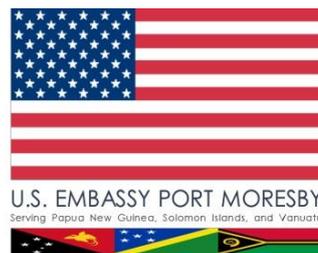




## ***2019 PNG Women's Forum***

***Empowering Through Partnerships***  
***Kisim Strong lo Wok Bung***

**November 6-7, 2019**  
**The Hilton Hotel Port Moresby**  
**Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**





# *Papua New Guinea*

## **WOMEN'S FORUM 2019**

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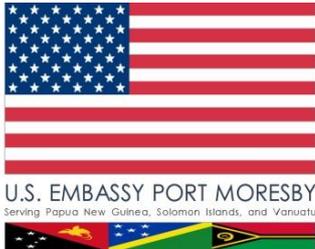
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## **Welcome Letter**

- *2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum*

**U.S. Embassy Port Moresby**



Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> Women's Forum in Papua New Guinea. Along with our friends at the Department of Community Development and at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the United States Embassy in Port Moresby is proud to sponsor this uniquely important event.

In previous years, we learned of each other's efforts to improve women's access to capital and markets, to build women's capacities and skills, and to support the rise of women leaders in both the public and private sectors. This year's Forum will build on previous years by exploring "Empowering Through Partnerships." How can we take our efforts to higher levels of success, and achieve greater levels of impact, by learning from each other and networking with each other? These are the questions we should be asking ourselves over the course of this event.

The United States prioritizes the support of women's empowerment in countries across the APEC region because it is so critical to sustainable, inclusive growth. Through initiatives by our partners such as the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and many others in attendance, we are truly democratizing opportunity, especially economic opportunity, here in Papua New Guinea.

To democratize growth, we must unlock a vital source of growth that can power our economies into the future. And that vital source of growth is women. By enabling women to fully and fairly engage in commerce, government and civic life, we can have a transformative impact on the competitiveness and growth of our communities. Because when everyone has a chance to participate in the political and economic life of a nation, we can all be richer, and the gap between developed and developing countries will narrow.

Thank you for all that you do to help us realize this better tomorrow, for everyone.

**Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray**

US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands,  
Vanuatu





## Welcome Letter

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

Center for International and Private Enterprise



# Center for International Private Enterprise

## Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> PNG Women's Forum

On behalf of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> *PNG Women's Forum*, made possible by the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby. It is CIPE's distinct privilege to host this year's Forum, which plays an indispensable role in empowering women and girls in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

CIPE is an international NGO with programs in nearly 100 countries. We at CIPE believe that gender equality is critical to our shared goals of prosperity, peace, and democracy. Women's economic empowerment is among CIPE's top strategic priorities around the world, alongside combatting corruption, facilitating trade, and supporting democratic governance. CIPE has worked in Papua New Guinea since 2013 to create an ecosystem that encourages, enables and incentivizes women's entrepreneurship. This involves groundbreaking work on entrepreneurship curriculum at universities, women's policy advocacy, and the creation of the *Women's Business Resource Center*.

CIPE is one of many organizations implementing innovative programs that are impacting the lives of women and girls in Papua New Guinea and in the region. The *PNG Women's Forum* provides a unique platform for practitioners to learn from each other's work, to pursue partnership opportunities, and for policymakers to understand what works and what doesn't. We are all grateful to our sponsors for creating this platform and making this possible.

From all of us at CIPE, have a wonderful Forum!

### **Abdulwahab Alkebsi**

Managing Director of Programs

Center for International and Private Enterprise





## Program Schedule

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### Wednesday, November 6

- 8:00-9:00**      **Registration**
- 9:00-9:25**      **Opening Remarks**  
Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray, U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu  
Honorable James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (*tbc*)
- 9:25-10:50**    **Session 1: Women's Political Leadership & Participation**
- 10:50-11:05**   **Coffee Break**
- 11:05-12:30**   **Session 2: Gender-Based Violence & Women's Rights**
- 12:30-14:00**   **Luncheon**  
Discussion with Ambassador Ebert-Gray: Women of Courage from the Region
- 14:00-15:15**   **Session 3: Men's Voices in Women's Empowerment**
- 15:15-15:30**   **Coffee Break**
- 15:30-17:30**   **Session 4: Breakout Working Groups on Measuring Women's Empowerment**
- 18:00~**        **Dinner** *courtesy of ExxonMobil*

### Thursday, November 7

- 9:00-9:15**      **Day 2 Opening Remarks**
- 9:15-10:30**    **Session 5: Business Case for Increasing Women's Participation in the PNG Economy**
- 10:30-10:45**   **Coffee Break**
- 10:45-12:00**   **Session 6: PNG Women Partnering for Tech Entrepreneurship**
- 12:00-13:30**   **Luncheon**  
Keynote: Mr. Joel Maybury, Acting Director, The Office of the Secretary's Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State
- 13:30-15:00**   **Session 7: Breakout Groups on Access to Finance & Access to Markets**  
Breakout Group A: Financial Inclusion & Alternative Financing  
Breakout Group B: Private Sector Perspectives on Access to Markets
- 15:00-15:15**   **Coffee Break**
- 15:15-16:45**   **Session 8: Partnering for Local Recommendations for Women's Empowerment in PNG**
- 16:45**         **Closing Remarks**
- 17:00**         **Cocktail hour** *courtesy of Pacifika Women Network*



## Detailed Program

### Day 1: Women's Political Empowerment

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

#### Registration

8:00am - 9:00am

#### Opening Remarks

9:00am - 9:25am

*Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray*, U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

*Honorable James Marape*, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea\*

*Mr. Abdulwahab Alkebsi*, Managing Director of Programs, Center for International and Private Enterprise

#### Session 1: Women's Political Leadership & Participation

9:25am - 10:50am

Women's participation in politics helps advance gender equality and affects both the range of policy issues that get considered and the types of solutions that are proposed. At the same time, women's political participation does not mean that every woman must run for an elected office, but women can participate in policy discussion without being a part of the government. This session will discuss the importance of women's participation in politics, present best practices in women's participation in policy advocacy, and identify linkages between women's political empowerment and women's economic empowerment.

Moderator: *Mr. Joel Maybury*, Acting Director, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Panelists: *Dame Carol Kidu*, former Parliamentarian and former Minister for Community Development

*Ms. Carol Yawing*, Former Ward 2 Councilor, Lae Urban LLG, Morobe Province

*Ms. Dulciana Somare-Brash*, Ministerial Advisor, National Planning & Monitoring Minister's Office

*Mr. Eric Kuman*, Manager Program Services, Ok Tedi Development Foundation

#### Coffee Break

10:50am - 11:05am

#### Session 2: Gender-Based Violence & Women's Rights

11:05am - 12:30pm

While many stakeholders are working to change the norms and to provide direct services around gender-based violence, the prevalence of the issue continues to be a challenge in PNG. This session will explore recent developments and response to GBV in PNG, the economic cost of GBV, the private sector's role in combatting GBV, and women's legal rights including under the Family Protection Act 2013.

Moderator: *Ms. Mirriam Dogimab*, Deputy Country Manager, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Support Unit

Panelists: *Ms. Danielle Winfrey*, Bel Isi Project Program Manager, Oil Search Foundation

*Ms. Evonne Kennedy*, Executive Officer, Business Coalition for Women

*Ms. Kari Poawai*, District Court Magistrate, Family and Juvenile Court, Port Moresby

*Ms. Linda Tule (Rau)*, Founder & President, Human Rights Defenders Association of Papua

New Guinea

*Dr. Valerie Judith Atkinson*, Patron, We Al-li Pty Ltd.

## **Luncheon**

**12:30pm - 2:00pm**

Discussion with Ambassador Ebert-Gray: Women of Courage from the Region

*Ms. Ethel Falu Sigimanu*, 2019 Women of Courage Awardee

*Ms. Julie Job Neven*, 2019 Women of Courage Awardee

*Ms. Nikita Patricia Taiwia*, 2019 Women of Courage Awardee

## **Session 3: Men's Voices in Women's Empowerment**

**2:00pm - 3:15pm**

The inclusion of men is a critical important factor in women's empowerment efforts. This session will explore best practices and lessons learned in successfully including men in development projects for women.

