

ENERGY NEWS



NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY

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QUARTER NEWS

In March 5, 2025, the National Energy Authority (NEA), with support from the World Bank and ADB, hosted a workshop on the planned partial privatization of PNG Power Limited (PPL).

Energy Minister Hon. Thomas Opa said private investment is key to fixing aging infrastructure, reducing costs, and expanding electricity access. He assured stakeholders of a transparent process with strong regulation and a focus on renewable energy.

The workshop brought together key government officials and global experts to discuss lessons from other countries, investment readiness, and how to ensure affordable, reliable power for all Papua New Guineans.

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Picture: Partners in the Energy Sector

NEA LAUNCHES NEW TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TO BOOST ENERGY SECTOR STANDARDS

Port Moresby, Jan 31, 2025 – The National Energy Authority (NEA) has unveiled four new technical guidelines aimed at strengthening safety, compliance, and regulation in PNG's growing energy sector. Announced during a press conference at Citi Boutique Hotel, the guidelines target solar energy use, appliance regulation, and licensing of electricians and contractors.

NEA's Managing Director, Mr. Ronald Meketa, described the launch as a key step toward supporting renewable energy adoption and meeting Vision 2050 targets.

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REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS



Picture: Ms. F. Simon and Ms. A. Wong

NEA BUILDS REGIONAL LINKS TO STRENGTHEN PNG'S BIOENERGY ROADMAP

On the 3rd-4th of December 2024, the National Energy Authority sent two of its female Officers **Ms. Filma Simon and Ms. Aivy Wong** to attend the APEC Symposium on Bioenergy that was held at the Orchid Ballroom, Pullman Khon Kaen Raja Orchid Hotel in **Khon Kaen, Thailand**.

The event, that was part of the APEC 3rd Sectoral Symposium for Energy Transition was organized by the Ministry of Energy Thailand, and the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APERC). The Symposium was focused on the opportunities, challenges, and recent developments in bioenergy within the APEC region.

The main objective was to explore and implement effective partnerships between government entities and private

APEC SYMPOSIUM ON BIOENERGY – SHARING KNOWLEDGE, SHAPING SOLUTIONS

sector companies to advance bioenergy initiatives to leverage the strengths of both sectors to promote sustainable energy solutions, enhance energy security, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

The National Energy Authority (NEA), being involved in this Symposium, is to ensure that the latest bioenergy technologies and practises are integrated into the national goals for energy security, sustainability, and economic development. By being part of the Symposium, NEA has gained insights into successful bioenergy policies and technologies from other APEC economies and will apply this knowledge to enhance PNG's bioenergy sector.

LESSONS OBTAINED TO IMPROVE ENERGY IN PNG

As the world grapples with the pressing challenges of climate change and energy security, the transition to sustainable energy sources has become more critical than ever. Papua New Guinea, with its rich natural resources and strategic location, is uniquely positioned to play a significant role in this global shift. One promising avenue for PNG is the development of its biofuel sector, which offers numerous environmental, economic, and social benefits. By learning from the experiences of other countries and implementing targeted policies, PNG can harness the potential of biofuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance energy security, and drive sustainable develop-

ment. For PNG to develop its biofuel sector, it needs to focus on government policy and support, technological advancements, sustainable feedstock, partnerships and collaborations, economic viability, environmental benefits, community engagements, policy frameworks, integration with other renewables, and addressing challenges

“ This training helped me understand how strong policy integration, innovation, and data-driven planning can accelerate rural electrification in PNG ”



Picture: Mr. Pokanau Presenting the Closing Address

JICA RENEWABLE ENERGY TRAINING – JAPAN'S APPROACH INSPIRES PNG ENGINEERS

From 19th January to 7th February 2025, **Mr. Kayan Pokanau, Off-Grid Energy Analyst at the National Energy Authority (NEA)**, represented Papua New Guinea at a prestigious Renewable Energy Training hosted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the Kyushu Centre, Japan. This intensive, three-week program brought together energy professionals from across the globe, including participants from Peru, Costa Rica, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, the Marshall Islands, Mozambique, and Gambia, creating a dynamic and multicultural learning environment.

The training covered a comprehensive spectrum of topics such as advanced renewable energy technologies, grid integration strategies, energy economics, and regulatory frameworks. Participants benefited from a well-balanced

structure combining theoretical lectures, field visits, and practical case studies. Technologies explored included photovoltaic systems, offshore wind farms, micro-hydro systems, biomass energy, solar thermal applications, and emerging innovations like hydrogen production and storage.

