

Presidents Report – AGM 2008

The activities of the Institute under the guidance of my board over 2007 can be highlighted as follows:

- The conduct of two New Director Training courses facilitated by the Institute of Banking & Business Management in March and June respectively and attended by over 30 participants.
- The hosting of two breakfast meetings- with guest speakers being Governor of the Bank of PNG, Wilson Kamit in March and Dr Brian Scott, Deputy Chairman of PNG Microfinance in July.
- Hosting of an Awards Dinner in July 2007 where four members of the Institute were recognized for their contribution to governance and business in PNG and awarded Fellows. This included the awarding of an Honorary Fellow to the Governor General of PNG His Excellency, Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane.
- Amendment of the IPBC Act to include a PNGID representative on the board of the IPBC.
- Launch of a new look user friendly website.
- Rebuilding of membership Access database.
- A bank account of K18, 088 in cash.
- Surplus of K 6,833 compared to a loss of K 4,403 in 2006.
- Balance Sheet of K 18,479 in net assets.
- Financial membership level of 126 compared to 113 in 2006.

Whilst the list gives the impression that we may have done a lot; the fact is we could have done more. In the early part of 2007 your board in conjunction with the Independent Public Business Corporation ('IPBC') planned to conduct a Governance Workshop, primarily for Directors of State Owned Entities and quasi statutory authorities. Unfortunately, after months of planning and preparation the workshop had to be cancelled at the 11th hour by IPBC. We are hoping that we can still conduct this workshop in the near future, as we strongly believe it will improve governance and value added decision making by individuals who are appointed as directors to SOE Boards by the State.

Another workshop planned by the Board was to discuss Remuneration Setting for Directors and put in place policy guidelines for use and reference by Institute members. As the premier body for directors in Papua New Guinea it is logical for the Institute to be providing advice on this matter. This is a challenge for the new PNGID Board to consider and implement.

At the Fellow Awards dinner held at the Crowne Plaza in July 2007 and officiated by the Governor General, I announced the intention of your board to introduce another set of awards recognizing Chairman of the Year, Director of the Year, New Director of the Year and Annual Report of the Year. This was planned to be incepted in October 2007, however this did not eventuate due to the sudden departure of our Executive Officer in September. Nevertheless in our pursuit to encourage excellence in our roles as Directors this remains a box to be ticked off.

In September survey forms on Director Interests and remuneration levels were sent to members for feedback as part of our database build up. Unfortunately response was very poor. I do hope for the second time around when you receive these survey forms again you will spare time to complete the questions and return the form to the Secretariat. All information will be kept in the strictest confidence and used to assist you at a later time.

For an organization like the PNGID we rely on an effective and efficient Secretariat to implement the policy decisions of the board for the benefit of members. Our work in progress was halted in October 2007 when the Executive Officer was terminated for abandoning employment. An interim arrangement was entered into with the Badili Club, to provide secretariat services whilst your board considered a new appointment. A permanent appointment in Eileen Simet was made on the 26th March 2008. We are confident she will pick up where former EO left off and work to not only serve the board, but you our valued members.

Looking Ahead

Director Training through our partnership with the PNG IBBM and creating a network of boardroom decision makers in both corporate and government sectors will continue to be the main stay of our operations. We will do this by holding breakfasts, lunches, evening events and inviting prominent individuals to share their views on the commercial and business aspects of our economy. In fact on the 9th May 2008 we will be holding our first corporate dinner at the Parliament House Function Room. The guest speaker is Governor of NCD, Hon Powes Parkop who will speak on the theme “Navigating the Private Sector and Government for Good Corporate Governance”. The Secretariat will provide details in due course.

Communication with members is an area we have lacked in and this is a focus I encourage the new board to improve on. The newsletter which used to be disseminated in the past served as an important source of information and this needs to be brought back. I also encourage the holding of regular Meet N Greets for members and their associates in an informal environment as another means of encouraging greater interaction amongst peers, as well enhancing communication between the Institute and its members.

I will be retiring as President at this AGM as I have fulfilled the constitutional two terms in office. I leave, knowing the Institute is back on its feet and ready to meet the challenges of this year and beyond.

It would be remiss of me not to mention a few organizations and individuals who have assisted me and the board in my term of office. I wish to thank;

- NASFUND, for providing office space and network infrastructure for the PNGID secretariat.
- NASFUND IT Team Leader, Charlie Gilichibi, for providing technical support for our website as well as creating our access member database for use by the secretariat.
- POMSOX for the use of their Board room to conduct our meetings.
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers for services as honorary auditors.
- Governor of the Bank, Wilson Kamit for providing the venue for today’s AGM.

Lastly, I wish to thank my board colleagues, Greg Berry, Ray Clark, Richard Sinamoi, Patricia Taureka, Michael Mayberry and Winston Jacob for their support and cooperation in the past two years. I wish the new board all the best in the future and assure you of my continued support.

Thank you.

Ian Tarutia, MBE
President