Abstracts

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN WELL-BEING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES IN THE MEASUREMENT OF PROGRESS

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MONITORING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Marjorie Andrew, Institute of National Affairs

Now that it is 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this paper presents the data available to date for Papua New Guinea, and explains how the various agencies responsible are getting on with its part to meet its MDG targets, and the monitoring of the indicators. Since 2010 when the government presented its second national comprehensive progress report on the MDGs, there has been progress with some national targets exceeded in hunger, health and education. More effort and resources are necessary to consistently monitor and report on the MDG targets and indicators.

FOOD SECURITY AND MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1 IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Bryant Allen, Australian National University

The first of the UN's Millennium Development Goals is to "eradicate extreme hunger and poverty", a goal that is closely associated with the UN Committee on World Food Security's aim to "close the 70 percent gap between the food we will need (in 2050) and the food we have today". This objective recognises that as we struggle to adequately feed everyone now, population growth continuously adds to the numbers of people to be fed. The question it raises for PNG is, does Papua New Guinea have (1) the resources and (2) the technologies to adequately feed its 2050 population? This conference raises a second question: are there measures available to answer the first question?

Papua New Guinea is well endowed with tools to begin to answer the first question. The Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) produced the PNG Resource Information System (PNGRIS), a Geographical Information System (GIS) which maps and documents the natural environments in which food is grown in PNG.

 The Australian National University, in collaboration with DAL and the PNG National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) conducted the Mapping Agriculture Systems in PNG (MASP) which identified, mapped and documented into a GIS, food production systems in PNG. This paper first provides a brief background to PNG food production systems and second presents an analysis of PNGRIS and MASP data to identify places where food crop yields can be expected to show signs of faltering first, as a result of growing populations and environmental constraints. It makes a number of suggestions about what might be done about these situations.

COORDINATING MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7 DATA AND INFORMATION TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Gunther Joku, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority

Being one of the goals, the Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG7) outlines a set of specific targets and indicators that aim to ensure that all the developments should be achieved in an environmentally sustainable manner. The main sources of information related to monitoring of MDG 7 include service statistics from various government departments and institutions as well as surveys. In a view of the lack of data on key measures, the approach to adopt is to provide a more qualitative assessment of the progress, supplemented by available data. The focus is to identify key data sets, identify key areas of dispute, assessment of the reliability of data and to record key environmental degradation trends and management measures.

THE COMMUNITY-LED MDG ACCELERATION PROJECT (CLMAP)

Eileen Tugum, United Nations Development Programme

Increased economic growth and development aid has provided little benefit to 85 per cent of the population who live in hard-to-reach rural areas with few or no public services. The European Union, the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of National Planning and Monitoring are piloting a community-led development initiative called "Community-led MDG Acceleration Project" aimed at helping to change this. Specifically, it aims to assist the Government of PNG to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at the local level.

The project provides grant assistance of €150,000 to four villages through community-based organisations to support community-led sustainable development that brings all actors together in a joint plan with combined resources, and that invest simultaneously in interventions across sectors, including access to clean water, education, food/income generation, health, and essential infrastructure, and addresses cross cutting issues such as gender, youth, HIV/AIDS, governance, and environment. It also aims to demonstrate that communities and civil society have the capacity to drive community development.

MEASURING THE CHANGING CONDITIONS OF RURAL HEALTH CLINICS OVER THE LAST DECADE

Colin Wiltshire, Australian National University

Over the last ten years, PNG has experienced a minerals boom that has led to a rapid rise in revenue and subsequent increases in public expenditure. However, reliable data on whether PNG has been able to translate the benefits of its resource wealth into improved service delivery conditions, especially for rural health facilities, has been scarce. The PNG Promoting Effective Public Expenditure (PEPE) Project, a joint initiative between the National Research Institute of Papua New Guinea and the Development Policy Centre at the Australian National University completed extensive expenditure tracking and facility surveys across PNG at the end of 2012. Survey teams visited 357 schools and health facilities, including in some of PNG's most remote and isolated locations.