Mr. Pokanau's participation was marked by strong engagement and leadership. He was selected to deliver the closing remarks on behalf of all participants, a significant honor that recognized not only his performance during the program but also PNG's rising presence in global renewable energy discussions. In his address, he emphasized the importance of data-driven planning, inclusive policy-making, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern technology to drive equitable energy access in remote communities.

The experience was transformative—strengthening his technical and project management capabilities, broadening his global perspective, and deepening his understanding of how Japan has successfully mainstreamed renewable energy across both urban and rural settings. Upon return, Mr. Pokanau is applying these insights to strengthen NEA's off-grid energy programs, particularly in designing community-based electrification solutions, improving project evaluation methodologies, and contributing to national strategies aligned with **PNG's goal of achieving 70% electrification by 2030 and universal access by 2050**.



Picture: Presentation of Certificates



PNG's ROLE

In the Global Energy Transition



Hon. THOMAS OPA

MINISTER FOR ENERGY

"PNG is progressing subsector renewable energy policies and electricity regulations to improve energy and electricity access," Minister Opa told delegates.

"Our participation underscores our commitment to global climate goals and a sustainable future for all Papua New Guineans."



PNG'S ENERGY TRANSITION ON THE GLOBAL STAGE: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 15TH IRENA ASSEMBLY

Papua New Guinea (PNG) actively participated in the 15th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), reaffirming its role in the global renewable energy movement. The Assembly, held under the theme "Accelerating the Renewable Energy Transition – The Way Forward," brought together over 170 member states to discuss the path to tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030.

The event marked a pivotal moment for PNG as it continues to scale up efforts toward clean energy development and electricity access reform. The Assembly provided a platform for the country to showcase its progress in renewable energy policy, while aligning its goals with global climate commitments.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PNG

Energy Diversification: PNG is actively working to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels through renewable energy integration.

Climate Resilience: As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), PNG emphasized the urgency of equitable and sustainable climate solutions.

International Partnerships: Participation opened doors to funding and collaboration opportunities vital for scaling renewable energy infrastructure.

Sustainable Resource Management: PNG continues to balance energy development with conservation of its rich natural resources.

SIDE EVENT ENGAGEMENTS

PNG was also involved in three significant side events, including:

IRENA SIDS Lighthouse Initiative, where the country joined discussions on accelerating the energy transition for island nations.

Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA), where PNG was officially welcomed as a new member alongside Trinidad and Tobago, marking a step forward in offshore wind development.

LOOKING AHEAD

PNG's engagement in the IRENA Assembly reflects its growing leadership in clean energy across the Pacific. With a strong focus on policy reform, investment, and regional cooperation, the nation is poised to build a resilient, low-carbon future for its people.



ENERGY SECTOR: PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION



Picture: Partners in the Energy Sector



The National Energy Authority (NEA), with support from the World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank (ADB), hosted a workshop this week on private sector participation in Papua New Guinea's energy sector.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Thomas Opa, Minister for Energy, confirmed the government's plan to partially privatize PNG Power Limited (PPL), calling it a key step toward achieving affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity for all Papua New Guineans.

"Our energy sector faces major challenges—aging infrastructure, financial pressures, and limited rural access," Hon. Opa said. "Private sector investment is essential to modernize our systems, expand electrification, and reduce costs."

He assured stakeholders of the government's commitment to a transparent transition, with strong regulatory oversight, consumer protection,

and support for PPL employees. He also emphasized the focus on renewable energy and universal access through the National Electrification Rollout Plan (NEROP).

"This is a turning point for our energy future," Hon. Opa concluded. "Together, we can build a cleaner, stronger, and more reliable power sector for Papua New Guinea."

PPL PARTIAL PRIVATIZATION WORKSHOP GATHERS HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION AND GLOBAL EXPERTS

A high-level workshop on the partial privatization of PNG Power Limited (PPL) was recently held, focusing on best benchmarked practices for structuring and implementing the transition. The event saw the participation of key stakeholders, including senior government officials, international development partners, and energy sector experts.

A distinguished delegation from the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) attended the workshop, along with notable state agency heads accompany-

ing the Minister. These included:

- Koney Samuel – Secretary, Department of National Planning & Monitoring (DNPM)
- Professor Kavanamur – Director, Kumul Consolidated Holdings (KCH)
- Ivan Pekaea - CEO of PNG Power Limited (PPL)
- Ms. Sungi – Managing Director, Climate Change & Development Authority (CCDA)
- A Senior Representative from the Central Agencies Coordinating Committee (CACC)

GLOBAL EXPERTISE ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Two prominent World Bank experts in infrastructure and energy shared insights on global best practices for privatization, energy transition, and sustainable infrastructure development.

