Across the PNG LNG Project, we are prioritising the implementation of our workforce vaccination program, “It’s Time to Focus on Family – For You, Me and PNG”.

From day one, our workforce led the way in our response to COVID-19, both on-site and in surrounding communities. Over 96 percent of the EMPNG workforce have chosen to get vaccinated, to protect themselves, their fellow wanwoks, families and communities.

As operator of the PNG LNG Project, in 2021 ExxonMobil PNG implemented a PGK 4.3 million effort in support of the National Control Centre (NCC) plus the Provincial Health Authorities in the National Capital District (NCD) as well as Hela and Central Provinces.

Since starting the program in early 2021, much needed supplies and equipment were delivered under the initiative, including equipment and medical supplies for NCD and Port Moresby General Hospital plus health authorities in Hela and Central provinces along with equipment and supplies to support NCC operations. Also included as part of this program was the October donation of a mobile vaccination clinic to the Motu Koita Assembly.

Seeing the positive role being played by ExxonMobil PNG and the PNG LNG partners, Police Commissioner and Controller of the PNG COVID-19 National Pandemic Response David Manning stated that “ExxonMobil PNG and its PNG LNG Project partners once again showed their commitment to Papua New Guinea.”

“COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the PNG people and our economy, and it will take everyone – government, industry, international donors, and communities – to work together to overcome the pandemic’s many challenges,” concluded Manning.

EMPNG’s Managing Director, Peter Larden stated that “EMPNG shares the government’s commitment to safety and its focus on minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and caring for the affected population.”

Our focus is the safety and health of our workforce and the communities in which we operate, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to maintain operations that provide critical revenues to the country and the communities that rely on our operations,” said Larden.

PNG LNG staff assisted the National Department of Health with the distribution of COVID-19 awareness materials as well as food donations to medical facilities and remote-area frontline health workers. EMPNG also provided logistical support to the Komo Rugby Football League Association and the Hela Provincial Health Authority to support the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination program at Komo station in Hela Province.

Efforts in 2021 builds upon EMPNG and PNG LNG Project support provided to PNG’s health infrastructure since 2010 and recent assistance following the onset of the pandemic in 2020. This includes support for the nation’s diagnostic capacity as well as training, medical supplies and logistical support.

“Getting vaccinated is about protecting everyone – for you, me and PNG, said Kumuls centre and Melbourne Storms star Justin Olam in support of the PNG Government’s Niupela Pasin in a short video in 2021.

In a separate address to the EMPNG workforce, he thanked the ExxonMobil team for their efforts to get vaccinated and for supporting communities across the PNG LNG Project area.”
To our readers

It’s been an incredible experience since I returned to Papua New Guinea, now as Managing Director of ExxonMobil PNG.

Over the last several years, I’ve watched the PNG LNG Project from afar and have been amazed, not only at what has been achieved, but how it was achieved, through collaboration with State and Provincial Governments and the communities within which we work.

Together, we are helping build the bright future that all Papua New Guineans deserve.

To continue strengthening the already positive relationships between the PNG Government, ExxonMobil PNG, and the PNG LNG Project, I’ve been meeting with key officials including the Hon. Prime Minister James Marape, Hon. Minister for Petroleum Kerenga Kua, MRDC Managing Director Augustine Mano, Governors from our Project areas including Hela and Gulf provinces, as well as heads of government agencies such as Treasury and the Department of Petroleum and Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited.

These relationships are critical to ensuring the full benefits from PNG LNG reach Project area landowners and communities.

Despite ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19, the PNG LNG Project continues its stellar performance. Across the PNG LNG Project our team has continued to achieve outstanding safety milestones.

As part of our commitment to growing our Papua New Guinean workforce, we welcomed 17 new trainee technicians into the PNG LNG Operations and Maintenance Program from the Kumul Petroleum Academy and 5 Engineering students into our Operations Technical internship program.

Our team remains deeply committed to supporting local communities as well as the government’s efforts to respond to COVID-19. This support included donations of critical medical supplies and equipment to Port Moresby General Hospital as well as Provincial Health Authorities in Central and Hela provinces as well as the National Capital District and the National Control Centre. In addition, our support for the Government’s electrification and infrastructure priorities plus our newly launched Hela Education Program further reflects our focus on collaboration to help improve standards of living for all Papua New Guineans.

In this edition, we hope you are encouraged by the stories of how the PNG LNG Project continues to help support PNG’s long term development while building a world class PNG workforce.

I am truly excited for what lies ahead and look forward to continuing to share the PNG LNG story with you.

Happy reading!

Stay safe and Lukim Yu (See you).
Throughout 2020, the Project produced 8.8 million tonnes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and loaded its 600th LNG cargo.

