



The Campus This Week

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UNRE partners with MENCERTC of Simbu

PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mauberema Ecotourism Nature Conservation Education Research & Training Centre in Simbu Province.

The purpose of the agreement is to collaborate in training, research and extension in conservation development targeting agriculture, the environment and other relevant areas related to natural resources such as fisheries and forestry.

The scope of the collaboration includes:

- Training, advocating and awareness on the conservation of nature as an important activity towards developing the livelihood of the community;
- Research in mutual areas of interest;
- Exchange of research and training materials;
- Exchange of visiting research scholars for training, seminars and other research purposes; and
- Cooperation with PNG UNRE's Centre for Research and Postgraduate Studies and visiting lecturers for the training and development of UNRE students and staff.

Individual staff, trainers, trainees and researchers from both parties have the freedom to negotiate and apply research and training ideas upon the approval of both parties. The understanding is for five years.

Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue who signed the MOU



▲ (l-r) UNRE Head of Business and Tourism George Korowi, UNRE Vice-Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue, MENCERTC Director Moses Kerry and MENCERTC Program Manager Moses John after the signing of the MOU.

on behalf of the University, said PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment is happy to partner with Mauberema Ecotourism Nature Conservation Education Research & Training Centre (MENCERTC) because it is one of the University's main desire to improve the livelihoods of the rural population in Papua New Guinea.

Professor Pue said the MOU is a step towards achieving this objective.

"All our programs are designed to serve the majority of the population of Papua New Guinea who are rural dwellers. We train our students to serve, work and create employment in the rural areas," Professor Pue said.

"All our programs are called 'Sustainable' - Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Fisheries

and Marine Resources, Sustainable Tropical Forestry, Sustainable Livestock Production, Sustainable International Tourism and so on.

"We named them this way because our focus is on the rural areas. We want our graduates to create employment in rural communities for our people, especially our young people who have been pushed out of the formal education system."

MENCERTC Director Moses Kerry said the signing of the MOU marked a huge achievement for the centre that was established four and a half years ago.

He said it was a privilege for the Vice Chancellor himself to be in Tabare LLG in Sinasina Yonomulg District to sign the MOU and assured members of the local community who were present that the

OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

OUR MISSION

Commit to sustainable development of Papua New Guinea and the region by creating knowledge through quality teaching and learning, innovative research and outreach. The university also commits to developing innovative staff, students and alumni as agents for positive change.

CAMPUS THIS WEEK is the official news bulletin of Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Produced weekly by the University's Public Relations Office, it is the voice of the University to relevant stakeholders and the community on developments at the University.

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21-day partial lockdown for UNRE

PNG UNRE will impose a partial lockdown on campus for 21 days starting this Wednesday (Feb 16) and ending on Wednesday, March 9, as students travel into the campus for the Academic Year.

The University Management has released the Back to Campus COVID-19 protocol to begin the Academic Year.

The Protocol is applicable to new and returning students and staff returning to the University after recreation leave.

Staff and students will be screened on arrival at the main University entrance and anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms will be referred to the Medical Clinic for COVID-19 testing.

Everyone on campus must practise the Niupela Pasin protocol of wearing masks, having a hand sanitizer and practicing social distancing at all times.

Adding to the protocol the University has

imposed a total ban on Betelnut Chewing at workstations and in and around offices, classrooms, lecture halls, dormitories and other learning areas; as well as public areas on campus. Smoking is also confined to designated smoking areas only.

Apart from that, the Zero Tolerance policy on Alcohol, illicit drugs and weapons still stands. Students and staff are forbidden to have in possession of any illegal substance of alcohol and drug on campus. The use of any form of weapon to damage property or cause harm to another person is a criminal offence and the University will not tolerate this.

The University Management is glad that a good number of staff and students have been vaccinated and has encouraged those who have not, to get vaccinated to reduce the severity of the illness if contracted. The COVID-19 Vaccine is however, not compulsory at the moment.

VC urges female students to take studies seriously

PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue is calling on female students who are attending the University this year to take their studies seriously.

Vice Chancellor Pue's concerns stem from the increasing number of pregnancies at the University.

In 2021, there was a total of 26 recorded pregnancy cases.

The University does not have married accommodation nor rental rooms for such cases.

The VC raised this concern in the Orientation and Registration Committee's meeting on Wednesday this week.

Professor Pue said while

female students have the right to be educated, they must understand that the unborn child or the infant when born also has the right to nutritious food and to appropriate accommodation.

He added that because UNRE is a practical University the safety of a pregnant student and the unborn child is a concern to the University. This follows the death of a baby.

The VC said after taking into consideration all these and other factors involving the rights of the student, the child and other students, the University has developed a fair policy that will see pregnant students being allowed to register and enrolled for studies but not provided accommoda-

tion on campus; meaning they will register as day students.

