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European Union Project rolls out awareness-raising Trade-related Training in PNG

The EU-PNG Trade Related Assistance Phase 2 (TRA2) Programme is rolling out the first four weeks of a seven week trade-related training programme to raise awareness in PNG of how and why international trade takes place and how it can contribute to economic development and growth. The European Union funded Trade Related Assistance Phase Two Programme has been providing intensive Technical Assistance to the Trade Division of the Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry (DTCI) over recent months, working very closely with the officers of the Trade Division to finalise Papua New Guinea’s first ever National Trade Policy (NTP), which was approved by the National Executive Council on 6th April 2017.

PNG is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is party to a number of international Trade Agreements with various trading partners, including the European Union (EU), Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), Australia (through PNG-Australia Trade and Commercial Relations Agreement known as PATCRA) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). However, in order for PNG to maximise the benefits coming from these agreements, it is crucial to first understand what these trade arrangements are about, how trade takes place, and how to optimise opportunities to develop PNG’s potential to benefit from these trade agreements.

The training is being delivered by Ms Paula Norris, Team Leader and long-term technical assistant responsible for Component 1 of the programme, Institutional Reform and Capacity Building, and Mr Andras Lakatos, a short-term expert funded through the EU Technical Assistance Project. Three weeks of training are taking place in Port Moresby and one week in Lae during May and June 2017 and a further three-week programme will take place later in the year. The topics covered during the training include Trade Policy Analysis; Research skills, data analysis and reporting; Market Research, Market Intelligence Surveys and preparing Export Promotion Strategies; WTO Trading system, including dispute settlement mechanisms; Non-tariff Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade.

The training is open to a wide range of trade-related stakeholders as well as private sector representatives, and will equip participants with a broad understanding of trade-related matters. The awareness-raising programme is just one of a number of initiatives being implemented to capacity build the institutions and citizens of PNG under the TRA 2 Programme.



Trainers Ms Paula Norris and Mr Andras Lakatos with Lae training participants proudly displaying their Certificates of Participation

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