Komo is buzzing with activity

Following her husband’s death in 2017, Bilipa Gende, from Kangula village, shifted her focus to providing for her family. Now every Sunday morning, Bilipa walks two hours to Komo Station to sell her garden produce.

“I have five children and come to Komo Market to sell food to pay for my youngest daughter’s school fees. Today I am selling mull (manderin), as it is in season right now. But I usually come to sell onions, beans, and sweet potatoes, I sell what I can,” said Bilipa. Since Komo Youth Leaders reinvigorated the local rugby league competition earlier this year, Komo Market has been buzzing with new activity. “This place (Komo) has changed after the tribal fighting and the earthquake. I am happy to see that we mothers can walk freely and come here to market, in the past it was never like this,” Bilipa is one of more than fifty mothers that can now leave the safety of their homes and villages to walk to church and then to the market each Sunday.

“After church I pack my food, leave home and arrive here just before lunch. Once the game ends around six o’clock in the afternoon, I join other mothers and walk back to my village. I feel safer now and I arrive home as late as 8 o’clock in the evening.” Bilipa sees the change that youth leaders are bringing to Komo through rugby league and the way local youth are now engaged in sports is something they’ve never seen before.

“I am happy with the police and the army for bringing security here. Also, to ExxonMobil PNG for supporting the rugby game here so that mothers like me can come to make money for our families,” Christina Simon, player for the Elavi Mermaids women’s touch rugby competition, is excited about the change in Komo.

“When we started this year, we had as many as ten teams coming from as far as Tari (about 2 hours’ drive away), but due to the distance and bus fare we now only have eight teams playing,” said Christina.

“In my team we have twenty-five women playing and we also have our men’s team, the Elavi Sharks. I have a big interest in touch rugby now with many young girls like me playing.” Christina recalls how the very first touch game, held earlier this year, was a breakthrough for women in Komo.

“The boys have never seen women come out to play sports publicly like this, we ran onto the field and everyone was surprised. We stood for about ten minutes, as the referee didn’t know if we could play and run in our shorts.” Christina commends the work of community leaders for their presence and standing up to promote peace in Komo. “We are seeing good things and we want Komo to stay like this.”

Message from Andrew Barry, Managing Director ExxonMobil PNG

Reflecting on the last three months, a lot has happened. Since April, we have celebrated some major achievements with our Landowner company business partners. Achievements which began in the construction days of the PNG LNG Project. After a decade of operations, our Lanco’s, the Hides Gas Development Company, LABA Holdings and Trans Wonderland Limited, continue to grow their businesses in support of our operations. This is truly a major milestone for these local companies who are setting high standards in the industry.

Partnerships are key to our business and the work we do in the PNG LNG project areas. In this edition, we also look at how the Komo community youth have taken the lead to provide a positive impact to local families.

We also shine a light on the tremendous work from our workforce who continue to ensure we operate in a safe environment, including during major planned maintenance for the 700km pipeline from the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant to the LNG Plant. This is a true testament to the amazing team that I work with.

Protecting the environment is our responsibility in our LNG footprint and our Biodiversity team took center stage to share their experiences with the rest of the world in this year’s International Association for Impact Assessment conference in Australia. It is exciting times and we have the best team to continue delivering value to this country.

Lukım Yu (See you)
LANCO Partnership

A decade of service

PNG LNG recently celebrated a decade of partnership with the Hides Gas Development Company, LABA Holdings Limited and Trans Wonderland Limited with an event at the LNG plant. The occasion was witnessed by Prime Minister James Marape and Ministers from the National Executive Council.

EikonMobil PNG Managing Director Andrew Barry congratulated the landcoss on their outstanding achievement and said PNG LNG was very proud to have watched and supported the development of their businesses.

“Supporting local business is a priority for us, without them, we wouldn’t be where we are today, successfully delivering the country’s first LNG project.”

“We have 16 landowner companies, including the 3 here today providing services to PNG LNG and supporting this great project with local labour hire, maintenance, scaffolding, rigging, fabrication, transportation, fuel distribution, container freighting, catering, camp services, food supply and more. Every year the range of services grows as training continues to build technical skills and capabilities.”

“LANCO staff work side by side with our staff, we are one PNG LNG team working together to run a world-class operation – and we are doing an outstanding job.”

“We also contract another 250 non-landowner Papua New Guinean businesses for a whole range of different services and this number also grows year on year. Since 2010 PNG LNG has spent over PGK14 billion kina on Papua New Guinean services, including more than PGK6 billion kina spent with landowner companies.”
Maintaining the Pipeline

Inspection Gauge (PIG). Pipeline Operations Supervisor Noah Pinion and Pipeline Engineer Keigum Okei led the activity. “The PIG is loaded into the pipeline at HGCP via a PIG launcher and using gas pressure and flow, pushes the gauge along the pipeline all the way to Kogi Scraper Station where we receive it via the PIG receiver. We also had another PIG launcher at Kogi Scraper Station where we loaded the same PIG back into the pipeline and launched it to a receiver at the LNGP.”

