

1. Report on the second half of 2025

JICA Papua New Guinea Office wishes you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous new year, 2026.

The last year, 2025, was a momentous year as we cerebrated the golden jubilee of PNG's independence and it also marked the 60th anniversary of JICA's Overseas Cooperation Volunteer program. Here is the report of JICA's activities in PNG in the second half of last year. JICA PNG will continue our efforts to cooperate with the people of PNG as well as our partners for social and economic growth of this country.

(1) Cerebrating 50 years of independence



(from left)
Mr. Matsuoka, Chief Rep, JICA PNG,
Prime Minister Hon. Marape,
Mr. Hayakawa,
Director General,
Department of
Southeast Asia and
Pacific (then), JICA HQs
and Mr. Shirouzu,
Senior Rep, JICA PNG

On the ceremony of 50 years of independence of PNG in September, Mr. Hayakawa Yuho, the Director General of Department of Southeast Asia and Pacific (then), JICA, attended the event amongst the guests from Japan, UK, Australia, USA, Indonesia, India, China, and the Pacific Region etc. Mr. Hayakawa met with dignitaries of PNG's government including the Prime Minister Hon. James Marape.

H.E. Miyaji Takuma, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (then), who also attended the ceremony, observed JICA's activities in Port Moresby such as National Education Media Centre and Joyce Bay's Wastewater Treatment Plant, and met with JICA experts and volunteers.

(2) PM Hon. Marape sends a congratulatory message to the 60th anniversary of JOCV program



JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) program started in 1965 and the year 2025 marked the 60th anniversary of the program. By today, more than 57,000 volunteers have been dispatched in 99 countries.

In PNG, it started in 1980 and there have been more than 800 volunteers working in various sectors and contributing to the development of the country.

On 13th November, there was an official ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of JOCV program in Tokyo with the attendance of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. On this event, PM Hon. Marape's congratulatory video message was played representing 99 countries where JOCVs have been dispatched. Mr. Marape on his message expressed his gratitude to Japan and mentioned that these volunteers were genuine "Tomodachi (friends)" of PNG.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17qDtLQJeQ/>

(3) Students from Sogeri Primary School attend the PNG Day at Osaka EXPO



Six students and a teacher from Sogeri Primary School attended the PNG Day at Osaka EXPO on 21st July. Before the event, these students and a teacher led by Mr. Uchiyama Shota, a JICA volunteer at Sogeri Primary School, also visited primary schools and junior high schools in Osaka and Nara where they had been communicating online for cultural exchange classes. On the event, these students from Sogeri together with the ones from Kamikita Primary School of Osaka sang the national anthems of PNG and Japan with the presence of Prime Minister James Marape and Mr. Fujii Hisayuki, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (then).

(4) Three JICA volunteers interviewed by PNG media



On 9th and 10th July, 3 JICA volunteers were interviewed by NBC radio and EMTV. These volunteers were Mr. Uchiyama Shota (Sogeri Primary School), Mr. Suzuki Yu (Popondetta Primary School) and Mr. Mochizuki Kento (Milne Bay local government). They talked about the importance of JOCV program and their activities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4egnpNMx4>

(5) PM Hon. Marape meets with Dr. Tanaka, President of JICA



On 22 July, Prime Minister Hon. James Marape met with

President of JICA, Dr. Tanaka Akihiko, in Tokyo. At the outset, President Tanaka expressed his congratulations on the 50th anniversary of Papua New Guinea's independence. Prime Minister Marape expressed his gratitude for JICA's cooperation, highlighting symbolic bilateral collaboration such as the Nadzab-Tomodachi International Airport. Both parties further exchanged views on the possibilities for future cooperation to advance economic and social development in Papua New Guinea, especially in areas such as education and health.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1572343_59673.html

(6) Signing RD on a new technical cooperation for sustainable land use management



On 14th November, JICA PNG and Department for Lands & Physical Planning signed a Record of Discussions (RD) for the "Project for Enhancement of National Land Use Information Management System Towards Sustainable Land Use Management". In this project, proper land use is promoted through utilization of the land use information management system in the country within selected provinces.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1575469_59673.html

(7) Signing MOU for improving the quality of resource related revenue as an important achievement



On 28th November, a Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting was held to review the

progress of the "Project for Improving Resource Related Revenue Management Phase 2" and discuss the direction of the rest of the project among the stakeholders. On this occasion, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was also signed between the PNG Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) National Secretariat and the PNG Auditor General's

