



**PNG PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED**  
HEAD OFFICE, STANLEY ESPLANADE, PORT MORESBY  
PO BOX 671, PORT MORESBY, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
TELEPHONE: (675) 321 1400, FACSIMILE: (675) 321 1546  
E-MAIL: [enquiries@pngports.com.pg](mailto:enquiries@pngports.com.pg), WEBSITE: [www.pngports.com.pg](http://www.pngports.com.pg)

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**For immediate release**

## Media Release

### Commonwealth workshop for Port development

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) is organising a workshop for the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC) to highlight its technical assistance program for the Commonwealth Pacific Island States.

Chief Executive Officer of PNGPCL, Brian Riches in accepting the COMSEC's request to organize the workshop said the workshop gives PNG Ports the opportunity to take advantage of the technical assistance program to increase port efficiency and operations.

Mr Riches said the workshop will also provide information that will benefit PNG Ports and its stakeholders.

Adviser of COMSEC, Sujeevan Perera said in an email that the "workshop is part of the Commonwealth Secretariat's technical assistance to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to undertake a Pacific Region Shipping and Port Development Study."

Mr Perera said "the overall goal of this project is to increase the maritime trade in the region."

He said the main aim is to conduct a two part study that will identify "the means of improving intra-regional sea trade within the Commonwealth Pacific Island States" and "the means of increasing the port operations and efficiency of the Commonwealth Pacific Island States (CPIS)."

Mr Perera said that the planned visit by the COMSEC and project consultant, CrimsonLogic Pte Ltd, will be to disseminate study findings and highlight COMSEC's technical assistance program with relevant stakeholders during the workshop.

CrimsonLogic is the project consultant which was recruited by COMSEC.

COMSEC will also highlight a number of technical assistant avenues available for PNG to take advantage of in order to increase port efficiency, port status and increase intra trade.

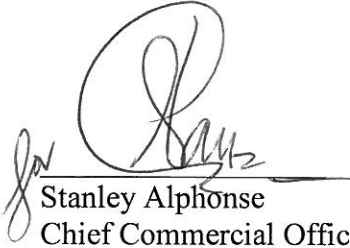
Consulting Director of CrimsonLogic, Chan Fook Seng said participating countries in this study include PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Cook Island.

Mr Fook Seng said the project is in its final stages and a report will be finalized and submitted by 21<sup>st</sup> of December this year.

Apart from a site visit to the Port Moresby Port; they will be visiting the PNG customs, government ministries, freight forwarders and shipping agents.

They also carried out site visits at Vanuatu and Solomon Islands before the planned visit to PNG.

**Edited & Endorsed by:**



Stanley Alphonse  
Chief Commercial Officer

**Authorized by:**



Brian Riches  
Chief Executive Officer

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