Moderator: *Mr. Douveri Henao*, Chairman of the Board, Digicel Foundation

Panelists: *Mr. Fredrick Tamarua*, Principal Legal Officer, Office of the State Solicitor, Dept. of Justice and Attorney General

*Ms. Julianne Sapaka*, Corporate Manager, ABG Department of Police, Corrective Services and Justice, Chair of the Bougainville Justice Women's Advisory Committee

*Ms. Susan Ferguson*, PNG Country Director, UN Women

*Mr. Umba Peter*, Male Advocate, Kafe Urban Settlers' Women's Association

## **Coffee Break**

**3:15pm - 3:30pm**

## **Session 4: Breakout Groups on Measuring Women's Empowerment**

**3:30pm - 5:30pm**

During this session, Forum participants will break out into several working groups to learn and conduct exercises on how to measure and evaluate women's empowerment initiatives. Each working group will be led by an experienced facilitator and focus on a specific impact measurement tool for gender initiatives.

*Special thanks to IWDA and Oxfam for their support*

Facilitators: *Ms. Heather Vanua*, Pacific Adventist University

*Dr. Julie Felker*, William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan

*Dr. Lalen Simeon*, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Pacific Adventist University

Feature Toolkits: Gender and economy in Melanesian communities (IWDA)

Do No Harm (IWDA)

A Guide "How To" Measure Women's Empowerment (Oxfam)

## **Official Opening Dinner**

**6:00pm ~**

*Courtesy of ExxonMobil PNG Ltd*



## Detailed Program

### Day 2: Women's Economic Empowerment

**Thursday, November 7, 2019**

#### **Day 2 Opening Remarks**

**9:00am - 9:15am**

#### **Session 5: Business Case for Increasing Women's Participation in the PNG Economy**

**9:15am - 10:30am**

Studies have shown that increased participation of women in the economy boosts growth and promotes economic stability. This session will delve into the study conducted by the Australian government Economic Governance and Inclusive Growth team on highlighting the potential growth in PNG when women are more involved.

Moderator: *Ms. Susil Nelson-Kongoi*, Public Policy and Issues Manager, ExxonMobil PNG Ltd.

Panelists: *Ms. Avia Koisen*, President & CEO, PNG Women's Chamber of Commerce

*Dr. Chakriya Bowman*, Economics Counsellor, Australian High Commission Port Moresby

*Ms. Dodi Doiwa*, Program Officer - Social Development, World Bank

*Ms. Ruth Undi*, Founder, Pacifika Womens Network

#### **Coffee Break**

**10:30am - 10:45am**

#### **Session 6: PNG Women Partnering for Tech Entrepreneurship**

**10:45am - 12:00pm**

Technology is a powerful tool that allows for connectivity beyond geographic confines. Opportunities in the digital economy have enabled women entrepreneurs to overcome market barriers and diversify income sources. While a digital gender divide remains, a growing number of women entrepreneurs have delved into tech entrepreneurship, utilizing their businesses to create products that address these challenges. This session will be dedicated to discussing creative tech solutions to empower women in PNG.

Moderator: *Ms. Jane Ravusiro*, Senior Program Manager, Inclusive Economic Empowerment, Abt Associates

Panelists: *Ms. Jennifer Casto*, Regional Policy Advisor, East Asia and the Pacific, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

*Ms. Mollina Mercy Kapal*, Principal Projects Engineer, National Information & Communications Technology Authority

*Ms. Priscilla Kevin*, Director, In4Net Limited

*Ms. Rebekah Ilave*, Chief Operations Officer, Niunet PNG

#### **Luncheon**

**12:00pm - 1:30pm**

Keynote Address: *Mr. Joel Maybury*, Acting Director, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

## **Session 7: Breakout Groups on Access to Finance & Access to Markets 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

### **Breakout Group A: Financial Inclusion and Alternative Financing**

The fast-growing segment of women entrepreneurs has surpassed the speed at which the formal banking system in PNG is able to effectively reach the population. In addition, the lack of alternative financing options for startups and microenterprises, such as crowdfunding, angel investment and micro venture capital, further reinforces the barriers to success for women entrepreneurs. This session will discuss best practices for financial institutions in serving women-owned enterprises, as well as analyze the necessary enabling ecosystem (government regulation, technology, entrepreneurial culture, community engagement, etc.) for a successful financing system in PNG.

Moderator: *Ms. Sara Curley*, Program Analyst, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Panelists: *Ms. Durida Sisire*, Senior Program Officer, Coffee Industry Support Project, Care International PNG

*Mr. Gunanidhi Das*, CEO, PNG Women's Micro Bank

*Ms. Nuni Kulu*, General Manager Digital, Bank of South Pacific

*Mr. Peter Aitsi*, Group CEO, Credit Corporation PNG

### **Breakout Group B: Private Sector Perspectives on Access to Markets**

Access to markets is one of the top challenges facing women-owned businesses throughout the world, including in PNG. This session will explore various ways to expand market opportunities for women-owned businesses by examining topics such as public and private procurement, supply chain readiness, and import-export opportunities for women-owned businesses.

Moderator: *Ms. Akae Beach*, Director, Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Panelists: *Ms. Lesieli Tavieri*, CEO, Origin Energy

*Mr. Douveri Henao*, Board Member, Business Council of PNG

*Ms. Sisa Kini*, Community Development Support & National Content Manager, ExxonMobil PNG Ltd

*Ms. Alisi Tuqa*, CEO, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Fiji

## **Coffee Break**

**3:00pm - 3:15pm**

## **Session 8: Partnering for Local Recommendations for Women's Empowerment in PNG**

**3:15pm - 4:45pm**

Learning from other best practices and lessons learned can be a powerful process. This series of group discussions will allow participants to collaboratively share ideas and produce recommendations on a variety of issues. Community leaders working within Papua New Guinean development areas will facilitate thematic discussions at each table. Each table is suggested to come up with 4 recommendations

## **Closing Remarks**

**4:45pm - 5:00pm**

## **Official Closing Cocktail Hour**

**5:00pm ~**

*Courtesy of Pacifika Women Network*



## ***Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography***

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### **Session 1: Women's Political Leadership & Participation**

#### **Mr. Joel Maybury**

Acting Director, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Joel Maybury is the Acting Director of the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues. Prior to this position, he served as the Deputy Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and has served in that capacity since 2017. He oversaw that office's international programs team (foreign assistance) and resource management and planning team.

Previously he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Port Moresby; Deputy Chief of Mission in Bangui; Principal Officer at the American Presence Post in Bordeaux, France; Chargé and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Public Affairs Officer in Khartoum; Political Counselor in Abu Dhabi; Algeria Desk Officer; Political and Consular Officer in Lomé; and Political and Consular Officer in Djibouti.

Mr. Maybury attended the Eisenhower School where he received an M.S. in National Resource Strategy. He has received the Secretary's Award for Public Outreach and numerous Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards. He has a B.A. in International Relations and French Literature from the University of California at Davis. He speaks fluent French and learned Arabic at FSI. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he worked as a newspaper reporter principally in Northern California. Mr. Maybury is married and has four children.



#### **Dame Carol Kidu**

Former Parliamentarian and Former Minister for Community Development

Dame Carol Kidu, a teacher by profession, was a Member of Parliament in Papua New Guinea for 15 years, of which 9 years was as Minister for Community Development. Dame Kidu has served on a variety of regional and global bodies since retiring from politics and is presently a member of the UNSG's Independent Accountability Panel on Health for Women, Children and Adolescents. She continues to share her expertise through various short consultancies facilitating training for women in political leadership and intending candidates.



**Ms. Carol Yawing**

Former Ward 2 Councilor in Lae Urban LLG, Morobe Province

Carol Yawing is a former Ward 2 Councilor for Lae Urban and also Deputy Mayor. She was in that role from 2013 until 2019, when she was challenged by 17 men and lost. During her term, she served the community delivering a health clinic, staff house, spuce fence, solar lights for the playing field and ward office area, training programs for women and youth, beutification programs and financial trainings for SMEs, among others. Prior to the 2013 LLG elections, se volunteered as a Law and Order Communittee for six years and was also employed by Telikam PNG Ltd for 25 years. She is currently a PHA board member, member for Lae Tourism Bureau, among other organizations.