Key to this success was the dedication and hard work of the PNG LNG workforce, which now includes over 91 percent Papua New Guineans, of which over 20 percent are female.

A significant Project milestone was achieved on 1 September 2020 with EMPNG recording its first shift fully managed and operated by qualified Papua New Guinean workers. This included the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant and pipeline operations supervisors, control room, field and pipeline technicians.

Despite the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 saw the PNG LNG Project and ExxonMobil PNG record its highest production year and best safety performance since operations began seven years ago.

More than 5,400 community engagements were conducted across 2020 by EMPNG with some 36,650 stakeholders. All community engagements were undertaken in accordance with COVID-19 safe practices. Learn more about EMPNG’s continued commitment to growing its local workforce and more in the 2020 PNG LNG Environmental and Social Report available for download at pnglng.com.

Regardless of the job, there is one thing that connects everyone across the PNG LNG Project – a shared commitment to safety.

This commitment is underpinned by our philosophy “Nobody Gets Hurt”, focused on ensuring everybody returns home from work safely.

Across our sites, safety is not something we take for granted. Just like honing a skill or talent, safety demands a constant focus and priority each and every day.

This commitment isn’t exclusive to ExxonMobil staff but extends to our key partners and contractors.

When our extended team reaches a new safety milestone though their “Focus Despite Distractions” and “Do It Right Every Time” mentality, we celebrate their achievements.

Congratulations to our catering partner, Hides Alliance Group (HAG), who marked seven-years without a Loss Time Incident (LTI) and our Upstream Total Waste Management (TWM) team for three years of zero hurts, with their drivers having achieved four years without a motor vehicle accident.

Also, well done to our logistics partner, Hevi-Lift, who recorded more than a decade of no medical treatments, restricted work or LTIs – that’s 4,000 days worked without an incident.

These milestones are a testament to the commitment to safety of everyone across the PNG LNG Project.
A Strong and Safe Foundation

Last month the landowner company (LANCO) HESL and Wood Group celebrated a major milestone, achieving over 200,000 work hours on site with no significant injury or incidents, a significant achievement that all parties can be proud of.

The Komo Drainage Project was part of the earthquake recovery (EQR) program following the 2018 earthquake which damaged various parts of the Komo Airfield and its surrounding infrastructure.

ExxonMobil PNG’s Brownfield Projects Organization PNG Site Manager Nicole Longmuir said this was the first project where Hides Energy Services Limited (HESL) worked in a “self-perform” capacity to complete a project for ExxonMobil PNG.

“The productivity of the HESL-Wood work crews plus the quality of their safety-related Observation and Interventions (O&I’s) demonstrated they were truly working together. Their effective execution of the EQR drainage works with such a high safety focus was truly impressive.”

Wood operates in PNG as the long-term engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance service provider for EMPNG. In consultation with ExxonMobil PNG, Wood awarded the construction works associated with the Komo airfield EQR drainage works to HESL as part of a strategic partnership intended to support and develop in-country construction capacity.

The successful execution of the project works is a testament to the site team’s efforts and clearly demonstrated an outstanding safety performance that was enabled by their integrated, one team approach.

The project’s objective was to safely complete construction activities with no impact on Komo airfield operations, ensuring that the airfield’s critical logistical role continued uninterrupted. Successful completion of works by the Wood – HESL team was realized not just with high safety performance, but also with no impact to community water sources from construction activities.

HESL Project Manager, Moses Gurra, said “This project was the first of its kind for HESL, working in an integrated team model alongside the onsite Wood supervision team stewarded by Wood’s Senior Project Manager, Mark Bilney, to complete the Komo project.”

At the conception of the Komo EQR drainage project, HESL’s mission statement was to work as an integrated HESL-Wood and ExxonMobil team to deliver a world-class project that maximized Komo area local labor content in the project workforce. This led to the planning and delivery of a project culture that left a strong legacy for HESL as it continues to develop and grow as a business while also giving back to surrounding communities.

The Wood – HESL approach supported the creation of an egalitarian working environment that focused on the continuous upskilling of the local workforce. This was further enabled by a strong training campaign that was implemented throughout the duration of the project.

The integrated HESL-Wood site team maintained high safety and quality standards with a workforce of 90 people. Delivering a project with 98 per cent Papua New Guinean workforce content, including some 90 percent of the workforce being drawn from the Komo airfield area plus another eight percent of PNG staff from other locations, was a testament to HESL, Wood and ExxonMobil PNG.

The project commenced in October 2020 and was successfully completed in September 2021. HESL continues to support the PNG LNG Project efforts to strengthen the human capital that will prove essential to Papua New Guinea’s long term economic development.
Why wait for June 5th to commemorate World Environment Day when you can do it any time of the year?