Ms. Sudeshna Ghosh Banerjee, the Regional Director for Infrastructure in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) Region at the World Bank, provided a strategic overview of energy and transport programs in the region. She leads a team managing over US\$10 billion in loan commitments, focus-

ing on clean energy transition, green logistics, urban mobility, and regional connectivity. With a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of North Carolina, her expertise spans energy transition policies, access to energy, renewable energy, and subsidy reform.

Mr. Rajesh Rohatgi, Lead Transport Specialist and Program Leader for Infrastructure at the World Bank for PNG and the Pacific, brought extensive experience in transport and infrastructure development. Based in Sydney, he has over 25 years of experience advising governments on policies, regulations, and financing strategies. His expertise includes regional connectivity, state highways, aviation, rural roads, and inland waterways, aligning with sustainable development goals.

The workshop provided a critical platform for discussions on structuring PPL's partial privatization in alignment with international best practices, ensuring sustainable and efficient energy service delivery for Papua New Guinea.

WORKSHOP CHARTS THE FUTURE OF PNG'S POWER SECTOR

Today, a significant workshop on the partial privatization of PNG Power Lim-

ited (PPL) was held at the Hilton Hotel, bringing together key stakeholders, policymakers, and international experts to deliberate on the best approaches for transitioning the state utility.

The National Energy Authority (NEA) provided an update on the progress of the regulatory framework and policy measures being developed to ensure a smooth and effective transition. The authority emphasized the importance of strong regulatory oversight, ensuring that privatization leads to greater efficiency, sustainability, and improved energy access for Papua New Guineans.

The workshop featured presentations and in-depth discussions on key topics, including:

- Lessons from global privatization models - Highlighting case studies from other countries that have successfully transitioned from state-owned power utilities to partially or fully privatized models.
- PNG's energy market readiness – Assessing the current structure of the power sector, existing gaps, and the necessary reforms to attract private investment.
- Investment opportunities and private sector involvement – Exploring ways to ensure competitive bidding processes, transparent governance, and financial

sustainability in the privatization process.

- Ensuring affordability and accessibility – Addressing public concerns over potential tariff impacts, service reliability, and universal access to electricity in rural and urban communities.

Key stakeholders and international partners shared their perspectives on balancing public and private sector roles in energy service delivery, emphasizing the need for clear policy guidelines, transparent governance, and financial sustainability.

The discussions underscored that privatization alone is not a silver bullet; rather, it must be coupled with a robust regulatory framework, strategic investments in renewable energy, and a commitment to expanding electricity access across PNG.

As the government continues to assess the best approach for PPL's transition, workshops like this play a critical role in ensuring that the process is inclusive, transparent, and aligned with the country's long-term energy goals.



NEA & EUFCCB FINALIZE 2025 ENERGY PRIORITIES

"The plan we've built here today is more than a schedule - it's a promise to our people"

On the 17th to the 18th of February 2025, the National Energy Authority and European Union Forestry Climate Change Biodiversity (EUFCCB) in partnership participated in the Annual Action Plan Prioritization workshop at the Tuna Bay Resort in Taurama, Port Moresby.

Expertise France is the agency responsible for the implementation of the national component of the EU-FCCB Programme as a project. Subsequently, the National Energy Authority is one of the six (6) GoPNG agencies to participate in the implementation of the national component project.

EUFCCB through Expertise France have organized the two-day workshop for the finalization of the work plan for 2025. The participants during the workshop were the Expertise France team and the Core Team from NEA which comprises of officers from the Policy Planning & Research Division, Technical Regulations Division, Economic Regulations Division, the Projects Divisions, the Corporate Affairs Division, the Managing Directors Office and the External Affairs and Community Outreach Division.

During the two-day workshop, below are the things that were discussed.

- The budget for the project
- Actions under each activity
- Deadline for each action
- The required outcomes of each action

The two organizations are excited and looking forward to the implementation of the actions that are included in the workplan for 2025.



Picture: EUFCCB and the NEA Staff



Picture: Launching of the four Technical Guidelines

STRENGTHENING INDUSTRY STANDARDS: LAUNCH OF FOUR TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY LAUNCHES FOUR NEW TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TO BOOST SAFETY AND STANDARDIZATION

On 31st January 2025, the Technical Regulations Division of the National Energy Authority (NEA) hosted a successful media press conference at the Citi Boutique Hotel in Port Moresby to launch four new technical guidelines designed to enhance regulatory compliance and elevate safety across Papua New Guinea's energy sector.