**Ms. Dulciana Somare-Brash**

Ministerial Advisor, National Planning & Monitoring Minister’s Office

Dulciana Somare-Brash has over 20 years development experience. She is currently a senior political advisor within PNG’s National Planning & Monitoring Ministry. From 2017 Dulciana was one of Pangu Pati’s key strategic policy advisors in the lead up to the success of that political party in the 2017 general elections. She contested the 2017 national elections in the East Sepik Regional seat coming in at 4<sup>th</sup> place in an almost all male contest. Dulciana is a consulting technical advisor to the ADB in PNG on environmental & social safe guard policies and more recently an independent evaluation mission to revalidate ADB’s overall country strategy for PNG. She is an experienced technical advisor to the Mumeng LLG in the Bulolo District, Morobe Province. This gives her proximity to key sub-national, fiscal and socio-economic issues in major extractive projects such as Wafi-Golpu and the smaller Hidden Valley gold and copper mines. She is focused on customary land and resettlement issues for development in other major extractive projects in PNG. Dulciana is a key policy interlocutor between national politicians and key private sector leaders, development partners and civil society. Dulciana’s was once an ABC/Radio Australia journalist and the Deputy Executive Director of the Pacific Institute of Public Policy a regional public policy think tank. She has an innate understanding of sub-national experiences in reform, policy and legislation. She is a trained political scientist with a legal background. Dulciana is a wife and mother of two daughters.



**Mr. Eric Kuman**

Manager Program Services, Ok Tedi Development Foundation

As Manager of Program Services at the Ok Tedi Development Foundation, Mr. Erick Kuman is in charge of Community Development, Business Development, Education Services and Health Services. Mr. Kuman has a Master of Leadership in Business Administration (*DWU*), Bachelor of Science Degree (*UNITECH*), Diploma in Law of HR Practices (*PNGHRI*), Diploma in HR Management(*DWU*), and Diploma in Management(*Barrier Reef TAFE, Australia*). He is a Board Member of *Middle Fly Investment Limited*, Director of *Middle Fly Development Trust*, Director of *Women Investment Companies(4x)*, Director of *Tutuwe Tene Limited*, Director of

Nupmo Holdings, Chairman of Zibo Zonga Fisheries, and an Elder of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.



## **Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography**

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### **Session 2: Gender-Based Violence & Women's Rights**



#### **Ms. Mirriam Dogimab**

Deputy Country Manager, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Support Unit

Mirriam Dogimab is the deputy country manager for Pacific Women Support Unit. She has experience in gender, gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, civil society and government engagement and has been working in development for over 12 years. She has a master's degree in Philosophy from Massey University, New Zealand.

#### **Ms. Danielle Winfrey**

Bel Isi Project Program Manager, Oil Search Foundation

Ms Winfrey is the program manager for Bel isi PNG, a public-private partnership to address family and sexual violence (FSV) which is managed by Oil Search Foundation on behalf of all partners and subscribers. More information on Bel isi PNG can be viewed at the following website: [www.belisipng.org.pg](http://www.belisipng.org.pg).

Ms Winfrey began her career as a gender specialist with the United Nations where she was employed for 8 years before crossing into the private sector with her skill set. While with the United Nations Ms Winfrey was the UN Gender Coordinator responsible for ensuring gender was mainstreamed into strategic plans, annual work plans and M&E plans. Ms Winfrey was also part of the UN technical group that assisted GoPNG to localise the Sustainable Development Goals into the GoPNG Medium Development Plan 3 as well as ensure gender indicators were captured.

Ms Winfrey is passionate about ensuring Papua New Guineans are given equal rights and opportunities to better their lives. The empowerment and protection of vulnerable groups remains is what motivates and inspires her not only in her career but her personal life as well.



## **Ms. Evonne Kennedy**

Executive Officer, Business Coalition for Women

Evonne Kennedy is the Executive Officer for the Business Coalition for Women. She has an international and community development background, with over 16 years of experience working in the not-for-profit sector. The Business Coalition for Women helps PNG's private sector to recruit, retain, develop, and promote women – as employees, leaders, customers and business partners. Member organisations have exclusive access to relevant and practical tools, model policies, good practices, case studies and other resources to help them make the most of their female talent, while promoting more opportunities for women's economic empowerment and career development.



## **Ms. Kari Poawai**

District Court Magistrate, Family and Juvenile Court, Port Moresby

Ms. Kari Poawai is a District Court Magistrate with the Magisterial Services of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. Ms. Poawai, originally from Central Province, specializes in industrial relations, alternative dispute resolution, management and leadership. She is a graduate of the University of Papua New Guinea, and a provisionally accredited mediator. She currently is a serving magistrate in the Family & Juvenile Court in Port Moresby.

## **Ms. Linda Tule (Rau)**

Founder and President, Human Rights Defenders Association of Papua New Guinea

Linda Tule (Rau) is the Founder and President for Human Rights Defenders Association of Papua New Guinea and also the Chairlady/Magistrate for Waigani/Ensis Village Court. Village Courts have become an important part of Papua New Guinea Legal System and the Government has acknowledged and recognised its work. Linda is a mother of 8 children and 15 grandchildren. This tells a story of an experienced person who has been involved in the community for more than 20 years. In several sectors such the Church as a former Parish Pastoral Council Member of St. John's Catholic Parish, Tokarara, Education sector as Board Member of 2 schools in Tokarara and June Valley suburb and in addition Health sector in Tokarara Urban Clinic in social mobilization activities for the Supplementary Immunization programs and Malaria Programs. Founded the women's group at Ward level and Youth program as Team Leader for NCDC Urban Youth Employment Program which was co-funded by World Bank. All of these programs were implemented in her community at Tokarara, Ward 8 in the Moresby North West Electorate in NCD.



Linda has 17 years up her sleeve and working in Village Courts has being longest service provided. In the Law & Order which is her greatest strength in understanding human behaviour especially during weekly village court sitting, mediations and decision making. Because that is where she spent most of her time and understands people deriving from different levels, diverse ethnic groups who come from all walks of live. A woman leader who ensures that woman and girls seeking justice at Waigani/Ensisi Village Court gets the assistance they need.



**Dr. Valerie Judith Atkinson**  
Patron, We Al-li Pty Ltd.

Dr. Valerie Judith Atkinson, known as Judy, is a Jiman Bundjalung women, whose work is in the area of violence and relational trauma, and healing for Indigenous, and indeed all peoples. She was awarded the Carrick (Neville Bonner) Award in 2006 for her Innovative Curriculum Development and Teaching Practice, and in 2011 the Fritz Redlich award for Mental Health and Human Rights from the Harvard University Global Mental Health Trauma and Recovery program of which she is a graduate. Judy retired at the end of 2010, so she can focus on community based violence-trauma educational healing work, what she calls *educaring*, in Australia and Papua New Guinea.



## ***Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography***

- *2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum*

**Discussion with Ambassador Ebert-Gray:  
Women of Courage from the Region**

### **Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray**

US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray is a Minister-Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service. She was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on January 22, 2016. Between 2011 and 2015 she served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Logistics Management and Co-Chair of the Defense – State Executive Steering Group supporting the transitions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her global division annually managed \$7 billion in State Department acquisition in addition to oversight of the Department's global supply chain.





**Ms. Ethel Falu Sigimanu,**  
2019 Women of Courage Awardee

Ethel Falu Sigimanu was the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs in the Solomon Islands Government until July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. During her 33 years of public service, she has served in a variety of ministries, including the Ministry of Women, Youth, and Sports, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation & Peace, and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, among others. In her role as Permanent Secretary, she provided leadership in the development of the first National Policy on Gender Equality and Women’s Development, the first National Policy on Eliminating Violence against Women, and the first National Strategy for Economic Empowerment of

Women and Girls, the development of the first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, among others.

Ethel has also been engaged with local NGOs as the former Chair of the Family Support Centre (provides counseling, case management & community education), and the former Chair of Vois Blo Mere Solomon (Women’s communication network). She has also been involved in other regional and international engagements on gender and human rights, including as Board Member of the SPC Regional Rights Resource Team, former Member of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Reference Group (SGBRG) set up by PIFS, former member of Asia/Pacific Task force on Women, Peace and Security, and Head of SI Delegation to the constructive dialogue with the UN CEDAW Committee.

**Ms. Julie Job Neven**  
2019 Women of Courage Awardee

Julie a single mother, nursing officer and community health worker for 26 years in rural areas of Enga province in Papua New Guinea. She graduated at the University of Papua New Guinea with a bachelor’s degree in Community Health Nursing Management.



Julie lives in a place where there is poor road connections, lack of basic health services and common to tribal fights. Because of tribal fights, very basic health services to her people were very limited or none provided. Seeing this, Julie quit her job with an NGO organization and turned her own home into clinic called JUL’s Care & Serve Clinic. Her home has been a clinic for the last two years and helps people who cannot travel afar for medical assistances, assist people living with HIV/AIDs, other sexually transmitted diseases and survivors of Gender Based Violence. She uses her own money to buy drug supplies, IV’s, injections and other clinical equipment’s needed at her clinic. She supports sick people with critical conditions that need oxygen, she stabilizes them and refer them to other hospitals for further treatments.