Over 50 staff from the PNG LNG Plant site outside of Port Moresby recently took an hour off work and volunteered to plant mangroves along the site’s shoreline.

This initiative was one of ExxonMobil PNG’s (EMPNG) Social Club activities for the year. The Social Club is made up of EMPNG staff working at the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant, LNG Plant site as well as at the company’s headquarters office, EM Haus, in Port Moresby.

EMPNG’s Social Club vice-president, Cordelia Seta, led the initiative noting she wanted the team at the LNG Plant site to do something different.

“Rather than having our staff attend the usual awareness sessions through zoom webinars, we decided that to plant mangroves since we are surrounded by such a vast ecosystem.

“Our idea was in line with this year’s environmental theme so we took it upon ourselves to protect tomorrow today by planting the mangroves in our back yard,” she said.

Most of the activities organized by the EMPNG Social Club has staff volunteering during working hours to give back to the community and protect the environment.

In 2020 volunteer activities were focused on supporting the country’s pandemic response.

This year, EMPNG marked World Environment Day on 5 June by celebrating Owen Paiva, the LNG Plant’s (LNGP) resident snake handler.

Owen believes each ecosystem has a balance, where living things have specific roles and depend on each other to survive.

“Many snakes feed on rodents, lizards and even other snakes, while other snakes feed on frogs, and some on aquatic animals. Some birds like eagles, kookaburras, and owls depend on snakes for their diet.

“If the number of snakes decreases in an environment, then the population of rodents and lizards may increase, and birds and other species that depend on snakes as food may also suffer. Snakes have their part to play in maintaining this environmental balance,” shared Owen.

Communities neighbouring LNGP are home to 12 different species of snakes including the Papuan taipan, whip snakes, carpet pythons, amethystine pythons, olive pythons, slatey grey snakes, common tree snakes, brown tree snakes, mangrove snakes, blind snakes, and sea kraits.

Since 2004 Owen has been involved in snakebite research and the safe handling of venomous snakes. His role with International SOS, based at LNGP, involves relocating snakes to environments away from people and residences.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, more than 80 EMPNG staff from HGCP, LNG Plant and EM Haus contributed 300 volunteer hours.

Celebrating World Environment Day

As part of its book series, Buk bilong Pikinini (BbP) will be publishing the “When I grow up, I want to be’ series which will feature Dorcas.

EMPNG has been sponsoring BbP since 2011 and has provided support for its Library Learning Centres, teacher training, BbP’s early learning software application, resource development and Literacy week.

When I grow up I want to be...

Five year-old Dorcas Kilalema from the Buk bilong Pikinini’s early learning centre in Koki, Port Moresby got the opportunity to find out what it takes to be an engineer with ExxonMobil PNG.

Dorcas was guided by two role models, Kimberly Sabarei and Sebastian Hemetsberger, who took her for a tour at the Kumul Petroleum Academy Plant.
ExxonMobil PNG (EMPNG) receives the sixth intake of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Technicians to join the PNG LNG Project.

All trainees recently graduated from the Kumul Petroleum Academy (KPA), attaining the internationally recognised City and Guilds certificate in Process Operations, following 12-months of advanced skills training.

Designed for recent school leavers who are interested in a long-term career in the LNG industry, KPA training forms a key learning foundation before technicians are accepted into the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program where they learn to operate and maintain PNG LNG facilities.

Keruose Vele, a recent graduate, applied to KPA straight after completing grade 12 in Port Moresby.

“I am determined to put my skills to the test and continue to learn on the job with the O&M program.

“The KPA course was very challenging, but I learned a lot about how to extract oil and gas, the different processes and systems, and I’m excited about joining ExxonMobil PNG and the PNG LNG Project,” said Keruose.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the course was modified to include a combination of online theory modules plus a series of COVID safe face-to-face training modules.

Since 2010, more than 200 Papua New Guineans have been recruited through the O&M Program, with many trainees progressing to various technical and supervisory levels across ExxonMobil PNG and the PNG LNG Project, as well as the broader LNG industry.

“From Hela to PNG LNG

“The best part of my job is the privilege of working with a great Upstream team who not only do their job professionally, but also adhere to all the process safety rules and regulations that are critical to safe operations. In addition, more women are joining the maintenance field especially here at ExxonMobil, so I feel valued as a team member,” shared Hilda Wagia from Hela Province.

Working across the PNG LNG Project as an Instrument Technician at the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant, Hilda’s job involves setting-up, maintaining and repairing instrumentation and electronic devices to ensure effective control and monitoring of process variables in the plant.

“ExxonMobil is very safety oriented and they make sure all engineering and administrative controls are in place for us to perform our job safely and efficiently.