These guidelines represent a key achievement in NEA's ongoing effort to modernize and streamline energy governance in PNG. Developed through extensive consultations, stakeholder engagement, and expert contributions, they aim to address critical gaps in licensing, appliance regulation, and solar integration.

"These guidelines provide the clarity and structure our sector needs," said

NEA Managing Director Mr. Ronald Meketa, as he officially launched the documents.

THE FOUR TECHNICAL GUIDELINES INTRODUCED:

1. Grid-Connected Solar PV and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Guidelines
2. Guidelines for Manufacturers, Importers, and Retailers of Regulated Electrical Appliances
3. Guidelines for Electrician Licensing
4. Guidelines for Electrical Contractors Licensing

These regulatory frameworks are expected to:

- Improve safety and performance standards for electrical works
- Facilitate compliance for electricians, solar installers, and

- suppliers
- Provide legal structure for enforcement and monitoring
- Encourage safer adoption of solar PV and battery systems in homes and businesses

Mr. Meketa noted the guidelines' alignment with Vision 2050, particularly in supporting 70% electrification by 2030 and the broader renewable transition goals of PNG.

The launch was attended by energy stakeholders including electricians, electrical contractors, solar retailers, appliance importers, regulators, and development partners.

"These are not just documents—they are tools for transformation. They will empower our industry and protect our communities," Mr. Meketa concluded.



Picture: NEA and IRENA teams in discussion during the Energy Transition Assessment consultations in Port Moresby.

NEA AND IRENA COLLABORATE TO ADVANCE PNG'S ENERGY TRANSITION

Port Moresby, Feb 24–28, 2025 – The National Energy Authority (NEA), in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), held a week-long consultation to assess Papua New Guinea's progress toward clean and sustainable energy. The discussions were part of efforts to develop PNG's official Energy Transition Plan for 2025.

The sessions brought together local stakeholders, government officials, and IRENA experts under the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Lighthouses Initiative. The main goal was to understand where PNG stands today, what challenges exist, and what practical steps are needed to move from traditional energy sources to renewable energy like solar, hydro, wind, and emerging options such as green hydrogen and battery storage.

Currently, only about 19% of Papua New Guineans have access to electricity. Through this assessment, NEA aims to improve that number and ensure that all communities—especially those in rural areas—have access to reliable and affordable power by 2050.

The discussions also explored existing policies, financing needs, and capacity-building gaps that must be addressed



from IRENA will be received by the end of March and will be used to shape the national energy strategy going forward.