By opening the clinic, she has support many community members by providing health care as well as creating jobs for them, she employs nurses, securities, cleaners and carpenters. With no help from any institutions, under her Community Caring and Serving Association she took in people living with HIV/AIDs and orphans to care for them. She built 14 fish ponds to breed fish so she can feed the people living with HIV/AIDs and orphans.

She’s risk her life working in rural areas supporting vulnerable people in a rural based community where tribal fights is very common and disastrous for community members. Julie believes that an empowered

community is one where individuals apply their skills and resources in collective efforts to meet their respective needs. Community participation provides support for each other, addresses conflicts within the community. Besides from motivating and educating, community health workers deliver a wide range of interventions in the areas of nutrition, maternal and child health, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS preventions and others.



**Ms. Nikita Patricia Taiwia**  
2019 Women of Courage Awardee

Nikita Patricia Taiwia is a program manager with Israaid Vanuatu and the CEO and founder of Strongfiuja. She began taking children and women survivors of abuse into her home in 2014 when two very young girls disclosed the years of sexual abuse they had endured within their families. Nikita provided all essential needs initially with her own savings and income. She later secured sponsors to support the education and rehabilitation needs for those in her care. Since 2018 Nikita worked with a board and founded Strong Fiuja Association to continue to support the work she does. This year Nikita was awarded the US Embassy Port Moresby's Woman of Courage. Nikita risks her life and has encountered many threats to her safety for supporting

women and children survivors of abuse. Nikita is mostly focused on case management on a social level and plans to expand this work in Vanuatu.



## ***Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography***

*- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum*

### **Session 3: Men's Voices in Women's Empowerment**



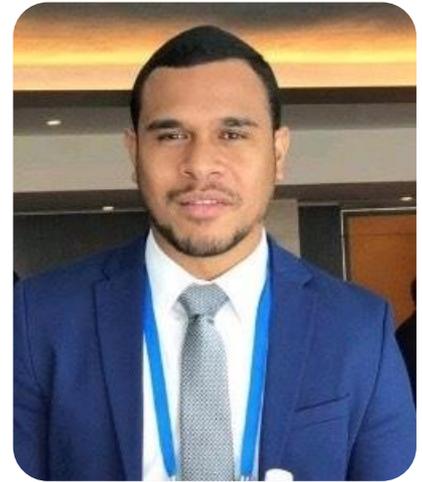
**Mr. Douveri Henao**  
Chairman of the Board, Digicel Foundation

Douveri Henao is the Executive Director for the Business Council of Papua New Guinea. He has a vast experience in developing policies and legal frameworks. Douveri has also provided assistance to the Department of Health, Provincial and Local Government, Planning & Treasury, Civil Law Divisions, PNG Department of Justice & Attorney General, State Solicitors International Law Division, University of Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and other regulatory bodies in drafting policies, legal frameworks, international trade negotiations, intellectual property rights and general advising. Mr. Henao also serves as a Director on

both Mineral Resource Authority (MRA) and Road Traffic Authority Board and is the Chairman for PNG Digicel Foundation. Douveri has an undergraduate degree in Law at the University of Papua New Guinea.

**Mr. Fredrick Tamarua**

Principal Legal Officer, Office of the State Solicitor,  
Department of Justice and Attorney General



Fredrick Tamarua is a Lawyer specialized in International Trade and Investment Law and Human Rights and is currently employed by the PNG Department of Justice & Attorney General. He is a Principal Legal Officer within the International Law Division and manages matters on international trade and investment, and human rights. He has been involved in Trade Negotiations as part of the PNG State Team, and has a particularly interested in understanding the benefits and mechanics behind the inclusion of gender chapters in Free Trade Agreements and Investment Agreements.

He has been actively involved in efforts in PNG to advance women’s rights through domestic implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other international human rights instruments. Much of this work has been on promoting Women’s Economic Rights, participation in Global Value and Supply Chains, Women Owned MSME’s, and Gender and Employment.

Fredrick has tertiary education from the University of Papua New Guinea and post-graduate education from the University of Adelaide in Law and International Trade respectively. He was the Chair of APEC’s Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy during PNG’s host year in 2018, and during his chairmanship was responsible for leveraging private sector and government collaboration in PNG to drive the important agenda of Gender Inclusion and Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region. He has also been the lead in other important APEC fora focusing on the resource sectors, trade and investment, anti-corruption, and legal and regulatory reform.

Fredrick has been acting as the Deputy State Solicitor for International Law since the beginning of 2019, and continues to promote the idea.



**Ms. Julianne Sapaka**

Corporate Manager, ABG Department of Police, Corrective Services and Justice

Chairperson, Bougainville Justice Women’s Advisory Committee

Julianne Sapaka is a strong advocate for women’s empowerment in Bougainville, and a champion in bridging the gender inequality gap in the public sector.

As the Chair of the Bougainville Justice Women’s Advisory Committee, Julianne has been instrumental in improving the leadership role women play in the Bougainville law and justice services. Julianne is working to develop inclusive innovative initiatives that target both women and men, in aim of addressing gender inequity issues present in many public service agencies.

## **Ms. Susan Ferguson**

Country Representative PNG, UN Women

Susan Ferguson joined the United Nations in 2017, after a long career in international development. She has lived and worked in South Africa, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, where she has lived for 12 years. Ms Ferguson has experience working in grass roots development agencies; establishing and managing social services; working within Local, State and Federal Government in Australia on social policy and social programmes. Her diverse career is spanned by the themes of gender equality and social justice. Ms Ferguson is a development practitioner and is proud to have joined UN Women, working to achieve the mandate of equality for women and girls. She has a Master's degree of International and Community Development and has four girls. She wants them to grow up in a just world where their contributions are valued and respected.



## **Mr. Umba Peter**

Male Advocate, Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association

Umba Peter is an advocate for women's rights with the Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association in Goroka in the Eastern Highlands Province. His personal journey, from active participant in sorcery accusation related violence to a fierce advocate speaking out about the impact of sorcery accusations, has made Umba an important male voice for women's rights. Since his turning point, he has learned about human rights and now advocates for the value of human life.



## Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### Session 4: Breakout Working Groups on Measuring Women's Empowerment



#### **Ms. Heather Vanua**

Lecturer, Pacific Adventist University

Heather Vanua currently works as a lecturer at the school of Business at Pacific Adventist University since 2013. Heather obtained her Master of Science in Administration – Emphasis is Management through with Adventist International Institute of Advance Studies in 2017. Heather has a keen interest in financial literacy. This year 2019, under her leadership, the School of Business lecturers were able to publish a games-based approach manual for teaching financial literacy. This manual is now available for trainers in Papua New Guinea to use in conducting financial literacy in the rural communities

in Papua New Guinea. She is in the process of conducting a qualitative study on Successes factors of Women Entrepreneurs in Papua New Guinea. This study is inspired by her work as a Financial Literacy trainer.



#### **Dr. Julie Felker**

William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan

Julie Felker is a faculty affiliate and senior consultant to the William Davidson Institute and a Professor of Human Resource Management at the Zagreb School of Economics and Management.

She develops and delivers management education programs and provides technical assistance in developing countries, most recently in Algeria, Bahrain, Rwanda, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. She has worked with women micro-business owners in Rwanda, a global initiative funded by the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

Dr. Felker spent 15 years as senior academic leader in the College of Business at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, including

positions as senior associate dean and interim dean. She teaches a variety of management courses including Strategic Talent Management, Human Resource Management, Organizational Behavior, Leadership, International HRM, Change Management, and Management Skills. Her research interests include global mobility of professional workers, international recruitment, organizational change in developing economies, and comparative human resource management. Dr. Felker is Professor of Human Resource Management at the Zagreb School of Economics and Management, and a visiting scholar at the Stockholm School of Economics-Riga, University of Padova, Italy, and ESAN Graduate School of Business Administration, Lima, Peru.

## **Dr. Lalen Simeon**

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Pacific Adventist University

Teacher by profession and worked as a lecturer at the tertiary level for 16 years. Served as the Director for Research and Post Graduate studies for 10 years at Pacific Adventist University. In terms of research, I was involved in conducting collaborative research projects with international and national researchers in the following areas; Papua New Guinea History and the second world war, Family Farm Team, Youth Leadership and Financial Literacy. My favourite part of any research project I am engaged in is to see the positive impact of the project on village people.



