



# RH Foundation Inc. forks out K24,000 for suburban league

Source:

By HENRY MORABANG. \* The National Paper, Friday 19th November, 2010

THE charity arm of Rimbunan Hijau Group, RH Foundation, has donated K24,300 to support the second tier rugby league competition, the Port Moresby suburban rugby league.

In its inaugural board meeting in March, the RH Foundation chairman and the former prime minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu wanted the foundation to allocate funds to sports and charity-related activities for the community at the grassroots level.

The RH Group, as a responsible corporate citizen, aims to promote and encourage holistic development for the communities economically, socially, culturally, spiritually and intellectually.

It also aims to promote the long term well-being and self-sufficiency by supporting areas such as sports, economics and phy-



RH Foundation secretary-general JK Balasubramaniam presenting the cheque for K24,300.00 to NCD Governor Powes Parkop in the company of NCD city manager, Leslie Alu and Port Moresby suburban league president Billy Aki.

sical independence, nutrition and fitness, and, more importantly, sports among the youths to drive them away from engaging in illegal or unhealthy activities.

When presenting the cheque, RH Foundation secretary-general JK Balasubramaniam said the foundation was assisting NCDC's effort in promoting healthy lifestyles through sports.

Balasubramaniam said that the Rimbunan Hijau Group of Companies had helped many sporting activities, charitable organisations, churches and hospitals since it started operating in PNG 20 years ago. He said Sir Rabbie and the RH Foundation would like to wish the NCDC staff and organising

committee of the Port Moresby suburban sports the best in their sporting activities.

NCD Governor Powes Parkop thanked the RH Foundation for the support to suburban sports.

He said NCD had been the sole financier of the competition, and was happy to see a corporate entity like RH Foundation com-

ing in to support the grassroots sports at community level. Port Moresby Suburban Rugby League competition president Billy Aki thanked RH Foundation for jumping on board to assist the grassroots rugby league competition. Aki also thanked the patron Parkop for heading the competition which had been attracting a huge following.



# Getting it right

STEVEN ROCKEFELLER JR

Recently, I have discovered that each is a requirement for the other. I had been engaged by the executive chairman of the Rimbunan Hijau Group, Sir Tiong Hiew King, to advise on poverty alleviation in the giant resource company's areas of operation in Papua New Guinea. My party and I travelled more than 3,000km from coastal villages to mountain logging camps.



Steven C. Rockefeller Jr in Papua New Guinea

Here is a brief summary of what we learned. A Papua New Guinea guidebook describes Tufi as "carefree and far away from the world", but only the latter is correct.

In the inland areas, away from the ports, people are cut off from health and education services. The trickle of foreign aid that reaches Northern province is a source of frustration.

Worldwide, the amount of want to keep loggers out of PNG forests; but when I toured those forests, I did not meet any villagers who felt the same way. "No development" is not aid from donor nations that is aimed at fostering economic development has

*"FOR many years, the twin themes of my philanthropic career have been poverty-alleviation and environmental stewardship."*

shrunken by half in the past decade. Introducing a micro-credit programme could change things by putting small-scale economic development in the hands of local people instead of distant institutions. The loan of only a few kina can be enough to launch a small business and, in a generation, change what is possible for a family. Near the Saban sawmill in Milne Bay, I saw how in

vestment by the RH Group is restoring depleted plantation land, increasing royalties for local landowners and supporting the local economy. Palm oil is the most successful plantation industry, raising living standards for thousands of families. By Western standards, these people are merely less poor. But, at this end of the economic scale, small

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PUBLISHER'S DESK

Published By: Public Relations

Patron: James Lau

Editor: JK Balasubramanian

Sub Editor: Mathew Werigi

Layout & Design: Dinolla Tion

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# “No development is not an option for people who hope to prosper, let alone those who struggle to survive.”

increments are giant steps. Along the Bulolo River, you can still see the rusting skeletons of the gold dredges.

Historically, extractive industries like mining tend to concentrate wealth rather than spread prosperity. Today, the forest industry is creating sustainable jobs, services and roads that are avenues of commerce and community. Roads are the footprints of loggers. We flew over endless stretches of forest that I later discovered had been logged only a few years ago.