The Pigging device used Acoustic Resonance Technology (ART), the first time this particular technology was used by any ExxonMobil company in the world and it was flown in from Norway in Europe. “As it moves through the pipeline the technology measures the wall thickness and geometry. The tool has a specified velocity that it needs to travel at for it to obtain sufficient quality data,” said Noah.

We had multiple groups of mechanical technicians working at HGCP and Kogi Scraper Station including vendors, pipeline operations technicians and ExxonMobil integrity engineers. We also required the support from our Public and Government Affairs offices to inform the local communities around the Kogi Scraper Station that we were performing the gas venting operations associated with the maintenance.” Keigum attributed the success to months of effective planning and execution. “We had a much better interaction amongst the team and because we had a very strict schedule, we made sure we communicated all the time. We used all the lessons learnt and the execution was flawless.”

Major scheduled maintenance to ensure continued reliable and uninterrupted gas flows along the 700km PNG LNG pipeline was successfully and safely completed in May this year. The maintenance involved the logistics, operations and maintenance teams from the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant (HGCP), LNG Plant and the pipeline maintenance team in Moro for over a period of 2 weeks. LNG Operations Supervisor Bjorn Wolters said this monumental task took months of detailed planning to enable on-point execution. “Equipment was sequentially taken offline at both sites in a very coordinated manner to ensure that other equipment remained online, that way we were able to continue producing gas at slightly reduced rates, supplying our contracted gas to customers, rather than a full shut down,” said Bjorn.

“We faced challenges but most importantly the maintenance was completed without anyone getting hurt.” A significant element of the maintenance activity included assessing the integrity of the inside of the pipeline. This was done with an In Line Inspection tool (ILI) called a Pipeline

“We had a much better interaction amongst the team and because we had a very strict schedule, we made sure we communicated all the time.”
Para’s Resilience

Sitting at the heart of the PNG LNG Project, in Hela Province, lies Para Primary School – home to more than 300 students in grades three to eight. Closing its doors following the February 2018 earthquake, community volunteers joined staff from ExxonMobil PNG’s Hides Gas Conditioning Plant to repair damage to teacher accommodation, classroom concrete foundations and wall gaps and installation of sporting equipment and worked on the landscape of flower gardens in preparation to welcome back students for the 2019 school year. Jeremiah Napereia, Head Teacher at Para Primary School, said it was an achievement opening the school doors once again.

"I was posted here in 2018 but because of the earthquake, when disaster struck everybody, we had to leave. I returned again this year," said Jeremiah. "ExxonMobil PNG supported us in rebuilding all these classrooms and the staff houses that were destroyed by the earthquake. They helped us put up our fencing, bring in gravel to the school yard, and assisted us with donations of stationary supplies." Enthusiasm about Para Primary Schools re-opening resulted in increased enrolment and classroom shortages.

"Generally, the kids are interested to come to school. Education helps to provide them with a foundation and a structure. Having teachers on the ground is important to their development and growth into young adults." "Increased enrolments have left us needing additional classrooms and teaching staff. ExxonMobil PNG’s support to rebuilding our classrooms and teacher’s housing has helped us to accommodate extra students and facilitate their learning." "Training is very important in terms of pursuing studies. When our teachers are trained properly, they come back with knowledge and skills and can give the best to the kids of Para and the country as a whole."

Food safety for a healthy future

Access to clean water remains a challenge for many rural villages in Papua New Guinea, this then poses a threat to food safety in many households. A four-day food handlers ‘Train the Trainer’ course was held in Tari in June, attracting more than 30 participants. These participants were from institutions, lodges, guesthouses and small businesses that operate food warmers and street barbecues. Organised by the Hela Provincial Health Authority and funded by PNG LNG, training focused on reducing the high number of food borne related diseases in the province. The program focused on intervention tactics in the five key areas of water supply, food quality control, improved latrines, health awareness and striving to maintain a healthy community. Conducted by Port Moresby Food Safety Officers, Diane Kave and James Teio, the training was part of ongoing capacity building by the Health Department focusing on the district level.

“All we need for Hela is to have the four Health Inspectors take this training out to the community in their electorates, we need a lot of awareness,” said Diana. Mary Tama, a participant from the Hela Women Never Give Up Centre, said she was excited to take part, as this was the first time this kind of training was offered in Hela. "Linking food management with personal hygiene like washing your hands is very important to us food service providers. The biggest challenge for us now in Tari and parts of Hela is access to clean drinking water – which has resulted in outbreaks of diseases, like Diphtheria, recording high numbers," said Mary. Mary hopes the Hela Provincial Health Authority can continue to provide food safety awareness and communication on a regular basis.

