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HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
PORT MORESBY



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PRESS RELEASE

ITEC DAY CELEBRATIONS

An ITEC Day celebration was organized at India House on 28th September 2012. A large number of PNG officials who have received training in various institutions in India under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, prospective candidates, along with local and Indian community members, Press personnel, attended the celebrations. The Governor of West New Britain province, Hon. Sasindran Muthuvel, M.P., was the Chief Guest.

Shri C.K. Damodaran, First Secretary, while welcoming the guests, elaborated on the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme which has evolved and grown over the years. He said that under the programme, 158 countries in Asia, East Europe, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience in various fields. As a result of various activities under ITEC programme, there is now a visible and growing awareness among other countries about the competence of India as a provider of technical know-how and expertise as well as training opportunities, consultancy services and feasibility studies.

Hon. Governor Sasindran Muthuvel, delivering his address, was highly appreciative of the ITEC programme and thanked Government of India for its support to PNG. He stressed the importance of agricultural development in PNG. He said he was impressed by the Barefoot College introduced in India and expressed a desire to send a number of people from his province to India for training at the Barefoot College, Tilonia. He stressed the need for innovative mechanism to suit local cultural mores for efficient and optimal production to meet local demand. This innovative streak could be developed by building of entrepreneurial talent by way of specialised training and India could help in this endeavour.

High Commissioner Dr. A.M. Gondane, assured of India's willingness to share its technical know-how and expertise with the friendly people of Papua New Guinea. He said that the alumni, who were placed in various positions in the Government departments should utilize their experience in enriching the administrative milieu. He felt that the gap between PNG personnel and expatriates could be narrowed by way of specialised capacity building so that PNG personnel occupy all the major positions. He promised that additional training/scholarship slots could be provided if there was need and demand from the PNG establishment. India was willing to engage more extensively with PNG in areas of training, trade, investment, culture, defence, etc. in near future.

All trainees were given the opportunity to make presentations. Many participants shared their experience and interactions with trainees from other countries. They talked very highly of the quality and usefulness of the training in India. Some trainees felt that their training could have been more extensive than the 8 weeks or so because there is wealth of information which cannot be absorbed in the short period. Some trainees desired orientation and language familiarization before proceeding to India. While many of them are now placed in relevant and important departments in their respective organizations, some felt that the PNG Government needs to make efforts to fully utilize the expertise gained by them from Indian training.

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