business opportunities between PNG and Fiji.

Tips & Traps

Understanding the definition of Beneficial Ownership

Beneficial Ownership or BO refers to the true owners of an asset such as shares in a company, even if the assets are held in the name of another person or entity (the legal owner).

The BO enjoys the benefits such as dividends or profits and has control over the assets even though they are not listed as the legal owner.

Difference between a beneficial owner and a legal owner

A Beneficial Owner is the person or entity that actually benefits from the asset, even though it may be held by someone else on their behalf.

A legal Owner on the other hand is the person or entity whose name is on the official records (such as a share register).

Legal Basis of Beneficial Ownership in PNG

International anti-money laundering mandates require that beneficial ownership information for companies be made available to appropriate governmental authorities. PNG through the IPA amended the Companies Act 1997 in 2022 to partially address this matter by adding new Section 72, which requires companies to maintain BO information and to disclose it to the Registrar upon request. Under Sect. 72, a BO is any natural person who:

- owns or controls a share or other membership interest in a company; or
- exercises ultimate effective control directly or indirectly over a legal person or arrangement affecting shares or membership interests or decisions in a company.

Penalties for non-compliance

In PNG if a company fails to comply, directors of the company and the company itself can be convicted of an offence and appropriate penalties applied.

Why does Beneficial Ownership matter?

Transparency is good for PNG. BO disclosure helps prevent tax fraud, money laundering and other illegal activities by ensuring the true owners of assets are identified.

Compliance with international mandates International standards require countries to address BO matters or face severe consequences.

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) through the office of the Registrar of Companies (ROC) administers the Companies Act 1997. This means any matters relating to beneficial ownership (BO) compliance is enforced by the ROC, though the ROC may refer violations to the public prosecutor.

IPA participates in the 13th Business Advantage Investment Conference in Brisbane, Australia



The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) was among a high-profile delegation of industry leaders, investors, and executives who gathered in Brisbane, Australia for the 13th Business Advantage Investment Conference, held on August 11–12, 2025.

The event also drew participation from key stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region, marking a significant platform for showcasing Papua New Guinea's (PNG) investment opportunities ahead of the country's historic 50th Anniversary of Independence.

Led by Managing Director Mr. Clarence Hoot, the IPA team actively participated in the two-day conference, which featured an impressive lineup of inter-

national keynote speakers, expert panel discussions, original case studies, and a dedicated exposition.

The IPA also put up an exhibition booth, where it displayed key information materials outlining its mandate, online business registration, doing business initiatives, and Papua New Guinea's investment outlook.

The event was hosted by *Business Advantage International*, publisher of the *Business Advantage PNG* (BAPNG). This year's edition was particularly significant, coming on the eve of PNG's 50th golden jubilee independence anniversary, bringing heightened global attention and renewed economic momentum for the country.

Currently, Vitis Shipping operates one primary vessel, the MV Vitis Spirit, which is capable of carrying both containerised and breakbulk cargo. However, the company maintains strategic partnerships with partner vessels, enabling them to increase capacity and meet varying customer demands.

Mr. Mosin has indicated plans to expand to other regions in the country after carefully assessing port infrastructure, mapping routes, and other issues.

KAT Customs signs MOU with Fiji Movement International



KAT



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PNG cocoa blends with Kyrgyz white honey and makes hot sales in Japan

Papua New Guinea's cocoa nibs, originally from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville blended with white honey from Kyrgyzstan was a unique product with great taste created in Japan along the margins of the world expo currently happening in Osaka.

The white honey from Kyrgyzstan is a rare and unique product produced by bees that collect nectar from sainfloan flowers which grow in the high altitudes areas of Kyrgyzstan. The white honey is an exclusive product and highly sought after.

The white honey was blended with cocoa nibs from DJ Organics, a female owned business of Bougainville.

PNG Investment Promotion Authority's Senior Marketing Officer Stewart Rom collaborated with Japanese Barrister and owner of Boina Malana coffee Mr. Narimistu Sasaki who produced the magnificent "Cacao White Honey".