John Wangi, from Tari Secondary School, said the training was an eye-opener and timely. "I now understand the food business and the role it plays. The laws are there to safeguard producers and consumers." The food handlers ‘Train the Trainer’ course will continue with Health Inspectors on the ground in Hela for future sessions.
Living today for tomorrow

This year, over 900 teenagers have been empowered with the gift of awareness to make more informed decisions and healthier lifestyle choices to reduce their risk of cancerc later in life. The Healthy Teens Schools Program (HTSP), a joint initiative between Papua New Guinea Cancer Foundation (PNGCF) and ExxonMobil PNG (EMPNG), saw schools across the National Capital District (NCD) and Central Province, including Haggara, Tatura, and Poribada Primary Schools, take part in lessons.

HTSP health experts conducted workshops teaching students what cancer is and how to reduce their chances of being diagnosed – including not drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes or chewing betel nut.

PNGCF Executive Manager, Priscilla Napoleone, said, “the HTSP has a direct impact on the lives of young Papua New Guineans because we are able to bring knowledge right inside their classrooms and most times these schools are in the heart of a village. While we empower teenagers with the message of making healthy lifestyle choices, we also have students who talk about the changes they want to start making in their pursuit of a healthy and cancer-free future.”

HTSP is scheduled to visit another five primary schools in the NCD and Central Province, including Papa and Lelele before the year closes. In 2018, with the support of EMPNG more than 1,800 students participated in the program.
Papua New Guineans continue to develop capacity to support PNG LNG, rising through the ranks of many disciplines. The latest are two Papua New Guinean Falk fire fighters who have been promoted to the rank of Fire Officers. This incredible achievement by Fredrick Haru and Leonard Bosco did not happen overnight. Fredrick’s journey began almost eight years ago before he joined EMPNG. “I was a flight attendant once and then went on to work with an IT company in Port Moresby.” The PNG Fire Service wanted fire fighters with an aviation background, but I was surprised to be selected alongside others who were experienced fire fighters, I only got the job because I had aviation experience as a flight attendant. I was based at the Wagiens Fire Station in Port Moresby for two years.” It was then that Fredrick saw a newspaper advertisement seeking fire fighters for the Komo Airfield and immediately applied. Since joining in 2016, Fredrick has been committed to his job and was promoted to supervisory level within two years. He now heads a team of eight fire fighters that report to him, four are based in Komo and the others at the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant. “Rob Thomas, Fire Officer at the LNG plant has been a really good mentor. He taught me a lot about the requirement of my job, the work, how we’re supposed to do our job. He also taught me about how to be a leader, maintain standards and show discipline.”

“I feel satisfied because in the beginning I never thought I would become an officer. But while I was doing my job, I learnt on the trade and built confidence, then that confidence made me see further to becoming an officer.” “Falk and ExxonMobil PNG bring professionalism, the knowledge and expertise they provide is a standard, way above the rest, it’s an international standard and that’s a privilege for us working here.” According to ExxonMobil PNG’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Lead Blaise MacDonald, partnering with Falk to provide international level training for all fire fighters is a priority to build capacity and ensure we are well prepared to respond if needed. “There are currently twenty-five Papua New Guinean fire fighters working at PNG LNG sites, of which two are now Fire Officers. The goal is to train and promote Papua New Guinean fire fighters to hold the position of Fire Officers and ultimately Fire Chief,” said Blaise. For Fred, the future looks bright as he sets his sights on continuing to being part of the LNG project. “I see myself down the track at head office in Port Moresby where there are higher positions, that’s what I am aiming for in the next five years,” said Fredrick.

In our next issue we feature Leonard Bosco.

When it comes to the science of tropical annual crop production and various types of agriculture surveys in Papua New Guinea, Sharryl Ivahupa is an expert. When Sharryl joined ExxonMobil PNG (EMPNG) in 2009 as a Geography Assistant with Australian National University’s Enterprise Census and Survey team, the trained agronomist brought with her over 16 years of experience in Papua New Guinea’s Agriculture industry. After the Resettlement project was over, Sharly’s skills were recognised by the company and she was re-assigned to the Public and Government Affairs team as a Resettlement Advisor, where she assisted in the development of the Resettlement Manual and various desk-top instructions that is now being used by the Company. Recently Sharly had the opportunity to represent EMPNG at the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference in Brisbane, where she presented on her experiences and lessons learned on resettlement and livelihood restoration for PNG LNG, alongside environmental practitioners and academics from around the world. “Resettlement is a very sensitive subject, so training is important for anyone who wants to be involved.” “It’s not just by doing in a community and telling them the steps to resettlement. You do the first step and then review the process. My advice for anyone in resettlement is to always look at the bigger picture and ensure you go through the process correctly,” she said. The conference saw experts from around the world come together to discuss best practices. Sharly is excited to be able to share the knowledge she gained with her colleagues, to help further educate them on resettlement and the work she does. “I really want to share the knowledge I gained with my colleagues. I am willing to teach people so wherever they may go on to work in the country, if there is a resettlement project, they can do it correctly. Not only following the guidelines they have, but also having the heart for the community – empathy.” Sharly Ivahupa ensures that she visits the communities along the project pipeline as part of her engagement. She said. EMPNG proudly drives local employment and invests in training members of the team like Sharly to provide them with opportunities to expand their skill set and progress their careers in Papua New Guinea.
G’Day from Australia