To understand if conditions at health clinics have improved or worsened over the last decade, this presentation will compare results to a similar survey conducted ten years earlier. Findings on the changing conditions at health clinics presented include outpatients seen in a day, drugs available, health workers stationed at their posts and community engagement. In addition, findings will be presented the way health clinics receive funding to provide basic services, which are closely related to key rural health policies aimed at overcoming existing challenges.

MEASURING THE OUTCOME AND IMPACT OF LARGE-SCALE HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN PNG: KEY FINDINGS AND LEARNINGS FROM THE PNGIMR'S EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAM

Justin Pulford, PNG Institute of Medical Research

In 2009, Papua New Guinea (PNG) received a 120 million US dollar grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to support an intensive 5-year national malaria control program (NMCP). Approximately 7% of this funding was awarded to the PNG Institute of Medical Research to conduct a comprehensive outcome and impact evaluation. This paper will present a brief description of, and key findings from, PNGIMR's evaluation of the NMCP during the period 2009-2014. In addition, barriers and conduits to the completion of the evaluation and dissemination of the resulting findings will be discussed. It will be argued that PNGIMR's evaluation of the NMCP serves as an example of how – by allocating a relatively small percentage of program funding – large-scale health interventions can be reliably monitored by national research institutions; however, reporting pathways from project to planning/policy levels may need to be strengthened if the benefits of reliable program evaluation are to be fully realised.

UNDERSTANDING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN NATIONAL MATERNAL MORTALITY DATA AND DATA FROM INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

Glen Mola, University of PNG

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is the best public health indicator of the total functionality of a health care system, and the logistics that are needed to help people access it. However, because of difficulty in measuring the MMR and very large standard errors associated with it, the MMR is not a useful monitoring indicator for maternal health care performance in a country. Many health policy and planning people want to make decisions about resource allocation in maternal health care based on subnational MMR estimates; this is also not appropriate for the same reasons. The main purpose of the MMR is to allow comparison between countries and elicit long-term health trends in a country.

PNG has one of the highest MMRs in the world. However there are very large discrepancies between the MMR figures that are derived from national surveys (DHS 1996 and 2006: MMRs of 372 and 733) and those published from the international metrics and UN agencies (MMRs 289 and 230) that are derived from mathematical modelling. These discrepancies have led to a lot of confusion amongst health workers and national policy and planning authorities. Trends in local data show an increasing (worsening) MMR, whereas trends in the figures published by international agencies show recent dramatic improvement. It is important to understand how these various figures are derived and how one should interpret them. Information is presented on some recent research that indicates that PNG's MMR is between 500 and 600.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE PURSUIT OF BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES: CASE STUDIES FROM WESTERN PROVINCE

Geoff Scahill, Abt JTA Ltd

Two public private partnerships for health are in operation in Western Province. The North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) and the CMCA Middle and South Fly Health Program (CMSFHP), funded by Ok Tedi Mining Limited and Ok Tedi Development Foundation respectively, work in partnership with local government and faith-based health service providers to strengthen the existing health system in accordance with government policy and programs. Abt JTA is the implementation partner for both programs.

NFHSDP is in its sixth year of implementation, while CMSFHP is in its second. Both programs were designed using a logframe approach, aligned with the National Health Plan and Provincial Health Strategic Plan. A results-based monitoring approach has allowed the programs to continuously track and report progress to demonstrate short and medium term outcomes.

Improvements in health status in North Fly are verifiable with the National Department of Health 2014 Annual Sector Review. For example, the indicators for immunisation have improved with 3rd dose pentavalent remaining at 74% for the fourth year in a row, and measles coverage increasing by 19% between 2009 and 2013.

