

BUSINESS

BSP supports 32nd APNG Business Forum

BANK South Pacific (BSP) is keen to participate at the 32nd Australia PNG Business Forum and Trade Expo and has given K11,000 as support.

BSP has been a supporter of this initiative, as a diamond sponsor since 2012, because it believes in promoting PNG's potential and encouraging investments in PNG.

The bank's delegation will be led by BSP Group General Manager Retail, Paul Thornton. Mr Thornton will be doing a presentation on "Building Financial Capability".

"BSP has been a proud supporter of the APNGBF over the years and will continue to support the Forum. We look forward to interacting with experts in the public and private sector in Australia and PNG," Mr Thornton said.

As a Diamond Sponsor of the APNG Business Forum and Trade Expo, BSP will be setting up a Trade Booth to showcase its financial services available to

businesses who wish to conduct business in PNG.

Visitors to BSP's Trade Booth will have the opportunity to find out about how BSP can assist them in doing business in PNG.

The 32nd Australia PNG Business Forum and Trade Expo to be held in Cairns starting this Sunday May 15th to Tuesday May 17th is themed: "Today's Investments: Tomorrow's Returns" and will be held at Cairns Convention Centre.

The Forum will again offer a trade expo, the largest of its kind, several engaging workshops and unparalleled opportunity to learn about business opportunities and network with senior Australian and Papua New Guinean policy makers and business people.

BSP takes advantage of this annual bilateral business conference to leverage our business and also discuss opportunities with political and business leaders from Australia and PNG.

New K27m hotel for Kiunga

MODULES of the new Cassowary Hotel in Kiunga have been shipped into the Kiunga port and mobilised to the hotel site since April 21.

Civil construction works have started and building construction will begin once all 99 modules have been shipped to Kiunga and located on site.

The hotel is another major Trust investment of the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) communities, which will also provide employment and spin-off business opportunities for the CMCA as well as non-CMCA people.

The 58-room hotel, to be an architecturally iconic building for Western Province, will fill a gap in the higher end business traveller market; will be a catalyst for tourism and is expected to attract commerce through



One of the modules being offloaded from a container ship at the Kiunga port to a truck before being transported to the hotel site. Picture and story: DOMINIC KRAU

related service industries.

The Cassowary Hotel will be constructed by building construction firm, The George Group, and is expected to be

completed by the end of 2017.

The hotel project is valued at K27 million and will generate a minimum annual 8 percent return on investment to the

CMCA Trusts.

The hotel is the fifth Trust investment project by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation on behalf of the CMCA Trusts.

Local firm trains marine pilots

By WILLIE BRUL

A nationally-owned marine pilotage company is embarking on improving the technological aspects of its services on par with the best international practices in the shipping industry.

Niugini Pilots Ltd (NPL) have conducted a weeklong training for its seven marine pilots at Grand Papua Hotel in Port Moresby from May 9 to 13 on how to operate a new and latest navigational device in the country which is known as the portable pilot unit (PPU) device.

The portable pilot unit is a device that aid marine pilots or ship captains in navigating or maneuvering of ships to their expected destinations and berthing by giving them accurate data and reading on the navigation charts on the ships screens. The PPU gives data such as the longitude and latitude readings which aid in the indication of the turning of the ships.

According to the Managing Director and Chief Pilot of NPL, Captain Max Taikika Stoessel, the company is the only privately-run marine pilotage firm servicing both domestic and international ships entering all the ports in Papua New Guinea apart from the state-owned PNG Ports Corporation Ltd.

Captain Stoessel said the PPU device was already used by PNG Ports Corporation (PNGPC) marine pilots and NPL has recently bought several sets of PPU devices from Australia, and, the weeklong training will give NPL pilots better skills and knowledge on how to use these devices.

"Marine pilotage industry is an untapped business area in PNG, and as the only privately-run company in the country we want to ensure our services, operations and safety standards must be of high quality so that we serve our clients more

professionally.

"Our marine pilots are all very high qualified captains who each possessed international marine pilot licenses and every year we train them to remain fully competent, and with this training on PPU I believe it will improve their performance to give best services to our customers," Captain Stoessel said.

He said NPL has a specialised role in the marine and shipping industry in PNG and that is to provide services to both local and international ships ferrying cargoes into the ports of PNG by aiding the ship captains of those ships by navigating and maneuvering their ships to their destinations.

However, Captain Stoessel said the company has big plans to grow NPL in the future and to begin with he said they will purchase boats for its captains to better service its clients.

On May 19 NPL will be



Niugini Pilots Ltd marine pilots after their training. Sitting (L-R) Captain Panapasa Vonokula, Captain Esau Tupou Esau, Captain Norman Sambu, Captain Ben Vivikwana, Captain Isaac Manol and Captain Kesi Joel. Back standing (L-R) Chief Captain Max Taikika Stoessel, training facilitator Peter Selwyn and Ms Salote Mucunabitu.

signing a contract with a ship-building company in Melbourne to build 15 boats for NPL.

The NPL pilots who attended the training on PPU device include Captain Panapasa Vonokula, Captain Esau Tupou Esau, Captain Norman Sambu, Captain Ben Vivikwana, Captain Isaac Manoi, Captain Kesi

Joel and Chief Captain Max Stoessel. The training was conducted by Chief Executive Officer of Navicom Dynamics, a New Zealand marine pilotage company.

NPL pilots up to about 40 percent of all vessels calling in all ports and among some of its major clients include Inchape

Shipping Services, Deugro Shipping Agency and Swire Agency.

Papua New Guinea has 14 Maritime Provinces which are all connected by sea ports, and it has five compulsory pilotage ports which are Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Rabaul and Kieta.



BSP supports Human Resource conference

BSP is a strong supporter of nation building and supporting human resource development through its own initiatives and activities, including others like the Papua New Guinea Human Resource Institute (PNGHRI) National Conference.

BSP is supporting this human resources conference, to be held from 17th - 19th May, with K10,000.

PNGHRI President, Jerry Wemin, praised BSP for its continuous support and acknowledged the bank's partnership in helping develop the PNG's human resources.

"PNGHRI believes there is

no successful PNG without an

engaged national workforce. The next 40 years must be PNG's "Era of the people." To achieve our Government Vision 2050 Goals, PNG's People must among the top 50 nations of the world. Only competent people will shape our country and its future," Mr Wemin said.

BSP's Career Development Manager, Hitolo Galamo, when handing over the cheque this week, said BSP is pleased with the initiative PNGHRI has, bringing together HR professionals to discuss issues that currently affect human resource specialists in the

country.

"BSP is one of the largest employers in PNG and the Pacific with over 4000 staff. We are a strong supporter of human resource development. This is demonstrated in our HR programs within the organisation and training for our staff," added Hitolo.

"We support new graduates through our Graduate Development Program, through coaching and mentoring programs, while we build and nurture leaders within the organisation through the BSP Leadership Development Program (LDP) program."