Over 20 ExxonMobil PNG Environment and Social professionals attended the 39th International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) conference.

“We operate in an environment with high biodiversity value and it’s my responsibility as a Papua New Guinean to protect it.”

In April, more than 20 ExxonMobil PNG Environment and Social professionals headed to Brisbane, Australia, to attend the 39th International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) conference. The ExxonMobil PNG team were honoured to represent and showcase Papua New Guinea’s unique biodiversity through 13 presentations and discussions about how the PNG LNG Project manages and addresses environmental, biodiversity, cultural heritage and social impacts as a result of our activities.

In her presentation Anita Mosby, Biodiversity Advisor, highlighted to delegates from around the world the importance of developing and maintaining national technical capacity to ensure consistent and ongoing good environmental practices. “Many of the successes of the PNG LNG Project are due to the national content of the workforce who understand the local environmental, social and cultural situations. When you have Papua New Guineans taking ownership of what you’re developing or implementing, the environment will benefit,” said Anita.

Anita was joined by nine fellow Papua New Guinean presenters who also shared their expertise, knowledge and commitment to preserving PNG’s unique environment and biodiversity. Kalyna Taule, Biodiversity Advisor at ExxonMobil PNG, said presenting at and attending the IAIA conference cemented her appreciation of EMPNG’s biodiversity program and the importance of managing the Project’s impact. “We operate in an environment with high biodiversity value and it’s my responsibility as a Papua New Guinean to protect it. I am driven to uphold EMPNG’s high standards in terms of environmental compliance and internal commitment to protect tomorrow, today,” said Kalyna.

At the event, delegates were transported to the lower Kikori delta and to the unique forests at Hilis using virtual reality headsets. In addition, five videos produced by an up and coming Papua New Guinean videographer, Jerry Albaniel, showcased the work we are doing across the PNG LNG Project to preserve PNG’s biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Winnie Schubert, Safety, Health and Environment Manager at ExxonMobil PNG, said the team acted as ambassadors not only for the PNG LNG Project, but the country as well, championing thought-provoking tactics for protecting PNG’s rich environment. “We believe equipping our Papua New Guinean workforce with opportunities to learn, grow and connect with practitioners from around the world will play a key role in growing our 86 percent PNG citizen workforce.” ExxonMobil PNG proudly sponsored 10 delegates from Papua New Guinea organisations to attend the event as part of the IAIA Capacity Building Stipend program, as well as an additional five Papua New Guinean environmental professionals through direct sponsorship.

ExxonMobil PNG showcased PNG’s unique environment through virtual reality headsets.
Safety behind the Numbers

“I know this wasn’t an easy accomplishment especially with the different challenges we have had in the last couple of years.”

Not one, but two of our business partners, Total Waste Management (TWM) and Hides Alliance Group (HAG), have achieved a significant safety milestone, reaching five-years with no Lost Time Injuries (LTI) recorded across their operations at the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant (HGCP).

Celebrating their achievement on 20 June, TWM has been operating at HGCP for 1,825 days without an incident resulting in lost time. Ruel Forre, Logistics Supervisor – Upstream at ExxonMobil PNG, said he was proud to congratulate TWM who have been relentlessly pursuing the safety culture and values of both TWM and ExxonMobil PNG.

“I know this wasn’t an easy accomplishment especially with the different challenges we have had in the last couple of years however, this has never stopped TWM from striving to work in the most professional way but more importantly safe and injury free,” said Ruel. Celebrations continued on 30 June, when HAG joined TWM in recording five-years LTI-free. Operating under the motto “I will not get hurt today”, HAG have achieved a strong safety culture through training, positive interactions, weekly safety meetings and consistently reinforcing its safety message – working in line with our own ExxonMobil PNG safety goal: “Nobody Gets Hurt.”

Freda Moroka, Facility Services Coordinator – Upstream at ExxonMobil PNG, said working towards a common goal helps unify both teams in their approach.

“The team assists with camp management and catering services and to successfully meet five-years LTI-free is a real achievement when there is a capacity for small problems to arise in these areas. The end result really speaks for itself,” said Freda.