The principle of partnership is the foundation of both Programs. While sustainability remains a key focus and challenge, the success seen to date provides the platform for achieving better health outcomes.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED HEALTH/SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (IHDSS) FOR THE PNG LNG PROJECT

Gary Krieger, NewFields Ltd

"What isn't measured isn't managed!" Large resource projects typically create enormous pre-project impact assessment reports that are tens of thousands of pages in length. However, the applicability, let alone the sustainability and capacity building of this enormous effort for the long-term benefit of the host country are, at best, problematic. A previous global review by the World Bank Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative clearly demonstrated that the creation of sustainable monitoring capacity for extractive industry projects was minimal, let alone generating any objective evidence toward furthering achievement of the MDGs.

The PNG LNG Project (now managed by ExxonMobil PNG Ltd) recognized the deficiencies in the current impact assessment system. In conjunction with the PNG Institute for Medical Research, the PNG LNG Project developed a comprehensive programme known as the Partnership in Health Programme (PiHP) in order to develop a sustainable, state-of-the-art, world-class monitoring and surveillance system known as an integrated Health and Demographic Surveillance System (iHDSS).

The iHDSS has systematically provided detailed objective scientific data covering a huge range of health and social key performance indicators, many of which are tied to the MDGs. The iHDSS has evaluated changes in the incidence of malaria, HIV, Human Papilloma and Herpes viruses, non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases) in addition to tracking changes in demography, vaccination rates, pregnancy outcomes including peri-natal performance, community-level wealth creation and distribution, and overall population morbidity and mortality.

The PiHP created four iHDSS sites, two impact and two comparison locations and monitored over 50,000 individuals across PNG. Biannual reports are produced by PNGIMR and are publically available. Translational activities between PNGIMR, ExxonMobil PNG Ltd and the PNG Ministry of Health are ongoing. Key findings, many of which have direct ties to the MDGs and key population health outcomes will be presented. The successful creation and implementation of the iHDSS platform demonstrates that extractive industry projects can partner with host country institutions in order to create a sustainable platform that furthers the country's efforts to meet MDGs.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING MDGS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA: THE ROLE OF THE INTEGRATED HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Bang Nguyen Pham, PNG Institute of Medical Research

Peter Siba, PNG Institute of Medical Research

A major challenge for PNG is the lack of reliable data sources for monitoring of the country's progress towards achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The PNG Institute of Medical Research has established an integrated Health and Demographic Surveillance System (iHDSS), covering a population of approximately 50,000 in four sites, representing coastal and mountainous areas. This paper presents major findings of a systematic review of the iHDSS, with focus on the operation of the data collection, recording and reporting systems, and discusses the role of the iHDSS in monitoring and evaluation of population health indicators associated with MDGs.

LONGITUDINAL NORTH-SOUTH AND SOUTH-NORTH COLLABORATION IN PEDIATRICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH: A CAPACITY BUILDING MODEL IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Henry Welch, Baylor College of Medicine and University of PNG

(with several co-authors)

Shortage of faculty in Papua New Guinea (PNG) affects every aspect of care and training at The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH). Medical schools in resource-limited settings are often plagued by surges in student-to-teacher ratio; the volume and quality of research are strained; and efforts to improve patient care are limited. The Baylor College of Medicine International Paediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) and Texas Children's Hospital (TCH), the Government of PNG, and ExxonMobil undertook a comprehensive needs assessment process to identify gaps in maternal/child health and public health. This would be the basis of a multi-year public-private partnership with UPNG and ExxonMobil to build paediatric and public health faculty capacity at UPNG.

Multiple site visits were made to PNG to assess the care, treatment and medical school needs/gaps in paediatrics and public health. Historically, short-term secondments of faculty to UPNG were 1-3 months in duration and were unable to provide stable consistent long-term faculty appointments. Additionally, there were limited opportunities to support South-North trainings in public health for Papua New Guineans. Barriers to long-term secondments to PMGH/UPNG and/or rural teaching hospitals included logistical safety issues, spontaneous outbreaks of tribal violence, crime, corruption, high cost of living for expatriates and isolationism.