Axel Wilhelm of RH Group explained that the company takes relatively few trees out of each hectare of forest. I thought again of the debris from the abandoned mines. Where did all that gold go, I wondered. Timber is not a prize that is seized and taken away, never to return. Timber is a crop to be managed over generations.

It creates an economy with staying power. And this economy is in the forest communities where people live, not in the city hundreds of kilometers away.

In Panakawa, the mill produces plywood for homes all over the world. The facility is the area's social and economic hub. There is a school there, and doctors.

Young people can create a future where they grew up instead of leaving community and tribe behind to take their chances in Port Moresby – which cannot absorb them. Many of my friends in America and Europe imagine that we Westerners know what is best for what we still call the developing world.

Having gobbled up most of our own natural resources, we insist that the people in remote (to us!) and pristine areas like Papua New Guinea make no use of theirs.

I know half a dozen international organizations that want to keep loggers out of PNG forests; but when I toured those forests, I did not meet any villagers who felt the same way.

“No development” is not an option for people who hope to prosper, let alone those who struggle to survive. Economic development and environmental preservation cannot be a zero-sum equation. Both are requirements.

In my book, they are right. What single-issue environmentalists miss is that poverty is the world's great de-forester. Where there is nothing but forest that is what goes.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, just over 75% of deforestation in Papua New Guinea is caused by communities cutting trees for fuel.

These communities need energy from somewhere, and timber is the most accessible energy source. Sustainable economic development – that would promote alternative energy sources – is the only viable solution.

It is too bad that some of the world's most respected non-governmental organizations seem set on discouraging commercial activity in PNG's forests. Where else can economic development come from but commercial activity?

In Papua New Guinea, we have a magnificent opportunity to do it right – to develop sustainable industry from the start, without later having to undo harm.



Panakawa sawmill, the mill provides plywood for homes all over the world.

*Steven C. Rockefeller Jr is an American investor and philanthropist whose corporate partnerships and personal diplomacy seek to raise living standards among Asia's poorest*



# RH Foundation Inc. recap of donations in 2010

The charity arm of Rimbunan Hijau Group, RH Foundation Inc has taken vantage interest and approved several donations and sponsorships both in cash and kind in its last inaugural board meeting in March of 2010.

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**Port Moresby General Hospital Children's Ward Maintenance and Refurbishment**  
Total Amount:  
**K51, 000.00**

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Amongst the approved donations and sponsorships, the Foundation has approved K51,000.00 towards the maintenance and refurbishment of Port Moresby General Hospital's children's ward.

This donation will be in kind in the form of materials for the upgrade and maintenance of the ward as well as refurbishing the ward with medical necessities.

The donation has been made known to the Chief Executive Officer of Port Moresby General, Sem Vegogo and will be presented in due course.

This donation is in time to assist kick start Port Moresby General Hospital's Corporate Plan (2010-2015) in inviting corporate business houses to adopt a ward of their choice and assist in maintaining and upgrading their ward.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BAHA**  
Total Amount:  
**K50, 000.00**

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AS a responsible and committed corporate citizen, the Foundation once again approved an amount of K50, 000.00 to assist PNG-BAHA with its on-going mission to educate and assist business enterprises in developing and implementing policies and progra-

ms which serve to promote the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea.

A cheque of K50, 000.00 was presented to Mr Rod Mitchell CEO of PNGBAHA and joint CEO for Nasfund. This brings the Foundation's total contribution to PNGBAHA to an amount of K65, 000.00 since 2007.

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**Port Moresby Suburban Rugby League Competitions**  
Total Amount:  
**K24, 300.00**

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In its most recent cheque presentation the Foundation has donated a sponsorship of K24, 300.00 to Port Moresby Suburban Rugby League Competitions in an effort to assist the organising arm of the POM Suburban Rugby League compe-

dition, National Capital District Commission to achieve its goal in promoting grass-roots level sports development as well as promote and encourage holistic development for the communities economically, socially, culturally, spiritually and intellectually.