## ***Speak/Panelist/Faciliator's Biography***

- *2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum*

### **Session 5: Business Case for Increasing Women's Participation in the PNG Economy**



## **Ms. Susil Nelson-Kongoi**

Public Policy and Issues Manager, ExxonMobil PNG Ltd.

Susil works as a senior executive with ExxonMobil PNG as Public Policy & Issues Manager responsible for external relations. She has over 15 years' experience in the development and professional services sector. Her experience covers a wide range of roles including financial auditing & advisory services, strategic business planning, project management, monitoring & evaluation and public policy advocacy.

Susil is the current Vice President (International) of the Business Council of PNG an organisation that represents the private sector in PNG across all sectors, promoting the importance and role of economic growth, freedom and enterprise. Susil is also the Chair of The Incentive Fund, a PNG-Australia Partnership initiative, providing high-performing organisations with grants to improve service delivery and/or provide economic opportunities for the people of PNG.

She is also involved with various non-profit organisations. Susil is an active member of the Business and Professional Women's Association, focusing on building a strong network for women and supporting educational opportunities for women and girls in PNG. Her other roles include Honorary Treasurer on the Board of Coalition For Change, which is a local organization dedicated to achieving cultural change in PNG, where violence especially spousal violence and violence against children is not tolerated and the rights of women and children are respected. Susil has a Bachelor of Commerce degree, from Canterbury University, New Zealand. She also holds a Masters of Business Administration from Divine Word University, Papua New Guinea.





### **Ms. Avia Koisen**

**President & CEO, PNG Women's Chamber of Commerce**

Avia started off her career humbly as a registered nurse graduating from the Port Moresby School of Nursing in 1980. She was encouraged by her high school teachers and tutors in nursing school to go further with a university degree in law. Avia also now holds a Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of Papua New Guinea and a Masters in Law from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia. She is admitted to practise in the National and Supreme Courts of PNG and has since been legal Counsel since 1991.

Avia Koisen is now the principal of Koisen Lawyers having over 29 years of legal experience. Ms. Koisen's law practice engages in Banking Advice and Finance, General Litigation, Commercial Law, Property Law, Family law, and drafting Legislation.

Avia has served as the inaugural and founding President of the PNG Australia Alumni Association from 2006 to 2009. During her term as founding President of the PNGAAA she was appointed by the NEC to be the team leader of the consulting team that drafted the framework of VISION 2050. She was later reappointed by NEC to be a member of the taskforce that drafted the Vision 2050. Then in 2011 she was appointed by the NEC to be a member of the Legislative Working Group to draft the Equality and Participation Bill for the 22 Reserve seats in Parliament. During this tenure she was also engaged by NEC to draft and amend the Organic Law on election and amend the Constitution to allow for the separation and separation of boundaries for Hela and Jiwaka Provinces.

Avia is also currently President of the Papua New Guinea Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PNGWCCI). She is currently a director on the Kumul Telekom Holdings Limited Board and Director on the board of the brand new Western Pacific University.

### **Dr. Chakriya Bowman**

**Economics Counsellor, Australian High Commission Port Moresby**

Chakriya Bowman is the Counsellor, Economics at the Australian High Commission Port Moresby. She has over 15 years experience working with Pacific island countries, representing both the Australian Government and Pacific countries during her time as Director at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. She has extensive experience in regional trade, economics, private sector development, investment, women's economic empowerment, innovation and labour mobility.





**Ms. Dodi Doiwa**  
Program Officer - Social Development, World Bank

Joined the World Bank in PNG in varying capacities since 2004, and more recently have moved into Social Development unit supporting the social operations in PNG and portfolio wide social risk management. Prior to her current role as program officer, Dodi worked in Country Management Unit operations and implementation support, initially focused on PNG but then through cross support opportunities she worked in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

Dodi has enjoyed the opportunity of working with different sections of the Bank, as well as more cross cutting initiatives such as the PNG Development Marketplace Competitions in 2006 and 2008. Across all roles, she has worked with a variety of stakeholders from community groups to donor partners and government agencies at all levels, and of course with people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Given her strong interest in the social and community focused aspects of development she was fortunate to be able negotiate her work to focus predominantly on projects within the sustainable development space, including Urban Youth Employment Project, Rural Service Delivery Project, Tourism Sector Development Project and the Inclusive Development in post Conflict Bougainville project, which I have recently taken on as Co-Technical Team Leader.

Beyond PNG she has supported the Increasing Resilience in Climate Change and Hazards Projects in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, with specific focus to support task team with EU verification, and trust fund related compliance. All of these projects have given her the opportunity to understand the spectrum of development priorities.

Dodi has a strong belief in community owned and driven development, as well as projects that focus specifically on more vulnerable groups in the community, and feels privileged to have the opportunity to work in these areas and to be a Papua New Guinean woman!

**Ms. Ruth Undi**  
Founder, Pacifika Womens Network



Mrs. Ruth Undi is a Business Owner, Entrepreneur and Managing Director of three successful companies, and two women group organizations in Papua New Guinea.

**In 2005** Ruth and her husband Roxon Undi started Kana Group of companies in Tabubil, Western Province. **In 2011** Mrs. Undi invested and started Southern Cross Assurance Limited Company, a 100% PNG owned insurance company and is or may be the first women in PNG to own an insurance company. **In 2013** Mrs. Undi became the first women in the Pacific and PNG to receive and own a Civil Aviation Service Authority (CASA) License when she started Niugini Aviation Company. **In 2016** Mrs. Undi invested 1 million into Mama Halipim Mama Foundation to assist more than 30, 000 mothers in the eastern end of Southern Highlands Province – Ialibu/ Pangia, Imbbonggu, Kagua/Erave and Tambul/ Nebilyer in the Western Highlands Province.

**In August 2018**, she secured a contract with City Pharmacy Limited (CPL), and provided a business opportunity for her 30, 000 mothers to supply fresh vegetable to be sold at the biggest retail company in PNG, Stop N Shop. Ruth using her plane to airlift the first supply of vegetables, while a container of garden produce is now sold weekly at the Stop N Shop supermarkets in NCD.

The same year, Mrs. Undi started the Pacifika Women Network and invested more than K200, 000 into rebuilding and refurbishing of the old Women In Business Trade Centre at the Waigani Steamships compound. Today 80 businesswomen and entrepreneurs are trading and doing business at the Pacifika Women Network Trade Centre. Most of these businesswomen are in the Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSME), PNG made Fashion & Design and Textile Industries, Arts & Crafts, Health & Beauty and Food Catering. Signature products and dishes are now available to be show cased to tourists and locals.

Ruth Undis' vision is to create connectivity among all women in the Pacific so there is networking and sharing of information amongst business women. Pacifika Women Network Trade Centre is a center for business women to use as their platform so they are able to network to trade within the region.



## **Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography**

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### **Session 6: PNG Women Partnering for Tech Entrepreneurship**

#### **Ms. Jane Ravusiro**

Senior Program Manager, Inclusive Economic Empowerment, Abt Associates

Jane Ravusiro has worked in program and project management for almost 18 years in rural systems development. Jane specialises in rural economic empowerment, export market and value chain development of natural resources and exploring business opportunities for non-farm enterprises. She is a strong believer in the empowerment and inclusion of women, youth and other marginalised groups as important contributors of positive economic development in PNG and the Pacific. Jane regularly contributes in high level strategic discussions and forums around broadening the industry base through rural agribusiness development. Over the years, Jane has developed her passion for inclusive economic empowerment and growth beyond rural economies. She now focuses on exploring, leveraging support and influencing policies and initiatives around economic opportunities in urban and rural communities in modern PNG.



Jane's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Food Technology from the PNG University of Technology and a Masters in Philosophy in Agricultural Systems Management from the University of Queensland, Australia.

**Ms. Jennifer Casto**, Regional Policy Advisor, East Asia and the Pacific, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State



Jennifer Casto is the Regional Policy Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific in The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the United States Department of State. Jennifer is a 2017 Presidential Management Fellow and her previous State Department positions include Foreign Affairs Officer for The Gambia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone in the Africa Bureau's Office of West African Affairs and Political Officer at Embassy Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Prior to joining the State Department, Jennifer worked in international development delivering technical assistance on gender equality, gender-based violence, HIV, inclusive development, and evaluation for the United States government, NGOs, and multilateral organizations across Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caribbean. Jennifer served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia from 2009-2012. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Affairs and a

Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Virginia.