BIPAI, through its Global Health Corps of physicians, recruited one medical/paediatric physician, one obstetrician, and one public health specialist for a minimum of one-year secondments to UPNG, substantially increasing and improving its baseline faculty. A robust M&E framework has been developed to capture pertinent data in teaching, training and improved care outcomes. Additionally, one PNG public health learner will be supported for a two year MPH program at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston, Texas. Through long-term faculty attachments to UPNG, the ability to increase the number of residents that may be retained as the next generation of faculty can ensure sustainable growth and capacity at UPNG and teaching hospitals throughout PNG.

TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIOLOGY: THE BURDEN OF TB IN THE POPULATION UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH PROJECT

Suparat Phuanukoonnon, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute

(with several co-authors)

TB has been recognized by the PNG Ministry of Health as an urgent public health emergency. As part of the public-private partnership between ExxonMobil PNG Ltd and the PNG Institute of Medical Research, detailed baseline incidence and prevalence TB rate data has been collected at the Hiri, Asaro and Hides iHDSS locations. The data collection effort involved both active and passive collection across a large number of households, including both adults and children.

Key demographic characteristics were also collected. The calculated study rates were compared to nationally reported data. Based on the IMR study, there is likely both severe under- and over-reporting. In the Gulf Province, TB incidence rates are among the highest ever observed (1290/105), particularly as HIV is not an important co-factor. The public health implications are profound. The public-private partnership was essential for executing this critical work and strongly suggests that large resource projects can significantly and positively assist in the development of accurate critical public health and disease specific databases.

FROM MDGS TO SDGS: ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT?

Ida Kubiszewski, Australian National University

The world needs shared goals and ways to track progress in meeting them. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and more recently the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), are building consensus about these shared goals and how to measure progress towards meeting them. However, the articulation and measurement of the overarching goal or 'ultimate end' of the SDGs is a critical missing element in the process. We need to ensure that the three elements of sustainable development (economy, society, and the environment) are considered and aligned towards the improvement of human well-being. This talk will describe an overarching goal for the SDGs and alternative indicators to measure progress toward it, including the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) and others.

MEASURING SOCIAL IMPACTS AND CHANGE: A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

Gerea Aopi, Oil Search Ltd

Major development companies collect a significant amount of data in an attempt to measure development and change in communities in their particular areas of operation. The challenge is "how can developers contribute this data and information into the government's development monitoring and measurement process?"

We believe there are opportunities for collaboration between government and private sector in the collation of social data and measurement of sustainable development through:

- Current processes which support or require data collation – SEIS, SIA (including baseline), and company specific data requirements;
- Legislative requirements – Oil &Gas Act 1998 (Amended) and the Environment Act 2000; and
- Types of data and frequency of collation.

There are also challenges with existing government data such as census, etc. which are unreliable; NSO lacks the resources to fulfil its mandate comprehensively and there are no reliable benchmarks – country or peers.

Existing opportunities such as a set of common indicators and collaboration with local/provincial government (which already exists) can be further strengthened.

ROYALTY FLOWS WITHIN MINING PROJECT MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

Philip Samar, Mineral Resources Authority

The subject of transfer of mineral ownership from the state to the landowners has been debated for some time in PNG. This debate has reached the highest levels of political support such that currently there are two (2) Private Members Bills before the floor of Parliament supporting the transfer from common-wealth (State) to private-wealth (individuals).

Since the advent of our first commercial large scale mining operation at Panguna, the distribution of mine-derived benefits has largely been from royalties, equity, infrastructure development, compensation, taxes and local business contracts. The receipt of royalties from any mine remains the principal form of benefit as it signifies status as a landowner and the perception that landowners 'own' the minerals. The challenge is really whether we have managed the distribution of this wealth fairly and equitably over the years to enable our people to benefit from the extractive sector.

This presentation discusses the distribution of royalties as contained in three (3) mining project Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) to appreciate how royalty recipients themselves decide the breakup of such benefits and what improvements have been made to the MOA process over the years.

SELECTING INDICATORS TO MONITOR LOCAL IMPACTS OF RESOURCE PROJECTS: WHY, WHO, HOW, WHEN, WHERE AND WHAT?

