

## Village Based Agriculture Initiative at LUPNG

### Where is LUPNG Heading?

- Synod prays for and stands behind the establishment of LUPNG
- A new website for LUPNG at [www.lupng.org](http://www.lupng.org)
- A VSAT system is to be installed
- New members have been selected for the Establishment committee
- 23 Lecturers to work on advanced degrees.
- A village based Agriculture degree is to be considered



The Lutheran University's curriculum will be designed in such a way that graduates will be prepared for life and service at the village level. Special Agricultural courses are being considered to better assist students to serve the local needs of farmers in the village. PNG's economy is dependant on renewable resources that includes Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Establishment Committee will give careful consideration to the implementation of a school of agribusiness and rural technologies to meet needs at the grassroots level throughout Papua New Guinea.

This program will focus on training graduates and skilled manpower to implement the government's economic recovery strategy on an export driven economy that is outlined in the MTDS (2005-2015) and the National Agricultural Development Plan.

The Lutheran Church and LUPNG has a great opportunity to develop such programs for higher accomplishment in Agribusiness and Rural Technology currently not taught in other Universities in PNG. Such Programs will be of great value to the Morobe Provincial Government and in line with the mission statement of to be involved in "Teaching, Research, and Preparing Students for service."



## The Lutheran University of Papua New Guinea

### LUPNG News Line

Volume 1, February 2008



## Synod Supports LUPNG

The Twenty-Sixth Lutheran Synod has fully supported the establishment of the Lutheran University of Papua New Guinea (LUPNG). Head Bishop of ELC-PNG Dr. Wesley Kigasung and Head Bishop of GLC – PNG Rev. David Piso, and Synod delegates voiced their support for the project to move forward so that the University is built for the Church and the country.

Although differences appeared these were resolved and the Synod was united, uplifted, and fully endorsed the project. The Synod prayed for LUPNG's success.

The Synod held in Ogulbeng, Western Highlands Province from the 6–11<sup>th</sup> of January 2008, has the backing of the Morobe Provincial Government one of the partners to the LUPNG Project which represents a province where 90% of its population are Lutheran Christians. The project is also supported by Overseas Partners one of which was represented by Dr Fambacher Traugott.

## Lutheran University Moves Ahead with Synod Blessing



In 2006 “The Act” to establish the new university was passed on voices with no opposition demonstrated by Members of Parliament, on the clear understanding that the Lutheran Church was a leader in the provision of education in Papua New Guinea noting the “record/fact” by the Parliament itself from the sponsors speech that more than 50% of all learning institutions in PNG were either owned, or operated by the Lutheran Church.

The Lutheran Synod has now established a clear understanding and sense of unity on the forward movement to build LUPNG. In order to move ahead and address some matters the synod agreed to retain Mr. Pato as Chairman and nominated new ELC-PNG representatives to the Establishment Committee. They are Mr. Don Sawong, Dr. Eric Kwa and Mr. Isaac Teo. Reconstituted membership will also include a female representative and GLC-PNG Representatives.

## Advanced Degree Program

Twenty-three lecturers from Balob Teachers College and Martin Luther Seminary will be selected to work on advanced degrees online. This will serve to increase the quality of programs and teaching at LUPNG when it opens its doors in 2010.

## Vice-Chancellor Search

The Establishment Committee has opened nominations and interested applicants to apply for the position of Vice-Chancellor for LUPNG.

It is recommended that Candidates have:

1. membership in good standing of the ELC-PNG, GLC-PNG, or a Lutheran Church body that is a partner church to either of the two PNG Lutheran Church bodies.
2. a high moral character.
3. citizenship of Papua New Guinea. If the candidate is someone other than a national, the expatriate candidate should have a lengthy work experience in Papua New Guinea and is familiar with the PNG educational system.
4. some Lutheran theological education.
5. a doctoral degree or be in the process of completing the degree or have a back ground in business administration and leadership.
6. experience as an administrator at the secondary education level, preferably at the tertiary level.
7. teaching experience at the secondary or tertiary level.
8. excellent written and oral communication skills.
9. demonstrated his/her ability to work with and motivate highly educated individuals.
10. some experience at “third source” fund raising or be willing to participate in seminars and workshops providing training in that area of expertise.

Letters of Intent, Resumes, and Written Nominations may be sent to:

Search Committee Chairman  
LUPNG  
P.O. Box 1513  
Lae, Morobe, Papua New Guinea

## VSAT Service for LUPNG

The Lutheran University is seeking the installation of VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) services from Telkom PNG Ltd for a six-month trial basis. VSAT involves installing a satellite dish on campus to send (upload) and receive (download) information directly to and from a satellite. This service is useful and cost effective for institutions that depend heavily on the Internet and need speedy connections.

The VSAT installation will allow LUPNG to have adequate Internet services that will be of use in Balob Teachers College and the Martin Luther Seminary. The installation will be similar to that set up with UPNG.

## LUPNG goes to the States

A strong delegation from the LUPNG will attend the Lutheran Education Association conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota from April 23-26 this year. LUPNG will be represented by Chairman of the LUPNG Establishment Committee Rimbink Pato, Morobe Provincial Administrator Manasupe Zurenoc, Principal of Balob Teachers College - Kautil Mileng, and Principal of Martin Luther Seminary - Rev. Giegere Wenge to attend the Convocation. Dr Lee Schluckebier will also represent LUPNG to this association and will prepare a display to promote the new university at the conference.

Morobe Governor Luther Wenge is also expected to attend the Convocation in order to promote Lutheran Education and Papua New Guinea to American Educators. The delegation will be seeking the prayers and support of the international Lutheran community for this innovative project.

The objective of attending the conference is to promote LUPNG to potential administrators, supporters and future lecturers.

## What is LUPNG

LUPNG is instituting a four-year Degree Granting Lutheran University to commence in 2010. It will be open to students of all faith backgrounds. The University will encourage Professional Development and support Advanced Degrees for Lecturers in PNG who are committed to teach at LUPNG. Currently LUPNG is making plans for new and renovated buildings to provide an attractive, comfortable, and well-planned campus at Lae in the Morobe Province.

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