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**Tembari Children Care Port Moresby**  
Total Amount:  
**K10, 000.00**

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The Foundation has also donated K10, 000.00 worth of materials to Tembari Children Care, a charity organisation involved with the welfare of orphanage children in the ATS settlement in Port Moresby.

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**Sogeri National High School New Classroom Project**  
Total Amount:  
**K5, 000.00**

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Further to that, the Foundation has also approved K5,000.00 worth of timbers towards Sogeri National High School's 'New Classroom' Project for 2010.

## STAFF PROFILE



Erick was born in Port Moresby (NCD), although he is from Rabaraba District in Milne Bay Province. Following

the completion of his formal education he undertook and successfully completed a vocational training course on maintenance and carpentry. Erick joined Rimbunan Hijau (PNG) Group in 2004 as a guard. It did not take long for his qualities to be noticed by those around him, and in 2005 he was promoted to the position of rapid response security officer. His role involves providing

guidance to others and dealing promptly and efficiently with various types of situations that may arise at the company's operations. While keen to maintain high standards of discipline, Erick is respected for his willingness to lend a hand and provide direction to others when required. He continues to display strong initiative and work ethic and can be relied upon to work effectively with

little or no regular supervision. He is held in very high esteem by his comrades for his reliability, flexibility and excellent communication skills.

Rimbunan Hijau congratulates Erick Okoa on being awarded Employee of the Month for December 2009, and has every confidence that Erick will continue his career with the Group into the future.



# Finally - Happy Faces

By ALFREDO PHERNANDEZ - *A Friend of Tembari Children*



The newly-delivered 1,000-gallon water tank dwarfs the Tembari kids who are taking shelter from the sun. The tank is a donation from RH Foundation.

FINALLY, after a long delay, the 1,000-gallon water tank for The Center's water facility project was delivered by the supplier last week.

Installing a water facility is one of The Center's major projects. The other one is electricity, which we expect to have very soon.

The water tank, alongside the needed attachments like pipes and more, has been provided by the RH Foundation – the charity arm of RH (PNG) Group.

As soon as RH Foundation learned of our difficulty of obtaining water for our day-to-day needs at The Center, it did not hesitate to shoulder the cost of the materials for a water facility.

We use water to cook the daily meals of our beneficiary children and clean the cooking utensils.

To do this, volunteer mothers would need several buckets of water which they have to collect from the settlement water tap some 200 meters away.

The settlement water facility is being run by a community association called the Oro Community Development Association (OCDA), which charges fees to users. But the problem with this service is that OCDA decides when to let the water flow.

It does not tell the users like us as to when it would come so we could anticipate for it, and thus wait for it. It has no fixed schedule. So you really have to wait by the water tap the whole time, ready with your bucket, if you badly needed water.

Sometimes, water would come late in the night, thus keeping people awake the whole night while collecting water and hauling them off to their houses.

The same thing goes for our volunteer moms assigned to collect water for The Center.

Due to the difficulty in having water, our beneficiary children would usually skip washing hands before eating.

And they don't drink water but instead, would just make do with cordial drink, prepared from water collected from the public faucet. And this is, most of the time, contaminated because it is collected in not-so-clean, uncovered buckets. It is a common knowledge that anybody who had just meals should drink at least a glass of water because it is needed to digest the food taken.

Our children at The Center would skip drinking water – a clean one at that – after their meals. And it is a pity for them. That's why I tried my best to encourage The Water Company (TWC), a purified water provider, to donate to the children on a weekly basis at least six 19-liter containers of their water product.

I would collect this donation every Friday from TWC and bring it to The Center the next day when I do my special cooking for the children. Then, I return the empty containers for refill.

It is only then that our children would have really iced and clean water. And they could easily consume a container-full in matter of 15 minutes. That's how thirsty they are for drinking water.

Hopefully, this sad experience of our kids would end soon.



**RH Foundation Inc**

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# Non Presence of Government Services



Tropic air off-loading cargoes and passengers at one of the remote airstrips.

It is one of the remote, vast and least developed provinces in Papua New Guinea. Kamusie is in the Bamu LLG of Balimo District in the Western Province. Rimbunan Hijau (RH) operates as Wawoi Guavi Timber Company where it provides basic services like health, education and air transport and communication for over twenty years.

