



PRESS RELEASE: Embargoed for release Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018



## European Union assists PNG in setting up Trade Information Centre

The Trade Division of the Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry has now a Trade Information Centre (TIC), which will in future house the country's largest resource of trade data. From books to journals, research papers, handbooks, training materials, web links and reports; the new initiative aims to aid the day to day function and work programmes of trade officers by making resource materials more easy to access. The EU-PNG Trade Related Assistance Phase 2 (TRA2) Programme, together with the implementing agency, Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry, is establishing the Trade Information Centre (TIC), to be based within the Trade Division at Moale Haus in Waigani.

The initiative follows the historic NEC decision of August 2017 which saw the approval and launch of the National Trade Policy (NTP) and endorsement of the establishment of the National Trade Office (NTO). The European Union (EU) funded EU-PNG Trade Related Assistance Phase 2 (TRA2) Programme, implemented by the Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry establishes the TIC in preparedness for the forthcoming functions as the National Trade Office, which will critically depend on the acquisition, storage, retrieval, cataloguing, management and organisation of trade-related information. The TIC will complement and enhance the facilities and resources already available in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Reference Centre, based in the Trade Division. Additionally, it is intended to build up the TIC to eventually link up with other available data sources, e.g. PNG Customs Asycuda data, National Fisheries Authority data, Treasury information and, National Statistics Office information, all of which would be extremely useful for studies, analysis, trade negotiation preparation, sustainability impact analysis of trade agreements etc.

The EU funded TRA 2 Project Website (see below for URL), which was completely revamped in 2017 offers a 'Contact Us' Facility where users can submit trade-related queries or questions, or seek assistance in developing international trade. Such queries will be logged and processed through a database residing in the new TIC so that Trade officers can build up a bank of information to support the development of trade and the implementation of the NTP; and provide a coordination mechanism for trade issue arbitration and resolution.

In the last two weeks, three Trade Division Officers have undergone extensive training on how to set up, run and manage an information centre, including training in library management software. They have begun the cataloguing of reference materials, including some 60 or so books provided through the EU TRA 2 project funds.

Mr Anthony Korau, a Principal Trade Officer in the Trade Division who is one of the officers trained, said that he had thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of setting up the TIC and had learned much about the techniques of cataloguing and researching reference materials. He said: "I know that in the past trade agreements were signed up to by our government without really undertaking necessary research on whether these agreements will benefit our citizens. Maybe one of the reasons for that is that there was no central point where the information required for specific trade-related research was available. Now, all of that can start to change. We don't have a huge amount of materials, as we are only just starting out, mainly with the materials procured for us through the TRA 2 project. But once the structure and foundations of the TIC are there, incorporating new resources is much easier. I can

really see how this is going to help us be much better informed in the future, and in addition, I have learned some important new skills”.

Moving forward, the TIC should provide a one-stop shop for trade related data, information, support and dialogue opportunity. Over the coming months officers will be cataloguing up to 250 reference materials into the online system. But for the time being, a catalogue search can be viewed at: <https://tradepng.softlinkhosting.com.au>.

More information about the project can be found on the Project Website at: [www.pngeutra2.org.pg](http://www.pngeutra2.org.pg).

**Contact Details:**

**Delegation of the European Union to Papua New Guinea:**

Neraemarimahu Haihavu - Press & Information Officer  
[neraemarimahu.haihavu@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:neraemarimahu.haihavu@eeas.europa.eu) Ph. (+675) 308 2400

**Trade Division, Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry:**

Mr Frazer Murray, [Frazer.Murray@dc.gov.pg](mailto:Frazer.Murray@dc.gov.pg)

*The European Union (EU) is represented by the Delegation of the EU to Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, headed by HE Ioannis Giogkarakis-Argyropoulos, Ambassador. The European Union has 28 Member States of which France and the UK are represented in PNG. Visit the EU Delegation website: [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/papua\\_new\\_guinea/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/papua_new_guinea/index_en.htm)*