



***Delegation from Papua New Guinea***

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***Topics: Sustainable Agriculture, Human Migration and Infrastructure and Economic Development.***

***Committee: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)***

Papua New Guinea is a very diverse country, located in the Asian Pacific and is part of the world's second largest island(1). Even though it's one of the world's most isolated and poorest countries it's a country filled with plenty of natural resources and has one of the world's fastest growing economies. As a developing country, Papua New Guinea is very interested in development and help from other countries relating to producing a more successful country. Relating to the topics at hand, Papua New Guinea continually faces many areas of struggle in terms of Sustainable Agriculture and Infrastructure and Economic development. Human Migration while not on the same level concern to Papua New Guinea is still an issue that needs improvement. Due to the fact that these topics play important parts in the development of Papua New Guinea, the country is very interested in finding new and applicable solutions to issues within these topics.

## **1. Agriculture**

Agriculture on its own plays a large part in the country of Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea is known for its fertile soil and appropriate climate for farming(2). It is also a producer of many of the world's popular products such as cocoa and coffee as well as other animals and plants products included. While land use for agriculture is only 2.6%, it makes up approximately 85% of the labor force due to the fact that most the population lives in rural areas of the country practice subsistence agriculture. Currently while it may not seem like a huge percentage, 18% of Papua New Guinea's exports come from agricultural products. Despite being a country that is seeing success through agriculture, the systems for managing agriculture doesn't not work perfect system and has many issues. Due to the fact that PNG is mainly covered with mountains and rough terrain, only 25% of the land is actually suitable for agriculture(9). Papua New Guinea's location makes it very vulnerable to climate created problems and natural disasters such as tsunamis and volcanic eruptions(8). The amount of agricultural products collected has also suffered mostly because of the El Niño cycle which has caused droughts and reduced the amount of crops produced(6). Despite the amount of issues that have appeared while working with agriculture, Papua New Guinea with the support of other countries like Australia and organizations have worked in building plans to develop efficient agriculture. Projects like the Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project is works to create partnerships between farmers and NGO's as well as providing education on crops and

sustainability as well as aiming to improve livelihoods(14). Papua New Guinea has also received plenty of aid from Australia especially from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) that works towards helping with Papua New Guinea's development through help by improving food supplies and food access(10).

## **2. Infrastructure and Economic development**

Infrastructure in Papua New Guinea is limited due to factors such as climate which includes floods and storms that cause many roads and infrastructure to fall apart. Many of the roads in Papua New Guinea are unpaved and out of the all roads in country only 3.5% of them paved. Political corruption and disputes also adds to the issue of infrastructure because the money that can be going into progressive projects is going elsewhere. Also in terms of infrastructure the cost of building and maintaining is very high(15). The economy of Papua New Guinea is fairly good but is still on the road of the development. Most economic growth has derived from Mining operations but this has not helped in creating better living conditions for most Papua New Guineans. Development in the economy has been held back mainly by corruption due to lack of following the Rule of Law. (3) Currently in the past there have been many efforts in developing and improving infrastructure in the country. The UN-Habitat is just a part of several organizations which is working on different projects such as the National Urban Plan through City Profiling, City Development Strategy Support and and Settlements Upgrading Project(4). In terms of economy, Papua New Guinea has been doing fairly well but is piling on debts from borrowing money and is struggling to pay it back. One of the ways Papua New Guinea had decided to fix this problem and to create an even better economy and improve in other areas is by creating the Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan to gradually develop solutions(12).

## **3. Labour Migration**

The number Labour Migrations into and out of PNG is low. This comes from the fact that most of the people work in the informal economy and have close ties to the land which has made it less likely for Papua New Guineans to leave the country. Papua New Guinea does have a slight increase in temporary workers and immigrants involved in both mining and especially liquified gas project (5). In the past Papua New Guinea has had refugees sent from Australia but situations have been tense and Papua New Guinea was not very supporting of the refugees. (11) H.E. Mr. Rimbink Pato, Minister for Foreign Affairs has been able to recognise the crises with refugees is claims that he will work with Australia to finding lasting solutions. (16) Still possibilities of Papua New Guinea providing a better environment and accepting of outsiders is still not quite certain. There is some hope due to the Pacific Climate Change and Migration Project which will soon end focuses deals on many climate change related migration but also spreading information on Labour Migration which will hopefully give the country a better sense of awareness(13). The government of Papua New Guinea has also been participating in many

different international labor mobility plans with support from Australia in order make it easier for Papua New Guineans to find jobs abroad.

The country of Papua New Guinea is very big on sustainability and development especially as a country that has so much potential but is deterred by many issues such as corruption and the need of proper structure. But because it is a country that is aware of it's issues it is attempting to find new and better solutions to solving them by being involved in many different projects and policies. If Papua New Guinea can find the boost it needs it will be able to contribute more to other nations. The type of resolution this country would like to see is one that will hopefully benefit the country and help create more applicable solutions to the problems and issues being faced in order to becoming a more developed and progressive nation.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pp.html>(1)

<http://pngembassy.org/agriculture.html> (2)

<http://www.heritage.org/index/country/papuanewguinea>(3)

<http://unhabitat.org/papua-new-guinea/>(4)

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2185\(IOM,%202014\)%20Assessing%20the%20Evidence%20Migration,%20Env,%20and%20CC%20-%20%20PNG.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2185(IOM,%202014)%20Assessing%20the%20Evidence%20Migration,%20Env,%20and%20CC%20-%20%20PNG.pdf)(5)

<http://www.oxfordbusinessgroup.com/news/papua-new-guinea%E2%80%99s-economy-faces-liquidity-crunch> (6)

<http://www.new-ag.info/en/country/profile.php?a=2924>(7)

<http://dfat.gov.au/geo/papua-new-guinea/development-assistance/Pages/papua-new-guinea.aspx> (8)

<http://www.new-ag.info/en/country/profile.php?a=2924>(9)

<http://dfat.gov.au/geo/papua-new-guinea/pages/papua-new-guinea-country-brief.aspx>(10)

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<http://devpolicy.org/a-new-path-for-development-policy-in-papua-new-guinea20110417/> (12)

<http://www.unescap.org/subregional-office/pacific/pacific-climate-change-and-migration-project> (13)

<https://www.adb.org/countries/papua-new-guinea/strategy>(14)

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