The company provides sawn timber, machinery works and other construction materials for the establishment/ construction of the facilities like: Churches, Community Hall, Aid Posts, Classrooms, Teachers Houses, and Accommodation for Aid post personnel, Improvement/upgrading of existing airstrips and sports playing fields including basket ball court.

These villages have been beneficiaries of the above; Kopalasi, Musula, Bibisa, Garoro, Wareho, Mataya, Sogae and Kasigi (Wawoi Falls) the company 'fulfilled its obligation to assist in the provision of sawn timber'

for school classrooms by delivering sawn timber and some roofing iron.

It spent K230, 000 between 1992 and 1994 or an average of around K19,000 per year. This figure does not include the cost of a doctor at the Panakawa and Kamusie sites, health spending by RH at Wawoi Guavi could have amounted to almost half the comparable spending in that area by Western Province Government.

The company built and staffed aidpost/clinic in Kamusie is a classic example of non existence of government services. The clinic provides basic health services to local villages around Kamusie including land owners, lower and upper Bamu, Emeti, national and expatriate employees and their families, already mentioned villages above and those from Kuri, Moka and Haivaro in the Gulf Province.

In its outpatient department, the clinic

treats common diseases like pneumonia, malaria, asthma, TB, diarrhea and snake bites. It also provides antenatal clinic, family planning, out patients, inpatients, emergency services for outer camps. The clinic gets its medical supplies from the government through the area medical store, Balimo Health Centre through requisitions with the company meeting the shipping cost, AUSAID supplies and the company itself. In a day it treats between 50 and 100 patients and also it refers patients to Daru and Port Moresby General Hospitals. An expatriate doctor, a nursing officer and 5 community health workers are working at the clinic and nearby sites with their salaries and accommodation fully paid for and provided by the company.

In 2006, total expenditure by the Provincial Government in Fly River District was K12 million and total expenditure by Rimbunan Hijau Group was K21 million. The economic welfare impact of these expenditures, if the cross multipliers used to assess the PNG Gas pipeline project are applied, suggest that the economic impact of this spending is likely to be more than double this amount.

When the landowners were asked about the non existence of government services in their area they said, "the company is our government". "Even our resources have contributed to the government's economic purse, after 20 years of the company's presence in our area there no signs of existence of the government in this part of the country", said one of them. Interestingly though, there is hardly any sign of Provincial Division of Commerce and Agriculture and Livestock in the lower and upper Bamu areas to assist people to go into spin-offs like crocodile and rice farming for example.

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# Obtaining a sustainable PNG Forestry Industry

<http://www.fiapng.com/forestindustry01.html>



for domestic and export consumption. The rest of PNG, about 75 per cent of the land and forest area, provides many opportunities for wildlife protection and conservation.

The challenge facing the industry and the Government is to manage the productive forests in such a way that will enable people to benefit from the resource today whilst ensuring that the resource can be conserved for the benefit of future generations.

Most of PNG's forest resources are located in remote rural areas which receive few Government services and in many places there has been little development compared with the type of development people living in the towns and cities have enjoyed.

By using and managing the forests of these areas in a sustainable manner, rural people are provided with opportunities for development in their areas and the benefit of some of the services that people living in towns enjoy every day.

All timber companies operating in PNG are required to take care during logging operations and not to cause unnecessary or avoidable damage or disturbance, and to leave the remaining forest in a condition that will recover over time. This also helps the animal and bird populations recover after logging operations in an area.

### Forest and employment

The country needs to create as many jobs as possible for people in both the rural and urban areas. The Forest Industry at present directly employs more than 10,000 people, which makes

it one of the biggest employers in the country. Many jobs are also created in many spin off or associated activities. The Forest Industry provides jobs for both skilled and unskilled people and most of these jobs are provided in the rural areas so people don't have to move to the towns to look for work. Also, people in villages get some opportunity to sell their garden produce to the logging camps for their income. Forest Industries provide jobs for people in areas such as logging and milling operations, in occupations such as supervisors, equipment operators, sawmill operators, technical support and general labour. With experience, training and ability, management positions are also open.