Julia Horsley, University of Western Australia

Which indicators of progress should specifically be used to monitor the local impact of major resource projects or measure their contribution to sustainable human development in project-affected areas? To date, there has not been a consistent evidence-based approach to selecting relevant indicators. Notwithstanding the proliferation of 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' approaches in the development and resource literature, there persists a pressing need to address the conceptual, methodological and practical constraints around understanding the impact of mining on development at local and regional scales.

We argue that the coherent conceptual framework underlying the sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) provides a sound basis for indicator selection. Neither current criticisms of the SLA nor its relative decline in popularity amongst development agencies undermine its potential utility and ongoing relevance in measuring the 'net' impact of mining on sustainable human development. Being people-centred, evidenced-based, inclusive and participatory in its methodology, underpinned by the theoretical pivot of the 'five capitals', and adaptable to multiple scales and stakeholder perspectives are all attributes that may reliably inform the why, who, how, when, where and what for indicator selection - whether for the specific purpose of measuring progress against the Millennium Development Goals or for deepening our understanding of the relationship between mining and development more generally.

MEASURING MINING INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN PNG: DO MINES ASSIST NATIONAL PROGRESS ON THE MDGS?

John Burton, Pacific Social Mapping Ltd

Extractive industry companies generally claim that their presence in a country aids in national development and thus, broadly, assists with poverty reduction. Particular companies are party to more specific claims, notably through the commitments of the industry associations they belong to. Members of IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, are urged to adopt 'social investment strategies', to describe them, and to evaluate how effective they are. Members of the International Council on Mining and Metals must 'contribute to the social, economic and institutional development' of the communities they operate in.

But how have mining and petroleum companies been contributing to social and economic development in the areas affected by their projects? And what of companies, including those owned by the PNG state, that are not members of these associations? This paper evaluates how well extractive industry companies operating in PNG have lived up to their commitments, based on what they report they have done and what other measures of development in their areas of operation can tell us about what they have achieved.

SPREDSITIM: SOCIAL DATA COLLECTION, STORAGE AND USE AT THE LIHIR GOLD MINE

Walter Pondrelei and Nick Bainton, Newcrest Ltd (Lihir)

Spredsitim: to enter something into an MS Excel spread sheet.

The freshly transliterated Tok Pisin verb spredsitim has accompanied the introduction of the information technology age in the Lihir Islands and the uptake of MS Excel as an all-purpose application. If the profligacy of local Excel users reflects the continuing attempt by landowners to present their claims to the company in a 'legible' format, it also signals some of the challenges confronted by the mining company when seeking to convey social and economic information to the local community and the difficulty of rendering complex social phenomena comprehensible to operational managers. This presentation reviews the history of social and economic data collection, use and reporting at the Lihir gold mine and the rather more demanding task of ensuring that this data in turn influences decision making processes.

MINING AND THE POLITICS OF COMPENSATION IN NEW CALEDONIA

Pierre-Yves Le Meur and Claire Levacher, Research Institute for Development (Noumea)

The notion of compensation is part of everyday vocabulary referring to the idea of reparation for a loss, damage or imbalance. Compensation belongs to the broader issue encompassing the environmental and social impacts of mining, subsumed under the sequence "avoid, reduce, restore, compensate". As a potential instrument of translation of wealth (the mining rent) into well-being (the sharing of its positive and negative impacts), compensation has recently entered the mining policy debate in New Caledonia. It has gone by different channels, illustrating disconnections between how public institutions, mining companies and local populations deal with its conception, qualification and measurement.

Public administrations in charge of industry and environment, together with scientists (experts in biology and ecology), have initiated a working group elaborating a doctrine of ecological compensation. Irrespective of this, large-scale mining corporations (e.g. Vale and SLN/Eramet) each develop each their own strategy of compensation abiding with international soft laws. Parallel to these two trends, local populations develop a hybrid view of compensation mobilizing different registers (indigenous rights, environment, sustainable development) and thus highlighting the social dimension of compensation which is absent from the New Caledonian regulations as regards the monitoring and measurement of mining impacts. It seems that these three strands of thought and action have not really met so far, which raises interesting questions in term of policy production and evaluation.