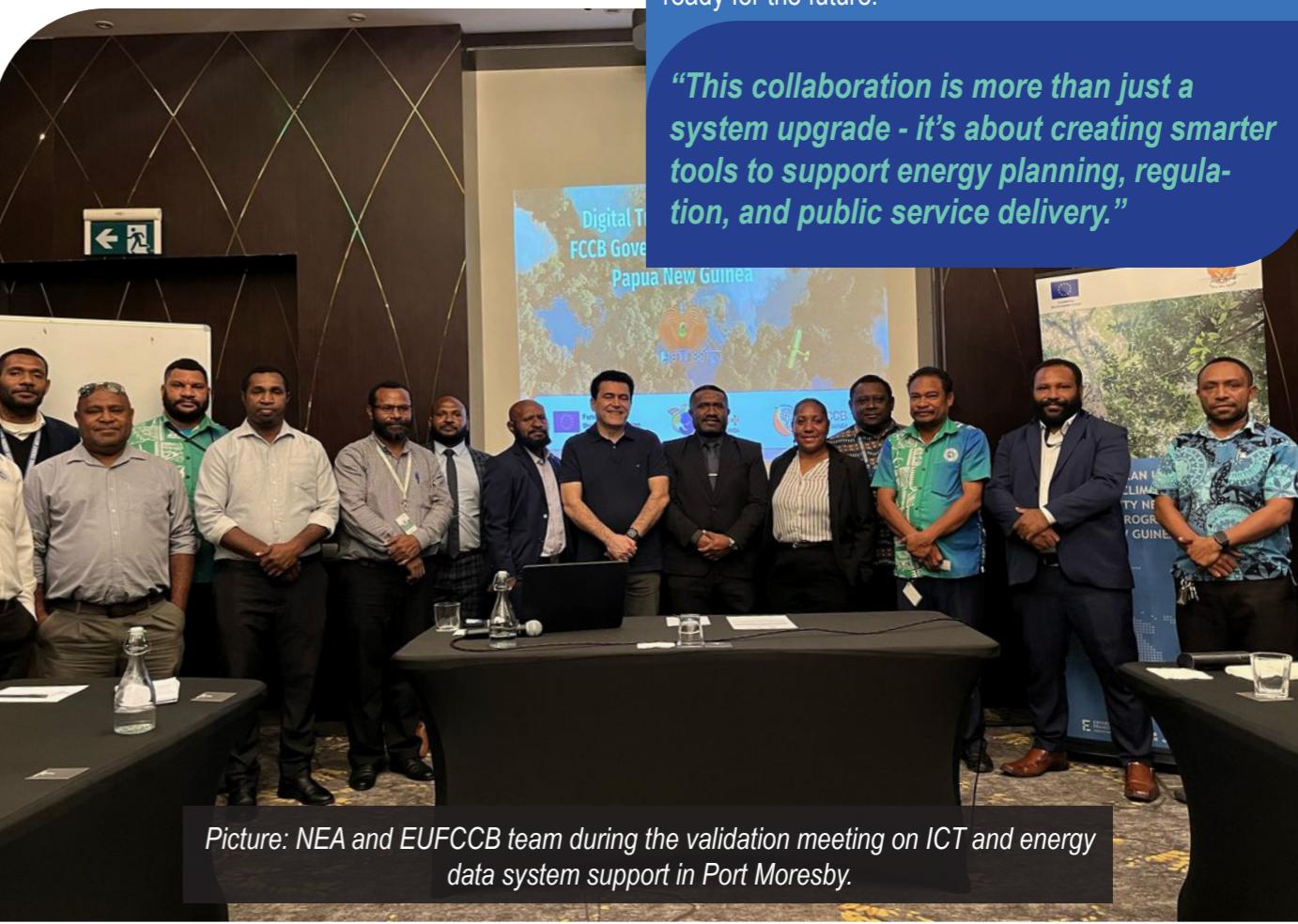
This milestone engagement with IRENA reflects our commitment to a cleaner, more inclusive energy future for Papua New Guinea.

ENERGY DONOR SUPPORT

NEA AND EUFCCB PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN ICT AND ENERGY DATA SYSTEMS

Port Moresby, March 12, 2025 – The National Energy Authority (NEA) is taking a bold step forward in digital transformation through a key collaboration with the European Union Forestry, Climate Change, and Biodiversity (EUFCCB) Programme. In a joint meeting held at Lamana Hotel, NEA and EUFCCB reviewed and validated plans to strengthen the Authority's ICT infrastructure and develop a centralized Energy Data Repository.

The session was led by EUFCCB-contracted ICT consultant Mr. Benjamin Irani, who presented the proposed system improvements and shared insights from similar digital projects across the Pacific and beyond. His presentation focused on building a modern, secure, and efficient digital platform tailored to NEA's operational needs.



Picture: NEA and EUFCCB team during the validation meeting on ICT and energy data system support in Port Moresby.

Key features of the planned support include:

- A redesigned NEA website with enhanced functionality and accessibility
- A centralized Energy Data Repository Hub to store and analyze energy sector data
- An integrated licensing management system to streamline the registration and monitoring of industry players

The session encouraged open dialogue, with NEA officers from various divisions actively participating in a Q&A to provide feedback and explore ways to tailor the systems for local needs. The discussion highlighted the importance of data-driven decision-making, especially in policy development, licensing, compliance, and future energy planning.

Both NEA and EUFCCB reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the proposed upgrades. This digital partnership will play a critical role in supporting the Authority's broader mandate—ensuring that Papua New Guinea's energy sector is well-regulated, data-driven, and ready for the future.

"This collaboration is more than just a system upgrade - it's about creating smarter tools to support energy planning, regulation, and public service delivery."



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The **National Energy Authority (NEA)** wishes to sincerely thank all stakeholders, development partners, and industry participants who contributed to the successful implementation of key activities featured in this edition of **Energy Niue**.

From policy dialogue and technical guideline launches to regional and international engagements, your continued support plays a vital role in advancing Papua New Guinea's energy sector.

A special appreciation is extended to our partners from the **World Bank**, **Asian Development Bank**, **IRENA**, **European Union – FCCB Programme**, **JICA**, and other government agencies for their collaboration and commitment to building a reliable, sustainable, and inclusive energy future for all Papua New Guineans.

Together, we are harnessing energy for life!



Global
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Institute



International Renewable Energy Agency



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