**Ms. Mollina Mercy Kapal**  
Principal Projects Engineer, National Information & Communications Technology Authority

Mollina Kapal works as Principal Project Engineer – ICT Application for the National ICT Authority (NICTA) in Papua New Guinea. She's currently attached with the Universal Access Services (UAS) Secretariat with almost four (4) years in UAS project management. Her role involves designing, planning and end-to-end implementation of ICT projects in rural areas. Before moving to UAS, she was attached with Engineering & Resources Department for eleven years serving as a Broadcasting Engineer.



In her current role, she plays an important role in assisting her organization as well as partner stakeholders (FAO, DAL, ITU, Provincial Government of Jiwaka & East Sepik) to implement E-agriculture initiatives in two pilot provinces in PNG. This project specifically focused on farmers having access to agriculture and livestock information. She's the Team Leader for the E-agriculture Taskforce to drive the first (1st) Livestock using Blockchain Traceability Project for small farmers in the world. Additionally, she was also instrumental in the successful implementation of the provincial government FM radio station something she's passionate about in contributing her skills as her free gift to help build up her province – Jiwaka.

In 2018, she was awarded the Precinct Public Sector 2018 Award at the Westpac Outstanding Women's Award program. Her other notable achievements include Master of Ceremony – APEC-TEL57 hosted by NICTA (2018), Best Paper "Reengineering Public Sector in PNG"– International Association of Public (2017), Outstanding Merit Award for master's program (2016) in e-Government Policy and Certificate for Engineer of the Year Award by NICTA (2010).

Being the first female engineer to be recruited as a fresh engineering graduate in 2005, she is also championing the Girls in ICT awareness programme activities through NICTA throughout the country. Mollina is a very strong advocate for promoting and empowering girls and women in ICT.



**Ms. Priscilla Kevin**  
Director, In4Net Limited

Priscilla Kevin is a technology specialist who dreams of making Papua New Guinea “the Silicon Valley of the Pacific”. She has been a volunteer with the PNG Digital ICT Cluster for three years and founded the PNG Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Association two years ago to encourage more women to take up these male-dominated fields. She also runs her own ICT consultancy business IN4NET, specializing in enterprise resource planning, ICT advisory consulting and project management. Priscilla sits on the board of a variety of organizations, including the PNG Computer Society, Institute of National Affairs, and Pacific Internet Chapter ISO. She is also an alumni of various fellowship programs, including the U.S. Department of State’s IVLP program, the East West Center’s Asia Pacific Women Innovators and Entrepreneurs, APEC Women in STEM. Priscilla was a 2018 recipient of the Westpac Outstanding Women (WOW) Award for Steamships Not for Profit ‘Digital ICT Cluster’

**Ms. Rebekah Ilave**  
Chief Operations Officer, Niunet PNG Ltd.

Rebekah co-founded Niunet PNG, a social business that helps users access supplementary education through downloading videos and books without needing internet data or phone credit. Rebekah is Chief Operations Officer, and guides the Strategic Vision of the company. Currently Niunet technologies are deployed at 3 sites in Port Moresby and Goroka, with 2 more sites coming online in December. There are more than 400 unique Niunet users, and more than 100 gigabytes of content were downloaded using the Niunet platform. Rebekah has conducted several, free sessions regarding Niunet and other technologies at the PNG WBRC for businesswomen, as well as participated in talks and panels encouraging women in business, such as at Techlab's Monthly Meetups.



Under Niunet, Rebekah pioneered Meritech: computer coding classes for girls, as a service to encourage and support girls to pursue not only coding, but STEM subjects in a fun and interactive way. Through Meritech she wishes to build cohorts of girls and young women who use technology confidently to the point of pursuing it as a career, to grow PNG's ICT workforce, as well as grow the diversity within the talent pool of technologists (network engineers, systems engineers, computer programmers, etc.). Rebekah is excited to participate in the NCD Regional Women’s Forum to seek out existing programs aimed at improving girls' computer mastery, life skills, and self-direction, as well as learn about programs that encourage the distribution of free digital content and digital knowledge sharing in PNG aimed at young people. Rebekah wishes to see more girls and women be able to use technology confidently to be able to learn new things and pursue their own goals.



## **Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography**

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

**Keynote Address**

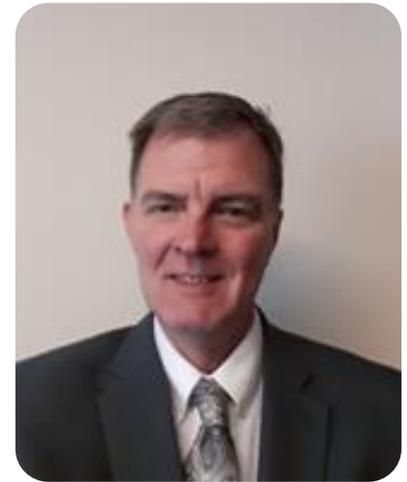
### **Mr. Joel Maybury**

Acting Director, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Joel Maybury is the Acting Director of the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues. Prior to this position, he served as the Deputy Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and has served in that capacity since 2017. He oversaw that office's international programs team (foreign assistance) and resource management and planning team.

Previously he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Port Moresby; Deputy Chief of Mission in Bangui; Principal Officer at the American Presence Post in Bordeaux, France; Chargé and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Public Affairs Officer in Khartoum; Political Counselor in Abu Dhabi; Algeria Desk Officer; Political and Consular Officer in Lomé; and Political and Consular Officer in Djibouti.

Mr. Maybury attended the Eisenhower School where he received an M.S. in National Resource Strategy. He has received the Secretary's Award for Public Outreach and numerous Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards. He has a B.A. in International Relations and French Literature from the University of California at Davis. He speaks fluent French and learned Arabic at FSI. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he worked as a newspaper reporter principally in Northern California. Mr. Maybury is married and has four children.





## Speak/Panelist/Facilitator's Biography

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### Session 7: Breakout Groups on Access to Finance and Access to Markets

#### Breakout Group A: Financial Inclusion & Alternative Financing



**Ms. Sara Curley**, Program Analyst, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Sara Curley is a Program Analyst in the US. Department of State, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Affairs (S/GWI) where she is lead on programming for East Asia and the Pacific; and Women, Peace, and Security. She manages the S/GWI-funded global Women and Girl's Empowered (WAGE) program, implemented by a consortium of experts from the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), Grameen Foundation, and Search for Common Ground (SFCG). The program takes a holistic, integrated approach to addressing gender-based violence; women, peace, and security; and women's economic empowerment. Previously, Sara worked for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. Prior to joining the Department of State, Sara was a Grants Officer at the Institute of International Education (IIE) where she oversaw a portfolio of State Department, USAID, and private sector grants across the globe. Sara lived in Japan for a number of years and has a master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University and a B.A. in Asian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

#### **Ms. Durida Sisire**

Senior Program Officer, Coffee Industry Support Project, Care International PNG

Durida Sisire works for CARE international in PNG with the Coffee Industry Support Project as a Senior Project Officer. Her role is as the lead trainer and facilitator of the CARE piloted *Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)* in the Eastern Highlands and Chimbu Provinces. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication for Development from the PNG University of Technology. She believes in building capacity of women in leadership and organizational strengthening with a particular focus on women economic empowerment.



Her top three (3) accomplishments were: i) training 10x male advocates who took lead and developed their community bi-laws on addressing GBV within their communities; ii) training and coaching 15x women Ward Development Committees with 3x women Ward Councilors on their roles and responsibilities to

understand and better their roles; and iii) successfully training, establishing and overseeing 10x piloted VSLAs.

She loves to travel places and meeting new people, most importantly learning and introducing appropriate new ideas to assist people, especially women in rural communities where there are gaps in service delivery and they can be self-reliant to sustain their own and family's livelihoods.



**Mr. Gunanidhi Das**  
CEO, PNG Women's Micro Bank

Gunanidhi has over 20 years of experience of which 17 years of microfinance experience across India, Timore Leste, Nepal, Myanmar, and has been working in PNG for the last 5 years supporting microfinance institutions with their operational viability. He was engaged by the Microfinance Expansion Project supported by ADB to provide mentorship to Microfinance organizations, Savings and Loan Societies for streamlining their systems and procedures for business growth. Such includes Kada Poroman Microfinance Ltd (KPML), East New Britain Savings and Loan Society Ltd (ENBSLS), Niu Ailan Savings and Loan Society Ltd (NASLS), Manus Savings and Loan Society Ltd (MSLS). He was a Business Mentor to these microfinance institutions in PNG entails an assessment of existing systems and making recommendations where appropriate; providing support for operations in lending and savings mobilization and implement in field through capacity building of field staff and management. With these organizations he has been involved in formulating strategy around innovative product development and reaching the target market in rural areas, and emphasized that products and services need to be customer-centric, rather than organization-centric. Product should be demand driven rather supply driven. Having worked in PNG for such organizations he has developed an understanding of the challenges the industry is experiencing and the cultural nuances to gain cooperation and productivity.