THE MEASUREMENT OF SOCIAL IMPACTS AS A PUBLIC POLICY PROBLEM: THE CASE OF MAJOR RESOURCE PROJECTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Colin Filer, Australian National University

Even before the PNG LNG Project began to export gas last year, major resource projects accounted for more than 75 percent of the value of PNG's exports and more than 20 percent of its gross domestic product. The economic, social and environmental impact of such projects has been and remains a major political issue. Once upon a time, the PNG government made itself responsible for monitoring the social impact of major resource projects, and even did something about it. Then came a time when the government passed this responsibility to the project operators, and they did something about it.

But since the government signed up to the Millennium Development Goals, it has ceased to mention this responsibility in project development agreements. Is this a coincidence, or does it reflect a belief that the ongoing measurement of social impacts is no longer relevant to the achievement of sustainable development outcomes in areas directly affected by major resource projects? Are there still good reasons why the government should set some standards for the ongoing measurement of social impacts or sustainable development outcomes in these areas, and if so, who should be responsible for what? In this paper, I argue that there is some scope for improvement in the relevant policy frameworks, even though there are significant political and institutional constraints to any such improvement.

A LOST DECADE IN EDUCATION? EVALUATING PROGRESS IN PNG'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS BETWEEN 2002 AND 2012

Grant Walton, Australian National University

Education funding in Papua New Guinea has increased over the past decade, but many fear that it has been wasted, and that the country has experienced a 'lost decade' in the education sector. This presentation draws on findings from an eight province study that involved 216 randomly selected primary schools. It shows that over the decade there have been improvements made to school infrastructure, staff, funding and oversight. Yet overcrowding and rising absenteeism undermine these achievements. These issues will need to be addressed if improved schooling outputs are to be converted into better educational outcomes.

THE CHALLENGES OF MEASURING LITERACY

Priscilla Kare, PNG Education Advocacy Network

Questions have been raised on the reliability and comparability of literacy figures generated using conventional methods, but the use of conventional methods for calculating literacy rates is widely acknowledged to be flawed. Census-derived literacy statistics that rely mainly on self-declaration were found to be grossly overstated based on surveys that used actual individual testing and assessment. Census data are generally provided by heads of households on behalf of other members of the family and are more likely a household opinion rather than an accurate, individual estimation. Varying definitions of literacy and age specification for 'adults' add further to the confusion. Given all these limitations, it will be difficult to track progress and meet the target on literacy. Responding to this problem, governments are increasingly relying on household-based surveys that include direct measurement of literacy.

A CRITIQUE OF THE WESTERN PROVINCE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

Betty Lovai, University of PNG

This paper presents an analysis of the Western Province National and International Scholarship selection in 2011 and 2012. The Papua New Guinea Sustainable Development Program Company (PNGSDP) introduced the scholarship scheme in line with its mandate 'to support and promote sustainable development through projects and initiatives to benefit the people of Papua New Guinea, especially the people of Western Province....' (PNGSDP Annual Report 2012, p.2).

This paper highlights the fact that, due to poor performance in grade 12 examinations, only a few candidates were awarded scholarships to study at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Australia and the tertiary and other educational institutions in Papua New Guinea. Is it justifiable to provide an opportunity for a few? Other issues and challenges identified in the selection that have implications for provincial human resource needs and management of the scholarship programs will be discussed.

MELANESIAN CULTURE VERSES THE MEASUREMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Nancy Sullivan, Nancy Sullivan & Associates

This paper seeks to raise issues regarding cultural diversity in the larger discussions of National Human Development, and to examine some of the assumptions that are conveyed by Human Rights campaigns and their universal goals. Without diminishing the importance of basic human rights, it is all too easy to forget that cultural diversity is what sets PNG apart from almost any other place on earth. As we draft the national measures of human development for a resource-rich country, and build consensus around the avoidance of Dutch Disease, corruption and economic inequity, we should be careful to unpack the several assumptions that belong to such efforts as they become sponsored by international donor agencies.

