



Business & Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby

Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Susil Nelson, President and Rowina Belapuna, from PNG Ports Corporation, Guest Speaker

As we come to the August meeting I would like to make a special mention of our recipients and sponsors as being a core part of our purpose. Many young women have been through our scholarship program since 1982. Many have used their education to become leaders in their communities and some in their chosen field of study or specialty.

From what we know, most have been able to use their education to create a better future for themselves and their families.

Education is important whether you chose to go on to become a tertiary educated leader in your field, a community leader, or a leader in your family. There is a well-known saying that when you educate a woman, you educate a village or a nation. Education helps us make informed decisions in our daily life, support our children to become good citizens, make good and informed choices for our children, , participate in the social and political life of our communities and country, and to contribute to the well being of our families, communities and neighbours – whether they are family or an adjacent nation.

In this newsletter we feature an article of corporate social responsibility. As many of you know, I work with PNG Sustainable Development program (PNGSDP). PNGSDP was created to distribute some of the profits from Ok Tedi Mining Ltd in Western Province. PNGSDP is a PNG created entity. This is an enormous task and requires the support of both the provincial and national governments.

No company can achieve this of using profits responsibly goal without the active engagement of governments who are elected to govern the use of taxpayer funds whether those funds come from large corporations, resource revenue or individual income tax. Governments in PNG are responsible for providing basic services such as health, education, roads, law and order, etc. Provincial governments in PNG are responsible for much of our infrastructure. Both governments are responsible for supporting economic, social and cultural development. Companies can only do so much without taking over the responsibility of governments and allowing governments to fail to meet their responsibilities. We must not allow that to happen.

However much of the current effective service delivery in PNG is actually delivered through churches, NGOs and other faith-based organisations.

One of the ways PNGSDP has chosen to work is to support BPW's scholarship program. PNG Ports, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Deloitte, and City Pharmacy are all strong supporters of BPW's scholarship program. BPW is a small NGO supported by many women who have volunteered their time over 29 years.

Without that corporate support from large and small corporations, we would still be limited to supporting a small number of women each

year from funds raised through the Gala nights, individual donations, and more recently the IWD Breakfast.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for supporting so many young women into education over the past 29 years.

However we want to give our biggest thanks to the young women who take up the challenge of using their scholarship to further their own education, whether they do that to become young professional or tradeswomen, a mother, a local retail worker, a public servant, or a worker in the informal economy which forms an important part of our economy.

Staying in education when the demands of family, peers, and communities are so strong is not always easy. In PNG we value our wantok system. But we also know it can place us all under pressure. In BPW we have been impressed by the determination of so many young women, and their parents, to complete their education.

We thank you all and hope that you will continue to support our work long after you have finished your education.

And to our sponsors we hope to continue our relationship over the coming years and thank you for your generous support as part of your corporate social responsibility. We urge other companies to consider how they can support BPW, and other NGOs, working to develop PNG.

Susil Nelson
President

BPW JULY MEETING

We were privileged to have Ms Rowina Belapuna as our guest speaker at our July meeting.

Ms Belapuna is an Accountant with the Operations Division of PNG Ports Corporation and shared her personal experiences and spoke on the Serendipity Education Fund (SEF). SEF is one of a number of initiatives undertaken by PNG Ports as its Corporate Social Responsibility. It has formed partnership with other NGOs and provides assistance by paying school fees for children who are affected by

HIV/AIDS. So far the fund has assisted 502 children for 45 families in Papua New Guinea.

Rowina helped to set up the fund and manages its accounts for the Corporation. She shared her very inspirational upbringing and successful work and educational background.

The management of PNG Ports supports Rowina making a social contribution by volunteering her time during paid work hours to Serendipity Foundation.

Rowina is married and has two children and is currently undertaking a Masters in Business Administration.

SCHOLARSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2010

The Scholarship Sub-Committee has been working constantly on improving the application process for our scholarships. In this edition we are publishing the purpose and criteria we use to decide on applications.

In the next edition of the newsletter we will publish the full account of the number of scholarships to date by institution and province.

For further information about the scholarship program please email:

ybarampataz@gmail.com

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Corporate Social Responsibility is a concept of Companies and Businesses giving back to the community directly through donations in cash or kind or helping to improve existing infrastructure or facilities or embarking on new projects that serve the people affected by its operations.

To ensure its effectiveness, companies create a working system in partnerships with civil society to implement these activities. In Papua New Guinea many companies form foundations to oversee and carry out its corporate social responsibilities. Some examples are the RH Foundation (RH Group), Serendipity Education Fund (PNG Ports Corporation), Digicel Foundation (Digicel

PNG), and Petromin Community Affairs Program (Petromin Holdings Ltd), PNG Sustainable Development Program (Ok Tedi Mining Ltd).

Other companies simply make donations for particular activities.

Programs undertaken by Papua New Guinean companies have so far seen the provision of education materials to schools, the supply of medical drugs and equipment to rural hospitals, maintenance of existing facilities such clinics and classrooms and the instalment of water supply to rural communities.

The ultimate goal of this concept is to improve the living standards of communities and to achieve economic sustainability thus fostering a good relationship with the business sector, government and civil society. For many companies it is an idea of giving back to the communities directly affected by the operations of the company.

Papua New Guinea has not incorporated corporate social responsibility into law as yet, however with the current boom in the mining and petroleum sector it should seriously consider legalising the concept in order to achieve its development goals.

In the United Kingdom (UK) the government is currently considering legislation on Corporate Social Responsibility.

BPW benefits from the corporate social responsibility through its Gold sponsors Deloitte, Westpac Bank, IEA, GRM International, Coffey International, PNG Ports Corporation. Many more corporate bodies support our IWD Breakfast by purchasing tables and finally City Pharmacy Ltd continues its generous support for BPW.

BPW encourages all businesses to follow the example of these companies in demonstrating corporate social responsibility.

From your newsletter team:
Brenda Avahua and Elizabeth Morgan
elizabeth.morgan@paljp.org.pg
 or
elizabeth.morgan@morgandisney.com.au
Please send in your ideas, questions or topics you would like us to address, answer, cover.



Rowina Belapuna, PNG Ports Corporation addresses our July meeting



Young women at the July meeting.

BPW WEBSITES:
 BPW Port Moresby
BPWportmoresby@gmail.com
 BPW international
www.bpw-international.org/