Mr. Narimistu Sasaki once lived and worked in PNG as a volunteer with the Japan International Corporation Agency. When he returned to Japan he started his company called Boina Malana where he imports cocoa and coffee from PNG and processes and distributes them in Japan.

Mr. Rom supplied a kilo of PNG cocoa nibs to the Japanese to blend with the Kyrgyzstan white honey and developed the Cacao White Honey in 120g bottles. His company also imports cocoa from Central America.

The products were a fast sell out and they were priced at JPY3 500, an equivalent of PGK97.00 or US\$22.59.

"This is positive indication of a prospective market given that Japanese consumers are very conscious when it comes to new products", said Mr. Rom.

Discussions are ongoing between IPA and the two product owners to explore further collaboration including market access requirements.



Importance of being aware of international investment obligations

Violations of an investment treaty are a serious matter.

If a government official takes a measure contrary to the obligations contained in an investment treaty, that action can generate costly liability for PNG.

To ensure that governmental actions are consistent with its investment treaty obligations, it is important for government officials at all levels and in all branches of government to:

1. Be aware of their duties under the relevant laws and regulation of PNG;
2. Be aware of PNG's investment treaty obligations;
3. Understand how treaty obligations relate to decision making and domestic policy making; and
4. Ensure there is timely communication and consultation within government regarding the potential application of these obligations to decisions regarding individual investors and investments.



KNOW
ABOUT IP

Invest PNG newsletter

What is Geographical Indication?

The use of geographical indications is an important method of indicating the origin of goods and services. One of the aims of their use is to promote commerce by informing the customer of the origin of the products. Often this may imply a certain quality, which the customer may be looking for. They can be used for industrial and agricultural products. Protection of such indications is on a national basis but there are various international treaties that assist the protection in a range of countries.

Geographical indications in a broad sense include indications of source, appellation of origin, and geographical indication (in the strict sense). The Paris Convention does not use in its terminology the term geographical indication; it rather utilizes the terms, indications of source and appellations of origin.

An indication of source means any expression or sign used to indicate that a product or service originates in a country, a region, and a specific place where the product originated. Example: Made in Japan. An appellation of origin means the geographical name of a country, region, specific place which serves to designate a product originating therein, the characteristic qualities of which are due exclusively or essentially to the geographical environment, including natural or human factors or both.

Example: Champagne.

Basically, a geographical indication is a notice stating that a

given product originates in a given geographical area. The best known

examples of geographical indications are those used for wines and spirits. For instance, the geographical indication Champagne is used to indicate that a special kind of sparkling wine originates in the Champagne region of France. In the same way, Cognac is used for brandy from the French region around the town of Cognac. However, geographical indications are also used for products other than wines and spirits, such as tobacco from Cuba, or for cheeses such as Roquefort. They may also be used for industrial products, as Sheffield is for steel.

The IPA through the Intellectual Property Office of PNG (IPO PNG) has now developed a Draft GI Bill and is conducting consultations with stakeholders to seek their views on the draft Bill.

In a recent workshop in Port Moresby the team consulted with participants on the current state of products' controls in PNG especially for industries such as agriculture, food, forestry and handcrafts. The workshop also tried to identify and link the roles of public & private authorities that certify products in terms of quality and standards.

KOKODA ORGANIC GINGER PROJECT:

FARMING, HARVESTING, AND SUPPLY FOR LOCAL MARKETS



The project involves mainly farming, harvesting, and supplying fresh and organic ginger to the local markets in Port Moresby. There are more than 1,000 committed smallholder ginger farmers who supply their produce to Kokoda Organic Ginger Company. Ginger is very organic and highly demanded by a lot of major shops in the capital city, as well as informal market vendors in the open markets in Port Moresby. The project is managed and owned by a local who is an agriculturalist himself, mobilizing every member of the community to go into farming. The company has a huge potential to export in tones, however, the government of PNG is in talks with its neighboring countries like Australia and New Zealand in regards to compliance and meeting trade regulatory requirements for ease of international market access. Once the compliance issues are addressed and rectified, Kokoda Organic Ginger company envisages cultivating another 100 hectares of land to meet the demand both in quantity and quality. The objective of the project is to farm more than 200 hectares of land and export the produce to the overseas market. Through investor collaboration, the company will rely heavily on foreign investors in terms of investment decision-making, management, and other necessary investment undertakings.