Who really has a picture of human development for PNG, and what does it entail? This is a question to be examined nowadays when it is all too easy to measure progress by political-economic outputs only. There are no statistics for cultural diversity, but are there ways to shape human development measures to be more meaningful for PNG?

Anthropologists have long argued that a rich subsistence base is the crucial component to preserving cultural diversity. Does this mean that expanding manufacturing and downstream processing will necessarily drive farmers into wage labour? Will this homogenize the look and feel of modernity across the country? The author examines some of the conclusions reached by twenty-plus years of social research with PNG researchers, including the role of entrepreneurial multi-tasking that combines both urban and rural ideals, and in particular asks whether the modernity we wish to measure can still be culturally and linguistically diverse, and how the universal terms Human Rights can be made to serve the Melanesian Way.

IMPROVING THE INFORMATION BASE FOR MEASURING MDGS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Esther Lavu, National Research Institute

As a participating country, Papua New Guinea is a signatory to the global commitments that aim to improve the social and economic indicators to measure the MDGs. The government's response to this has been implementing programs that are designed to incorporate various dimensions of the population dynamics, which in turn should be based on information generated through appropriate population data. In some cases, such data are not available (or collected), while in some other cases the appropriate analysis of existing data is not carried out. Often the 'know how' is lacking in the institutions that are tasked to collect or analyse the required data. The struggle to build the expertise or knowledge required to manage the process of large data collection programs is prevalent.

The major resource projects use their own expertise to collect their own data, and to analyse and disseminate information in their respective areas of work, while the datasets collected and maintained centrally by the National Statistical Office are rarely consulted for setting up study frames or for estimating the required social indicators. There could be several reasons for not using such datasets. There may be lack of awareness among the stakeholders about the availability of such data, there could be a lack of expertise among the stakeholders to analyse and utilise such data for their respective purposes, or there could be a lack of confidence in the government data collection system. While the resource projects call for specific studies surrounding their own area of work, it would be very useful to explore existing datasets in the country to set up their study frames by utilising, acknowledging and promoting existing datasets.

STANDARDISING DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN WELL-BEING INDICATORS ACROSS INDUSTRIES IN PNG

Joshua Ryan, National Agricultural Research Institute

Successive PNG Governments development strategies such as the MTDS 1997-2002, MTDS 2005-2010, and MTDP 2011-2015, have not deviated from the focus on improving sustainable human well-being outcomes, as large chunks of the development budget continue to go towards funding MDG-related priorities. But why is this not translating quickly into contributing towards improving the well-being of Papua New Guineans? Or has there been improvement but we just don't have any way of showing it?

Ex ante, ex post or periodic social or economic impact assessments of government investments are rarely heard of. However, the National Agriculture Research Institute has been collating socio-economic and biophysical data through household sample surveys in different agricultural communities throughout PNG. The same is also true for other research organizations in PNG. How can these opportunities be utilized? I would argue that collation of data should not be the issue; instead, an appropriate government agency should take the lead in setting standards for data collection methodologies for deriving appropriate datasets that would be useful in measuring sustainable human well-being at various levels.

THINKING BEYOND NUMBERS: ISSUES WITH THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DATA COLLECTION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Glenn Banks, Massey University

There are obvious challenges to improving the quality of monitoring and planning data at local and national levels in Papua New Guinea, particularly in the context of the extractive industries and on-going debates about their impact on development. This paper steps back from these issues to ask questions of who uses such data, why they do so, and what improvements are needed in local level-administration to justify the obvious costs associated with improvements in data collection. My argument is that it is hard to justify improvements in data collection in the absence of better coordination, integration and development planning processes at local and national levels. Reflections on both national-level (UNDP Human Development Report) and local/project–level (mining operation social monitoring) projects provide grounded context.