



Media Release

ExxonMobil Advances Economic Opportunity for Women in Papua New Guinea Scholarships allow four PNG Women leaders to join Global Training Program

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, May 31, 2010

Esso Highlands Limited (Esso Highlands), a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation and operator of the PNG LNG Project, today announced its support for four local leaders working to advance women's economic participation in Papua New Guinea, to participate in a global training program in the United States.

The full scholarships will allow community leaders to join a May 31 to June 11 program in Washington D.C. on developing advocacy strategies that advance women's economic opportunity to promote community development and strengthen nations. They will join a total of 25 women working in the economic sector of six countries—including Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Papua New Guinea—for an exchange of best practices and development of new skills.

"Esso Highlands believes that women are critical to advancing the development and progress of their countries' economies," said Managing Director Peter Graham. "We are proud to support these women who are making positive contributions in their communities."

Esso Highlands is providing support for the following participants from Papua New Guinea:

Margaret Rombuk, a community nurse at Susu Mamas Inc. in Port Moresby;

Grace Gela, a program officer at Susu Mamas;

Marilyn Peri, coordinator of Community Base Health Care in Tari; and

Veronica Payawi, a community development officer at Porgera gold mine near Tari

All are involved in advancing economic participation of members of their communities through their work with entrepreneurship programs, income generation projects, microfinance for women and other initiatives.

The training program is run by the global non-profit organization the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and supported by ExxonMobil Foundation's Women's Economic Opportunity Initiative, which have partnered together since 2005 to train women leaders to advance their economies. To date, the ExxonMobil Foundation has sponsored more than 300 women leaders from over 35 countries to receive in-depth training from CEDPA.

ExxonMobil's contribution is part of the [ExxonMobil Women's Economic Opportunity Initiative](#), a global effort launched in 2005 that helps women in developing countries fulfil their economic potential and serve as drivers of economic and social change in their communities. The Initiative has invested more than \$30 million in programs that have directly benefited thousands of women from 64 countries.

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