Kokokda Organic Ginger has 100 hectares of land already in use for farming ginger producing more than 10 tones of ginger every year. The people are always willing to work on the land since this project is bringing them so many benefits and are willing to even free up more land for cultivating and farming ginger. The project has already secured markets with major shopping centers, catering companies, local open markets, and even individual clients who come and buy ginger from the farm site in bulk to go and sell it again at retail price.

- Growing Demand for Organic Products: Increasing consumer preference for organic and health-conscious products supports the market potential for fresh, organic ginger.
- Sustainable and Eco-friendly Farming Practices: Organic farming practices promote environmental sustainability, which can attract eco-conscious consumers and align with growing environmental regulations.
- Health Benefits of Ginger: Ginger is widely recognized for its medicinal properties, such as aiding digestion and reducing inflammation, positioning it as a high-demand product in both food and wellness markets.

Project Sector

Growing of fruit, nuts, beverage and spice crops

Project Campaign

PNG_SMEC_2024

Project Code

I-PNG-240429-033901-1

Projected Annual Sales

183.8K EUR

Products or services resulting from project

Spices; ginger, neither crushed nor ground

Opportunity Type

Establishing a Joint Venture

Country



Papua New Guinea

Opportunity Type

SOGERI SALVATION ARMY CHURCH c/ - PO BOX 116, BOROKO, NCD, Other, Central Province, Papua New Guinea

Projected Employment

1,071

Total Investment (Funding Gap)

735.0K EUR (685.0K EUR)

Call out for Professional Photographers

The Investment Promotion Authority is making a call out to professional photographers who have high resolution photos of the following sectors;

- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Construction
- Mining, oil and gas
- Plantations – cocoa, coconut, oil palm, rubber, coffee, tea, etc
- Infrastructure
- Fisheries

The images will be utilised in the Invest Papua New Guinea website which we are currently developing. Please email beverlyp@ipa.gov.pg for more information.

Thank you

QUESTION TIME

Invest PNG newsletter

How many investment treaties has PNG concluded?

As of 1 January 2024, PNG has concluded five (5) Investment Protection and Promotion Agreements (IPPAs) with some of its largest trading and investment partners. They include Australia, China, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Invest PNG newsletter

PNG Investment Conference

11th - 12th August 2025, Brisbane,
Australia

Contact:
events@businessadvantageinternational.com

9th Pacific Tuna Forum

14th – 15th October, Nadi, Fiji

Contact: vbisambi@fisheries.gov.pg

PNG - Fiji Investment Mission

21st - 22nd August 2025, Nadi, Fiji

Contact: hbae@ipa.gov.pg

Sepik Bilum and Basket Show

12th – 15th October, Wewak, ESP, PNG

Contact Air Niugini for tour packages:
tours@airniugini.com.pg

YOU SAID IT...
EMU HEREVA

Right content coming out of IPA.

The presentation by the IPA Managing Director, Mr Clarence Hoot at the Institute of Business Studies University (IBSU) this month was excellent and exactly what we need to pitch aspiring young entrepreneurs.

I am a student studying business studies and I've always wanted to know the work that IPA does or the role they play in towards SME growth and also promoting investments.

John.P

Student-IBSU



**We have covered the globe
and we're expanding.**

Do you have a general question about the regulatory side of running a business or have a query on investment promotion or Intellectual Property rights?

If so, email your question to: click



beverlyp@ipa.gov.pg

We will publish a selection of questions and our answers in each issue of *Invest PNG newsletter*.

PUBLICATION

The *Invest PNG* newsletter is produced by the Public Relations Team of the IPA.

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