“My daily tasks consist of planning and preparation which includes preparing permits, paperwork and the required tools and test equipment while also interfacing with the Operations team and responding to any critical equipment or instrumentation break downs.”

Hilda believes no one knows where he or she will be in a year’s time, let alone 10 years. But for now, she’d like to think there’s always room for improvement, growth and an opportunity to take on more responsibilities in a leadership role as time progresses.

“Advice I’d give to aspiring young Papua New Guineans aiming to follow a similar career path is… you are the future of our country. Whether it be for this great company ExxonMobil, for another company, or as a public servant in government put a 110 percent of your effort in doing your job and do it with confidence. Honesty, hard work and a positive attitude will pay off,” Hilda concluded.
Championing Recycling in our Communities

To help achieve their goal of a cleaner community, local youth in the rural town of Kikori, Gulf Province, pioneered a garbage initiative called the Garbage-Free Kikori Collaboration (GFKC). The success of this program resulted in the launch of the 2020 Kikori School Recycling Challenge. Seven teams made up of ten students were required to build items of their choice, out of rubbish to demonstrate recycling.

Winners included Koki Primary School who built a battery-operated helicopter, Kikori Primary School who built a windmill that when the wind blows it generates electricity for Christmas lights displayed and Aird Hills Primary School who created an array of household ornaments such as vases, flowerpots, and plastic flowers. The six-week challenge was implemented in partnership with the Piku Biodiversity Network, Community Development Initiative Foundation, Digicel PNG Foundation and ExxonMobil PNG.

Business through Partnership

When introducing the program, Peter Larden, Managing Director of ExxonMobil PNG, reflected on the challenges and opportunities faced by PNG’s extractive industries and looked at how collaboration can help build a stronger and more resilient PNG economy.

“The PNG LNG Project story has multiple examples of successful partnerships between industry and local businesses, and we’ve also had our fair share of lessons learned.

“Today, we engage local suppliers for a range of production-related activities. One example includes a co-organiser of this workshop, the IBBM Enterprise Centre. The Enterprise Centre has been a great partner, not just for PNG LNG but for many of PNG’s local businesses and landowner companies as a resource for training, mentorship, and advisory services.

I remember when the partnership between the Enterprise Centre and the PNG LNG Project began. Over the period of construction through today the Centre has worked with us to deliver some 46,500 hours of training to local suppliers, a tremendous achievement,” he said.

Attendees were given the opportunity to learn more about how to build a stakeholder platform to drive collaboration and consultation, what is required to be competitive in today’s as well as tomorrow’s marketplace, national content best practices and how to work with all stakeholders to build values that support business as well as the nation.

The workshop concluded with a three-day virtual conference on National Content that discussed the importance of partnerships between the LNG industry, governments, and communities.

To help identify new opportunities to collaborate and grow local Papua New Guinean businesses, ExxonMobil PNG supported the Business Council of Papua New Guinea to host a supplier development workshop.

To help identify new opportunities to collaborate and grow local Papua New Guinean businesses, ExxonMobil PNG supported the Business Council of Papua New Guinea to host a supplier development workshop.
With a desire to connect all Papua New Guineans through affordable internet, Vani Nades launched Emstret Holdings Ltd in 2014.

Just four years later, Vani was selected as the two-time winner of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Digital Innovation Awards, sponsored by ExxonMobil PNG. The award recognised her central role in providing communications and IT solutions across the country.

“Winning these awards gave us an enormous sense of satisfaction,” explains Vani. “The awards were a kind of validation that told us we were doing the right thing. It encouraged us to keep working, to continue to think creatively, and that’s how the E-Space was born in 2019,” said Vani.

The E-Space is a community-led workspace that enables entrepreneurs and businesses in Port Moresby to network, collaborate and inspire. Despite the challenges presented by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Vani and her team understood the importance of continuing to provide a platform for collaboration and innovation – even if it could not take place in person.

“The past year, while challenging, also presented opportunity. It forced us to diversify our E-Space offering by being less reliant on cash and encouraging digital growth amongst our entrepreneurs and businesses.”

Emstret not only looked at creating opportunities by helping its members develop websites and facilitating livestream round tables and collaboration events, but also looked to redefine how its members sold their e-commerce products.

“The 2020 COVID-19 State of Emergency inspired us to launch ShopsmartPNG Ltd. This is Papua New Guinea’s first global e-commerce platform that connects millions of buyers and sellers around the country and the world in a safe and controlled environment.”

Opening a virtual marketplace removed the reliance on face-to-face sales and increased interest in Emstret’s E-space member businesses. ShopsmartPNG’s extensive distribution channels, including payment gateways and local and international postal partnerships, allows members to conduct business from anywhere across Papua New Guinea.

Vani believes PNG has enormous potential and that the SME Awards symbolise working and winning together.