Office. This MOU formalizes the Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement for EITI Reporting and is expected to strengthen financial auditing processes and ensure compliance with the EITI standards.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1575978_59673.html

(8) Twelve JDS trainees join universities in Japan



Under the new project, "Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)", 12 government officials in PNG joined graduate schools in Japan pursuing their masters' degrees for 2 years. They are expected to contribute to development of PNG and strengthen the ties between both nations.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1572265_59673.html

(9) To eliminate gender-based violence (GBV)



JICA PNG promotes gender equality. We developed a short advocacy video to stop gender-based

violence (GBV), which is one of the most serious issues in PNG, in collaboration with Department of Community Development and Religion and a rugby team in Rabaul "Agmark Gurias" and uploaded it to our FB. Other partners such as National Capital District Commission, United Nations, Australia, EU, Red Cross etc. also support the dissemination of this video.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14PGpAjDs8/>

(10) Japanese educators visit PNG



From 26th July to 1st August, 10 Japanese educators visited PNG under "JICA teachers' training program". They visited National Department of Education, Education Media Centre and Bomana Teachers' College learning JICA's activities in education sector. They also observed other cooperation sites such as Joyce Bay's wastewater treatment plant and Baruni landfill site to learn about Japan's ODA in PNG. They are expected to promote international cooperation at schools in Japan.

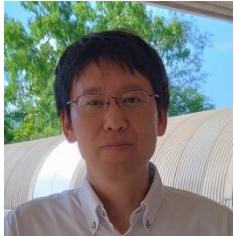
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1572335_59673.html

2. Introduction of JICA Experts, Volunteers and Office Staff

[JICA Experts]

Mr. TAKASHIMA Hiroshi, Expert

Enhancing Forest Management Capacity for Addressing Climate Change



I commenced my assignment as an expert for forest management at PNG Forest Authority in November 2025. Seventy seven percent of the land in PNG is covered by forests and the country is called "the last paradise" maintaining 5% of biodiversity on earth. However, the area of forests is decreasing recently due to development of palm oil industry etc. and the balance between conservation and utilization of forest resource is an issue. I hope to support to hand over the valuable forests to the next generations working together with PNGFA.

There is a Japanese private company in PNG working in logging industry and logs are also exported to Japan. I also hope to be helpful for both such company and PNGFA through bridging them.

Since this is a rare opportunity for Japanese to visit PNG, I wish to enjoy my stay here and do my best in everything I face.

Mr. OTOMO Shiro, Project Manager and Public Finance Management

Project for Improving Resource Related Revenue Management Phase 2



PNG is one of the 55 countries where Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) has been practiced since 2013. EITI aims to improve the transparency of revenue streams between the government and companies in extractive industry through checking and publicizing it and promote public debate about better use of the benefit for sustainable development of the country. The situation of each country is validated regularly and the recent score of PNG is 70 out of 100, which requires more improvement. In this project, 3 experts, who have expertise of public finance management, audit, and data management, are working at PNGETI National Secretariat in the Department of Treasury together with the Auditor General's Office and National Petroleum Authority. We work with these organizations hoping the Government of PNG publicizes the trustful information about resource related revenue in a timely manner and PNG's practice in EITI is highly evaluated in future.

[JICA Volunteers]

Three new volunteers arrived in August 2025 making the total of 15 in PNG. Having gone through preparatory orientation in Port Moresby and Tok Pisin training in East Highland Province, they were stationed in each assignment place. JICA PNG Office wishes you all the best for your activities!



(from left)

Mr. KANAMOTO Junta, Primary School Teacher

Sogeri Primary School, Central Province

Mr. NAKANISHI Koji, Civil Engineer

Work Supervision Unit, Alotau, Milne Bay Province

Mr. OKADA Kotaro, Nurse

St. Mary's Hospital Vunapope, East New Britain Province

[JICA Staff]

Mr. Sylvester NAIYON, Assistant Program Officer



I began my career with the JICA PNG Office in September 2023, and this year marks my third year of working alongside an incredible project team across multiple sectors.

Over the past 2.5 years, it has been both rewarding and inspiring, filled with opportunities to learn and grow from diverse projects. One of the most memorable moments of my journey was celebrating JICA's 50th anniversary in 2024, a milestone that reflects the organization's long-standing commitment to the development of this country. I am deeply grateful to JICA for providing job security and prioritizing staff welfare throughout this period.

Working alongside my Japanese colleagues has been an enriching experience. Their professionalism, dedication, strong work ethic, and admirable character continue to inspire me, and I strive to reflect these values in my own work.