As part of the registration process all female students must undergo a pregnancy test and if found to be positive, will be advised to see Students Support Services (SSS) for counselling. The University will consult with the parents or guardians of the student. If the parents or sponsors are willing to take responsibility for their daughter and unborn grandchild they can make alternative accommodation arrangements for them. If they think it is better for the student to withdraw and return home, the student will withdraw from studies. She can return for studies after she has sorted out the care for the child.

Turkey University keen to partner with UNRE

ALTINBAS University in Istanbul, Turkey is keen to partner with PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Zehra Güney, International Cooperation Assistant Specialist from Altinbas University's Alumni Relations and Internationalisation Department expressed this on behalf of her institution in a Zoom Meeting last week between herself, Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue, Pro Vice Chancellor (Planning & Development) Dr Livingstone Tavul, Head of the Department of Business & Tourism George Korowi and Head of Public Relations Lythia Suitawa.

Ms Güney said the President of Altinbas himself, Professor Dr. Çağrı Erhan is keen to

visit UNRE soon.

Possible partnership areas are the exchange of students for study; exchange of faculty members for study, research and participation in educational programs; exchange of publications in fields of mutual interest; collaborative professional development and others.

Altinbas University has nine Schools, three Graduate Schools, and three Vocational Schools. Currently, there are 9000 enrolled students, 1800 of which are International full-time students from 57 different countries.

The University comprises three main centrally located campuses in Istanbul – Mahmutbey, Bakırköy, and Gayrettepe.

Statistics is important - Kenny

STATISTICS has been and continues to be an important analytical tool in decision making, in business, industries and organisations.

This was learnt at the one week *Descriptive Statistics* course conducted at PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment last week.

The training was facilitated by lead instructor Betty Kenny with the assistance of ICT Manager Leo Darius. A total of 35 participants attended.

According to Ms Kenny, statistics continues to be an important analytical tool in decision making in business, industries and organisations.

She said the large amounts of data from experiments, production line whether in manufacturing or services companies, make it necessary to use samples to provide simple summaries about samples and measures. They form the basis of virtually every quantitative data analysis upon which decision can be made.

The course was primarily concerned with collecting, recognising, sorting or summarising and analysing data using spread sheets; and making simple summaries about samples and measures. It covered the basics of experimental designs and data analysis; and is designed for technical officers, field supervisors and managers in institutions, manufacturing industries, service providing organisations and businesses and teachers.

It targeted those who hold tertiary qualification and those who have completed 12 and have substantial work experience.

This was a level 1 course for those who wish to progress to a more advance Inferential Statistic course which will be offered at a later date.

Pro Vice Chancellor Planning and Development Dr Livingstone Tavul who spoke on behalf of the University's Senior Management, thanked the facilitators and participants for taking the initiative to provide this valid training.

As Chairman of the University's Staff Development Training Committee, Dr Tavul, encouraged University staff present not to miss out on such opportunities provided and encouraged other staff who are experts in their own field to submit their interests to the Training Office to conduct similar in-house training.

Tourism students farewelled in Simbu

FIVE PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment students who underwent Industrial Training in Simbu Province for two months were farewelled by the local community last Friday.

Nigel Jaima, Anatolia Siwat, Phil Foxy, Joyce Anne Pue and Cosmas Kas who are Bachelor in Sustainable International Tourism (BSIT) students, were attached with Mauberema Ecotourism Nature Conservation Education Research & Training Centre (MENCERTC) in Dinima Village, Tabare LLG in Simbu's Sinasina Yongomulg District.

They were dressed in traditional Simbu attire and given a huge farewell by the local community.

Speaking on behalf of the students, Nigel Jaima said they had undertaken various projects in the community which started with feasibility studies, then identifying targeted markets for Mauberema tourism products and developing management strategies to protect Mauberema's natural resources.

He said his project was on Ecoadventure Tourism; while his peers looked at other aspects of tourism. Anatolia looked at Ecocultural Tourism; Phil concentrated on Voluntary Tourism; Joyce focused on Endangered Wildlife Tourism while Cosmas dedicated his time there to Agro Tourism.

MENCERTC Director Moses Kerry and Program Manager Moses John supervised the students.

Joyce Pue said as pioneers of the BSIT program, they took up the challenge to do their work experience in Simbu so that they will have a different understanding of tourism when they return to UNRE for their final year of studies.

She said with the experience they gained, they will be able to positively influence other students to go to places like Mauberema to undertake more

research in order to protect its forests from deforestation, prevent the loss of endangered wildlife species, prevent the loss of culture, create adventurous tourism packages and introduce agricultural crops that are being imported.

"The best thing about developing tourism products here in Mauberema was that it is a small set up which made us comfortable and feel welcome. The community is friendly and outgoing and they made us feel at home," she said.

Joyce said the highlight of the training for her was experiencing long hikes up the mountain, not forgetting a memorable epic hike that we took up to the lakes of Mt Wilhelm. It was the best experience.