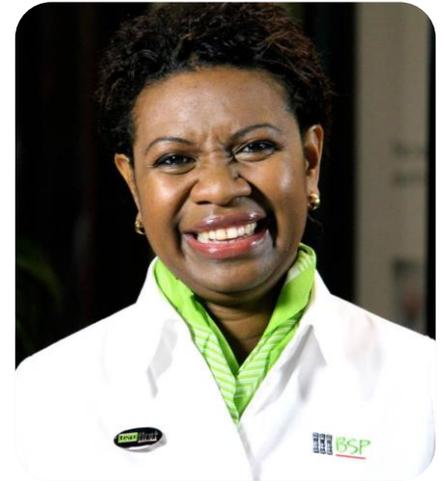
During this period he realized that instead of giving consulting to implement his strategy by others rather he opted to implement by his own and joined Women's Micro Bank branding as MAMA BANK as Chief Executive Officer since November 2016 and started implementing his strategy of "Microfinance through Microchip". He is the driving force for the new management and striving towards achieving the goal of MAMA BANK and taking bank into sustainable position through innovations and best practice.

During his career span, he has worked and dedicated his time towards women empowerment, financial inclusion and livelihood promotion of informal women and a strong supporter of women. His passion is to alleviate poverty through women empowerment and bringing savings culture among informal sector along with technology intervention. He believes that financial inclusion with informal women can bring economic prosperity to the family and to the nation along with social harmony.

## **Ms. Nuni Kulu**

General Manager Digital, Bank of South Pacific

Nuni Kulu currently holds the position of General Manager Digital with Bank South Pacific. She has 22 years of banking experience in Treasury, Marketing and Retail. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Australian National University, Canberra. She is currently the Vice President National of the PNG Business Council.



## **Mr. Peter Aitsi**

Group CEO, Credit Corporation PNG

Peter Aitsi is the Group Chief Executive Officer of Credit Corporation Ltd having commenced as CEO in April 2018. Prior to joining Credit Corporation, he was the PNG Country Manager for Australian gold mining company Newcrest Mining, a role he held for 7 years.

Along with his work responsibilities, Peter has had a long-standing involvement with community organisations such as Transparency International PNG, Badili Club of PNG, and Leadership PNG. He currently serves as a director on the various subsidiary companies of Credit Corporation. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Steamships

Trading Company's Coral Sea Hotels Group and is Chairman of media company PNGFM Ltd.

## **Breakout Group B: Perspective from the Private Sector: Access to Markets**

### **Akae Pa'asia Beach**

Board Member, Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Akae Pa'asia Beach, from the Mortlock Islands, a polynesian group of atoll islands east of Bougainville with a mix PNG melanesian heritage. She is a certified practising accountant and has been an advisor/consultant for over 20 years with Big 4 chartered accounting experience in PNG, Brisbane and Gold Coast which included being a corporate consultant since 2007, consulting for some large corporate companies in their management team and the board.

She currently manages her accounting and business advisory company BAA Limited and is the Treasurer for Pom Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc and Treasurer for Transparency International (PNG) Inc.

In 2017 Akae disrupted the PNG market by bringing in affordable cloud accounting technology with software as a service through Quickbooks Online plus other cloud solutions. She uses a cloud practice management system to manage her practice, which allows her to scale up. With Quickbooks Online servicing more than 200 SMEs and some large corporate clients needing the most basic, cheap and user-friendly software, she added Xero accounting software early this year 2019 to give a choice

of software for her growing number of clients in the medium to large size market. She uses another cloud software to enable her company to deliver Business Development services to clients. Research, innovation and training are at the core of her business model. Her innovations saw the company grow from just three employees to a team of 30 full-time and part-time employees.

Although her company has both an SME and Corporate Strategy providing basic accounting on the cloud, CFO on-call, Internal Audit, Business Reviews & Organisation Restructuring, Risk Management & Project Management, she also commenced her social strategy whilst only a 2 year old business in PNG. Her passion in business is to add value to businesses and local communities through her strategy to help build both businesses and individual capabilities via basic business skills for our various communities in both formal and informal sectors at a low cost to help drive our economy and make our communities employable through business set ups/management or increase employment by profit and non-profitable organisations. Therefore, she's not your typical accountant but a mix of and Entrepreneur, Corporate CEO/CFO, Business Development Manager and Director. Akae is all about collaboration with various interested agencies, private and public partnerships to help achieve strategies.

### **Lesieli Taviri**

**CEO, Origin Energy / Chair, Business Coalition for Women**

Lesieli Taviri is the CEO of Origin Energy an energy sales and distribution business and is also the Founding Chair of the Business Coalition for Women, a social enterprise that aims at improving the participation of women in the private sector. Lesieli is passionate about Energy and Education, in particular extending reliable and affordable energy to households in turn improving accessibility to education. Lesieli's approach to packaging affordable energy solutions was recognized globally by the World LPG Association and she was named Inaugural LPG Woman of the Year in 2018. Lesieli has an MBA and is a graduate of the Harvard Advanced Management Program and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and sits on various Profit and non for profit boards.



### **Mr. Douveri Henao**

**Chairman of the Board, Digicel Foundation**

Douveri Henao is the Executive Director for the Business Council of Papua New Guinea. He has a vast experience in developing policies and legal frameworks. Douveri has also provided assistance to the Department of Health, Provincial and Local Government, Planning & Treasury, Civil Law Divisions, PNG Department of Justice & Attorney General, State Solicitors International Law Division, University of Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and other regulatory bodies in drafting policies, legal frameworks, international trade negotiations, intellectual property rights and general advising. Mr Henao also serves as a Director on both Mineral Resource Authority

(MRA) and Road Traffic Authority Board and is the Chairman for PNG Digicel Foundation. Douveri has an undergraduate degree in Law at the University of Papua New Guinea.



### **Ms. Sisa Kini**

Community Development Support and National Content Manager, ExxonMobil PNG Ltd

Sisa Kini is from Papua New Guinea and holds a Master's Degree in Social Science from Lincoln University in New Zealand, and a Bachelor's Degree in Communication for Development from The PNG University of Technology.

Sisa has spent most of her career working in the petroleum industry in PNG, starting out as a graduate student with Chevron Niugini, the former operator of the Kutubu Joint Venture Petroleum Project (KVJP). As part of the company's exit strategy from the country, she was instrumental in helping to set up the CDI Foundation Trust Fund, a non-profit entity that

is funded by KJVP.

Sisa has worked for ExxonMobil PNG since 2010. In her current role, she is primarily responsible for ExxonMobil PNG's social investments and national content portfolio. Her role also includes the coordination of the ExxonMobil Foundation sponsored Global Women in Management Program (GWIM), which reaches ~ 25 other affiliate countries of ExxonMobil's global operations. This program aims to work with women leaders in countries ExxonMobil operates and expose them to leaders, management skills and training with a US based NGO called Counterpart International and expand their networks.

Her personal goal is connecting people who are passionate about making a difference, in order to maximise the positive impact like-minded people can make. This has driven her to participate in and support many civil society groups in PNG, including: Co-founder and Board Member of Leadership PNG, Co-founder and Board Member (Secretary) of the Advancing PNG: Women Leaders Network, Co-founder and Board member of CDI Foundation Trust Fund, Former Board member of Transparency International PNG, Board Member of IBBM, Board Member of Business Coalition for Women, Deputy Chair of the Central Province Health Authority Board.

ExxonMobil PNG's corporate investment portfolio has reached over 100 non-profits, community groups, international development and corporate partners through her leadership.

### **Alisi Tuqa**

CEO, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Fiji

Alisi is the longest standing PIPSO staff member to date. Having joined the Secretariat in 2014 as a Programme Officer, she went on to head the IFAD CTA PIPSO – 'Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific' project following its setup within PIPSO in Jan 2017. After acting in the position of CEO since July 2017, Alisi is now the CEO of PIPSO.

Alisi brings with her over 10 years experience in regional policy and planning, research and analytical work as well as lobbying and advocacy. She attained a Bachelor of Commerce in Industrial Relations from the University of Wollongong and a Foundations Certificate from the University of New South Wales in Australia.