3. Current Activities

(As of January 2026)

3-1. Strengthening the Foundation of Economic Growth

(1) Economic Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

- (EXP¹) Development Planning Advisor
Duration: March 2024 to March 2026
- (EXP) Advisor for Promotion of Electrification Policy Implementation
Duration: June 2024 to June 2026
- (YL²) Ramu Transmission System Reinforcement Project
L/A³ signed in August 2013, JPY 8,340 million
<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/activities/activity16.html>
- (TCP⁴) Project for Public Investment Management
Duration: December 2024 to March 2027
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1569150_59673.html
- (TCP) Project for Enhancement of National Land Use Information Management System Towards Sustainable Land Use Management
Under preparation. RD was signed in November 2025.
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1575469_59673.html
- (TCP) Project for Capacity Development of Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems using the SHEP Approach in East New Britain Province
Under preparation. RD was signed in January 2026.
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1577039_59673.html
- (EXP) Electoral Commission Capacity Development (Voter and Civic Education)
Under preparation
- (EXP) Gender Mainstreaming
Under preparation

(2) Industrial Promotion

- (TCP) the Project for Improving Resource Related Revenue Management Phase 2
Duration: March 2024 to February 2027
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1570122_59673.html
- (PSC⁵) Survey for Creation of Outboard Motorboat Market by Connecting Small Scale Fishers to Value Chain in Papua New Guinea
Duration: November 2023 to February 2027
- (GA⁶) Project for the Improvement of Facilities and Training Equipment of National Fisheries College
Duration: June 2025 to December 2030

3-2. Improvement of Social Services

(3) Education

- (EXP) Education Policy Advisor
Duration: February 2024 to January 2027
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2024/1562699_53494.html
- (TCP) Project for Strengthening Primary Teacher Pre-service Education in Mathematics and Science (STEPMAS)
Duration: September 2020 to March 2026
<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/activities/activity21.html>

(4) Health

- (TCP) The Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Ph2
Duration: April 2023 to April 2027
<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/202108336/index.html?wovn=en>
- (GTCP)⁷ Project for Improvement of Maternal and Child Health Care in Highland Region of Papua New Guinea
Duration: November 2025 to November 2028

¹ EXP: Expert

² YL: Yen Loan Project

³ L/A: Loan Agreement

⁴ TCP: Technical Cooperation Project

3-3. Environment and Climate Change

(5) Environment and Climate Change

- (TCP) Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase 3 (J-PRISM3)
Duration: July 2023 to July 2028
<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/202004886/index.html?wovn=en>
- (EXP) Enhancing Forest Management Capacity for Addressing Climate Change
Duration: November 2025 to November 2028

3-4. Training Courses

• Knowledge Co-Creation Program

In Japanese Fiscal Year 2025 (April 2025 to March 2026), 58 trainees in 58 courses are to be trained.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1568149_59673.html

• Long Term Training

The following numbers of trainees are under Master's or Doctor's degree courses as of January 2026.

SDGs Global Leader: 21 trainees

https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/dsp-chair/english/dsp/course/content/ku57pg00002ma5g9-att/course_brochure.pdf

KIZUNA Program: 4 trainees

https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/english/publications/brochures/c8h0vm0000av57w2-att/japan_brand_09.pdf

Agri-Net Program: 1 trainee

Road Asset Management Platform: 1 trainee

Project for Human Resource Development (JDS): 12 trainees

3-5. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV)

Currently, there are 15 volunteers are working in PNG.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4egnpmNMx4>

3-6. JICA Chair

The fourth JICA Chair to learn the history of Japan's modernization and international relationship was carried out at UPNG in April 2025.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2025/1567569_59673.html

3-7. Gender Main Streaming

JICA PNG Office conducts various activities to promote gender main streaming, such as seminars to prevent sexual harassment, PR activities to promote gender equality, and events co-organized with NCDC and UNWOMEN, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2638227763196093>

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2024/1567702_53494.html

3-8. Emergency Disaster Relief

JICA also conducts emergency disaster relief activities to respond to disasters by the decision of the Government of Japan.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2024/1536012_53494.html

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/png/information/press/2024/1540195_53494.html

3-9. JICA Alumni Association

The JICA Alumni Association consists of more than 4000 ex-trainees and carries out various activities such as publishing newsletters etc.

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FB: <https://www.facebook.com/icapng/>

E-mail: pn_oso_rep@jica.go.jp

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Jcic97QHU8>

⁵ PSC: Private Sector Cooperation

⁶ GA: Grant Aid Project

⁷ GTCP: Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project