Paul Kalne who represented Ward 8 of the Mauberema Community thanked the five students for the eight weeks they spent there and asked them to promote Mauberema so that many more students could return to help them.

Mauberema Conservation Chairman Jeff Dinoge also thanked the students for their contributions and urged them to remember and promote Mauberema.

The five students were presented with certificates of appreciation for their contribution to MENCERTC.

The certificates were signed by Mr Kerry, Maurice Knight representing USAID PNG Biodiversity Lukautim Graun Program and Country Director of the PNG Wildlife Conservation Society Dr Adrian Tejedor.

Mr Kerry said MENCERTC looks forward to receiving more UNRE students this year and in future.

IT is a requirement for third-year students to expose them to the work environment to enable them to develop important practical skills. It usually takes place from December to February.

The students are required to submit a report after their training.



◀ The Tourism students who were attached to MENCERTC with their certificates. From left to right: Cosmas Kas, Joyce Anne Pue, Phil Foxy, Nigel Jaima and Anatolia Siwat.

VC begins talks with HAC



▲ (l-r) HAC Deputy Principal Lucas Minimbi, HAC Principal Phillip Senat, UNRE Vice-Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue, UNRE Head of Business and Tourism George Korowi and Mrs Jennifer Pue.

IN a time when resources are limited and finance is scarce, partnerships are the way forward to achieve organisational goals and objectives.

PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment (PNG UNRE) is on a drive to partner with likeminded organisations for the benefit of its students, staff, the institution, the industries it produces graduates for and the country as a whole.

The University has signed a number of agreements with government and non-governmental organisations in PNG and abroad.

Recently, PNG UNRE Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue met with Highlands Agriculture College (HAC) Principal Phillip Senat in Mount Hagen to discuss how the two institutions can partner to benefit as many students as possible.

Professor Pue spoke about the possibility of enrolling diploma students from HAC at UNRE for the degree program, after the course content of HAC courses are reviewed and upgraded if need be.

Mr Senat who thanked Professor Pue and Head of the Department of Tourism and Business Studies George Korowi for visiting HAC, said he was happy to have a

partnership understanding with UNRE. He said he had been looking for a pathway for his students after they obtained their diplomas so the visit was timely and very welcome.

"I'm happy that you are here and believe that we will make good progress," Mr Senat said.

He also expressed interest in the University's Taubar Paravet program for his staff as the college is embarking on a livestock program.

HAC Deputy Principal Lucas Minimbi also enquired about UNRE's Postgraduate Management Studies program which he said several HAC staff are interested in.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being drafted.

Vice Chancellor Pue also paid a courtesy visit to Western Pacific University (WPU) in Ialibu, Southern Highlands Province where he met with President Dr Janet Rangou and other staff on possible collaborative efforts.

PNG UNRE has also signed MOUs with Fujian Business University Fuzhou, Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China and Altinbas University in Istanbul, Turkey.

MENCERTC fosters community ecotourism wildlife conservation

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partnership with the University would bring many benefits.

MENCERTC, which was established in 2017, manages Mauberema Ecotourism and Conservation, a community initiated project of the Dinogebai and Hokebai clans of Ward 7 & 8, Tabare LLG in Sinasina Yongomulg district, Simbu.

Its theme is to create a sustainable conservation approach in Papua New Guinea and fosters Community Ecotourism and Wildlife Conservation and Management through education, research and training; and supports sustainable community livelihoods through local, regional and global partnerships.

MENCERTC aims to:

1. Protect the forest and its diverse flora and fauna;
2. Maintain the scenic and recreational values of the natural heritage, culture and environment of the Mauberema people;
3. Promote Culture and Nature Based Education, Research and Training through partnerships;
4. Create sustainable livelihoods for the local people through its ecotourism potential and conservation management's assistance and other community development programs, projects and activities.

Five Year 3 Sustainable International Tourism students of UNRE were attached to the centre for two months for their industrial training (IT), work experience and exposure.

The partnership with UNRE will give IT placement opportunities to students studying other natural resources fields such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, livestock production, environment and climate change.

PNG UNRE is considering MENCERTC to be its outreach centre for the Highlands region.

The MOU signing was witnessed by Wildlife Conservation Society PNG Country Director Dr Adrian Tejedor, USAID Lukautim Graun Project Cardno International rep Linda Pekosi, Deputy District Administrator (Sinasina Yongomulg) Ate Bomal, Executive Director of Partners with Melanesians Ken Mondiai, Branch Manager of MiBank Mt Hagen Louis Kapa, Simbu Provincial Administration Division of Commerce, Culture and Tourism rep Rosemary Kaupa and colleagues, Appointment Recruiting Officer Simbu Division of Education Kimbe Muglua, and Head of UNRE's Department of Business & Tourism George Korowi.



▲ Anatolia Siwat receives her certificate from Dr Adrian Tejedor, PNG Country Director of Wildlife Conservation Society.