## Past Forum Recommendations

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### 2017 Recommendations

#### **Bigpela Bung: Women's Voices in Politics**

*Why do we need women leaders in Politics? What measures should be taken to encourage women leaders to engage in Politics?*

Recommendations/Observations

- PNG Electoral Commission and police force should enforce separate polling booths and lines for women and girls.
- Support women to take LLG president positions. Currently, female LLG presidents lack confidence or feel intimidated by male LLG presidents. They do not feel able to speak up and/or voice their concerns.
- 50% of all electoral officers involved in voting and counting the ballots should be women.
- The Office of the Registry of Political Party should amend the constitution to require that political parties have at least 10% of their members be women.
- Political parties should raise awareness of their platform specifics, identify where their funding comes from, and how many members are each registered party.
- The roles of the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission and the Office of the Registry of Political Parties should be better explained to the public. This better explanation is particularly important for rural Papua New Guineans.
- The Office of the Registry of Political Parties must do more awareness/education at the community level including outreach to remote areas.
- There should be more recognition for the Provincial and District Councils of Women.
- Work to strengthen and revive the National Council of Women to be the strong, leading voice for women.

#### **Bigpela Bung: Entrepreneurial Voices in the Highlands**

*What are some tool/tips women entrepreneurs experienced that others can learn from and use?*

Recommendations/Observations

- Women should help each other grow their businesses.
- Business women must have effective communication skills.
- Business women should always use cost savings strategies.
- Support from family is critical and should be encouraged.
- More markets should be set up in rural places.

#### **Bigpela Bung: Economic Empowerment in the Home**

*What are some ways women can manage funds at home?*

Recommendations/Observations

- Women must understand the importance of managing family and customary obligations. Women must be able to question if contributing to family and customary events will truly benefit individuals and families.

- Women should create a savings culture. Women can take the first step and save little by little.
- Women must budget their finances and be disciplined to stick to their budget.
- Women must use effective communication with family members/partners for them to understand how they can help and how they can play a supporting role in managing household finances.

### **Liklik Bung (Workshops)**

*Financial Literacy, Health Awareness, Women's Leadership and Communication Skills workshops were offered during the Women's Forum.*

#### Recommendations/Observations

- PNG women are eager to learn about formal communications skills for their organizations, businesses, and potential political campaigns. The key to building these skills will be empowering them with tools to tell their stories, as well as building their confidence so that they feel increasingly comfortable communicating publicly. Multiple women expressed concern that lack of access to markets, as well as a dearth of adequate training in areas such as communications, business, and financial literacy, present considerable roadblocks to their success.
- Cancer awareness and screening services must be made available in all provinces. Women leaders should work with their provincial leaders/politicians to advocate for bringing these services to each province. Currently, there is no cancer screening services in the provinces. Fewer women are accessing antenatal care and clinics to deliver babies due to geographical challenges.
- There should be more programs encouraging young people to get HIV/AIDs testing and to seek medical assistance for Sexually Transmitted Infections.
- Affected people - people with disabilities or people living with HIV - should be invited to speak if topics related to them are being discussed.
- More financial literacy trainings should be done in the rural communities. Basic training is needed on banking. Women need help filling out forms for loans. Some women struggle with simple banking tasks such as depositing and withdrawing money.
- Organizations that provide training for potential female political candidates should continue and extend those programs to rural areas.

**\*Recommendations from previous years' Forums available upon request to U.S. Embassy**



## **Special Thanks**

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

### **Special thanks to the following donors:**

**U.S. State Department  
PNGAus Partnership  
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### **Thank you to our supporting partners:**

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Business Council of PNG	Pacific Adventist University
Care International PNG	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)
Credit Corporation PNG	Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative, Bougainville
Digicel Foundation	PNG Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Family and Juvenile Court, Port Moresby	PNG Women's Micro Bank
Human Rights Defenders Association of Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry
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National Planning & Monitoring Minister's Office	World Bank
PNG Womens Business Resource Centre	
Office of the State Solicitor, Dept. of Justice and Attorney General	







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- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum

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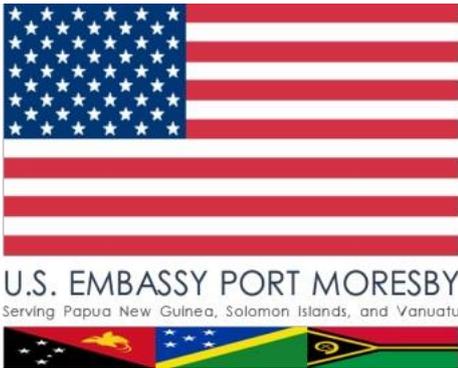
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## About Hosting Organizations

- 2019 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum



### U.S. Embassy Port Moresby

The United States Embassy in Port Moresby supports American citizens, promotes United States' interests and develops friendly, cooperative relations with the peoples and governments of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Through these contacts, we seek to develop broad-based relationships with all three countries that reflect our common commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

### Center for International and Private Enterprise

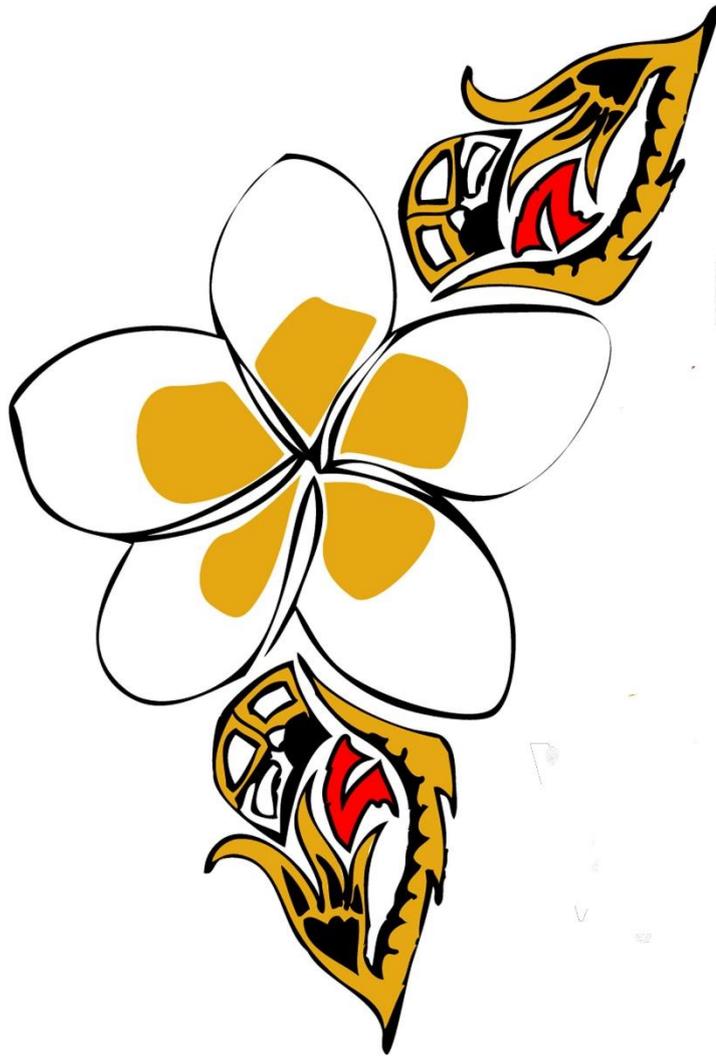
*A world where democracy delivers the freedom and opportunity for all to prosper.*

Economic and political freedom are essential to deliver universal opportunity for prosperity. A democracy delivers for its citizens when the rule of law, public participation in policymaking, and a level economic playing field exist. Strong democracies feature effective governments that are accountable, transparent, and responsive, as well as a vibrant private sector that is inclusive, ethical, empowered, and engaged.

CIPE works with local business leaders to expand the opportunity for inclusive growth through market-led solutions. CIPE programs promote a rule-based system which emphasizes principles of democratic governance, enables entrepreneurship, opens trade, and fights corruption. CIPE and its global partner network create knowledge and practical tools to drive local change.

In Papua New Guinea, CIPE operates the PNG Women's Business Resource Centre (WBRC) with the support of both U.S. and Australian governments. Since its formation in November 2016, the WBRC has assisted women in establishing and strengthening their businesses. The WBRC is an entrepreneurial information and resource hub established to encourage an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem that allows women of all backgrounds in PNG to access vital resources for economic empowerment. More information can be found on [www.pngwbrc.com](http://www.pngwbrc.com).





***2019 PNG Women's Forum***

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