



# The Campus

## This Week

ISSUE 108 | Friday August 28, 2023

## PNG UNRE Hosts Paravet Partners Dialogue

### OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

### OUR MISSION

To develop into a sustainable University through delivery of innovative research, quality teaching and learning, developing staff and students as alumni agents for positive change.

### OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

#### CHANCELLOR

Chief Dr. John Momis

#### PRO-CHANCELLOR

Mr. Martin Maden

#### VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Aisak G. Pue

#### ACTING PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)

Mr. Peter Navus

#### PRO VICE CHANCELLOR (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)

Dr. Livingstone W. Tavul

#### REGISTRAR

Mrs. Jennifer G. Popat

#### BURSAR

Mr. Edward Laki

THE Partners Dialogue and e-Learning workshop for the UNRE Paravet Certificate Program between the University and its most strategic partner the National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) took place at the Kairak Centre for Sustainable Rural Development between Thursday 24 and Friday 25th August 2023.

This is part of the university's Capacity Building for Animal Health Series. This series of activities began in 2020 with the design, development, and implementation of the Certificate in Fundamentals of Para Veterinary Technology Program as UNRE's response to the critical shortage of animal health specialists in the country during the 2019 incursion of the African Swine Fever in PNG.

UNRE through its Centre for Self-Education (CFSE) has since been actively involved in a series of activities in the national animal health and biosecurity industry.

The workshop's objectives were to:

- Explore industry utilization of UNRE Paravet graduates.

This is part of the ongoing evaluation process for the Paravet certificate program. The focus was on NAQIA's utilization of three graduates from the program (Cohort 1) who are current staff of NAQIA.

- Discuss the possibility of gazetted graduates from UNRE's Paravet Certificate Program and Bachelor in Sustainable Livestock Production (animal health management) as Para Veterinary Technologists.

- Discuss the possibility of



▲ NAQIA and UNRE staff who participated in the dialogue.

institutionalizing Stock Inspector Training at the University

- Discuss the possibility of UNRE offering the bridging to Bachelor in Sustainable Tropical Agriculture with a minor specialization in Para veterinary Technology as was done in cohort 1 of the program between 2020 and 2021.

- Be introduced to the mobile learning management system EdApp which hosts the Pacific Paravet Training Project.

CFSE has been given administrative access to EdApp to contribute to this project. In the Pacific spirit of partnership and sharing, the University will be providing micro courses extracted from the Paravet Certificate Program to EdApp.

In attendance and representing NAQIA were Senior Animal Health Officer Mr Martin Paina, Consultant Veterinarian and former NAQIA Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Nime Kapo, and New Guinea Islands Regional Veterinary Officer Dr Tania Areori. Dr. Areori is Papua New Guinea's first and only female veterinarian.

NAQIA will continue its collaborative efforts with the University's capacity-building efforts in this space as this is a way forward to bridge the enormous skills gap in the animal health sector in the country and the Pacific region.

## SECC programs go through final DHERST assessment

**AN Independent Reviewer Dr Pamela Kamyia visited PNG UNRE last week to do a final assessment of the undergraduate programs offered under the School of Environment and Climate Change.**

The acting Dean Mr Jason Paliau and the team met with Dr Kamyia to discuss the programs, staff strength, and facilities and provided other relevant information that is important for the accreditation process to take place.

Dr Kamyia has a PhD in Climate Change from the University of Sydney in Australia, and she is engaged by the Department of Higher Education, Research Science and Technology (DHERST) to help review the programs under the School of Environment and Climate Change (SECC) to ensure these programs meet the standard of the National Quality Framework.

The submission has been reviewed but she needed to visit UNRE to provide a proper assessment to DHERST for the Review Committee to give a final endorsement of the program.

The three main areas that she assessed were: Staff strength (to see if the University has put in qualified and enough staff to

carry the program forward); Policy Documentation; and Infrastructure.

She said the report will go to the Review Committee sometime this week.

On behalf of the University Management and Council, Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue thanked Dr Kamyia for this important visit.

He also acknowledged DHERST for its commitment to assisting UNRE to ensure that the SECC programs are accredited. This will be a huge relief for students studying Bachelor in Environment and Climate Change, and Bachelor in Renewable Energy and Environmental Engineering as they have been on self-sponsor since 2021 when the pioneer students were enrolled.

The visit was timely for the University as ICT officers led by Acting ICT Manager Mr Leo Darius are working at both UNRE campuses - Vudal and Popondetta - to install interactive touch screens for students' learning as well as Zoom sessions. This will help minimize the costs of lecturers and tutors traveling between the two campuses to deliver lectures to students. What is taught at Vudal Campus will be broadcast live for students at Popondetta Campus.



▲ Dr Kamyia (right) and SECC staff.

## PNG NRI launches three discussion papers at UNRE



▲ NRI officers and reps from the provincial administration with Acting PVC (Academic) Mr Peter Navus.

**PAPUA New Guinea National Research Institute (PNG NRI) has launched three Discussion Papers at the University of Natural Resource and Environment (UNRE) in East New Britain Province.**

UNRE Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic and Research Mr Peter Navus officially launched the paper, witnessed by PNGNRI Director Dr Osborne Sanida and NRI staff, ENB Provincial Administration Education Advisor Mr Alken Mararang, Commerce Advisor Ms Rose Murure and Department of Primary Industry (DPI) Acting Advisor Mr Petrus Maninga, students and staff of UNRE.

The Discussion Papers that were launched are:

1. Access to finance as a potential barrier to women's progress in the SME sector in PNG by John Akoten and Dr Francis Odhuno.
2. Value chain analysis for the PNG Cocoa industry by Professor Satish Chand, James Rooney and Ronald Sofe
3. Understanding the situations of basic education in Autonomous Regions of Bougainville and East New Britain by Jeremy Goro.

Mr Navus acknowledged PNG NRI for the initiative to partner with UNRE on the important occasion. He said academic institutions like UNRE needed collaboration with other institutions.

PNG NRI Director Dr Osborne Sanida acknowledged UNRE for providing the venue to launch the papers and told students that such presentations are important for students' learning. "PNG NRI is established by an act of Parliament and is responsible for applied social and economic research. The basic mission is to conduct research and analysis so that information can be used to make informed decisions. Many times, when decisions are made without evidence and research we get into problems," said Dr Osborne.

According to the abstract of Access to finance as a potential barrier to women's progress in the SME sector in PNG, several studies have found that micro, small, and medium-sized firms are the majority businesses in some countries, and they greatly contribute to both economic growth and employment.

However, challenges with financial access often inhibit their growth potential, especially among female-owned firms. Using secondary survey data, the study estimated the impact of access to formal loans as well as the perceived difficulty in accessing loans from financial institutions on the performance of women-owned or women-managed small and medium-sized firms in Papua New Guinea.