### Forestry and health services

It is a condition in many timber permits granted by the National Government that the operators build and maintain aid posts for the people of the area. These aid posts provide convenient health services for landowners in some isolated rural areas. The aid posts built and maintained by the logging companies cater for the basic health needs of the village people in the area and provide treatment for sicknesses such as malaria, dysentery and snake bite, and help mothers with young babies. Without these aid posts, the village people would have to travel long distances to get basic health services and because most of these people live in very remote areas they would not be able to travel long distances if they were sick. By providing these health services the Forest Industry operators are improving the lives of the village people and helping them if they get sick.

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# RH Foundation Inc. Donates K50,000.00 to PNG Business Coalition Against HIV & AIDS

The RH Foundation once again decided to assist PNG Business Coalition against HIV/AIDS (BAHA). The presentation of K50,000 donation brings the total amount contributed by RH Group to PNG BAHA to K650,000 since 2007.



Mr Rod Mitchell Baha's CEO and Joint CEO for Nasfund, accepting the RH Foundation Cheque of K50,000.00 from RH Foundation Inc Executive officer, Mathew Werigi as RH HIV/AIDS coordinator Janis and BAHA Staff look on.

When presenting the cheque the Rimbunan Hijau's representative mentioned that "as a responsible and committed corporate citizen the company once again supports BAHA's ongoing effort and mission to educate and assist

business enterprises in developing and implementing policies and programs which serve to promote the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in

Papua New Guinea. This is also to fulfill one of RH Foundation's main objectives and purpose; To encourage and assist in basic health care, sp-

cialist medicine, health education, HIV/AIDS, awareness, hygiene and first aid.

When accepting the K50,000, Mr. Rod Mitchell Baha BAHA's CEO and Joint CEO for NASFUND was grateful for the contribution made by RH Foundation. He further stated that, "the donation will assist BAHA in a long way with its effort and mission to educate the business organisation about HIV/AIDS and thanked the company for its ongoing support".

# RH Staff donates blood

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The St John's Blood transfusion is still in need of blood from the general public and other donors like corporate organisations. The Port Moresby General Hospital needs about 100 hundred bags of blood every day to cater for the demand from the sick and other related cases.

The Rimbunan Hijau Group

has so far donated more than two hundred bags since the Blood Bank started collecting from its staff members.

This year alone more than a hundred bags were collected. The sister in charge thanked our staff on November 23<sup>rd</sup> when they collected only 11 bags and they look forward for the continued support from us next year.



RH Staff donating blood during the visit in November 2010



- frm page 7 - Conservation Debate: A Question of Growth

Greenpeace and WWF have a long record between them of producing supposedly scientific reports where claims are not supported, even false and facts are misrepresented or distorted. Greenpeace has been caught out twice in the last few months, producing heavily distorted reports about the pulp and palm oil industries. WWF's record is little better. It has made claims about the rate of burning down Indonesian forests which have been publicly demonstrated as wrong.

The London Telegraph dubbed as "Amazongate" revelations that WWF had produced supposedly science-based reports on the adverse impacts of forestry in Brazil which could not be supported. There is a political campaign at work here. The aim is to brand the largest plantation operators in Indonesia as responsible for the bulk of the country's deforestation. The group of mostly biodiversity scientists who here challenge World Growth share that sentiment. It is not true.

The FAO routinely states that worldwide around two-thirds of forest land clearance is by the poor — to acquire fuel wood, to practice low-return agriculture or to acquire shelter.

The other third is converted to highly productive use — commercial agriculture (including palm oil) and forest plantations. These activities are important contributors to economic growth. A large share of it is undertaken by large companies.

Most land clearing by the poor in most developing countries already flaunts local land use rules. It's hard to see how a ban on deforestation driven by Western campaigners is going to make any difference. The answer to this problem, as we have noted before, is the postulation by Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel Prize laureate, Wangari Maathai: End poverty.

It is the large corporations and the plantation industries which create the

jobs which remove the incentive for the poor to clear land. Stopping corporations converting forest land to more productive uses removes the best tool (employment — and therefore food security) to stop wasteful conversion. There has been a response to World Growth's call to address poverty, but it borders on the disingenuous.

It was advanced by WWF and echoed by the biodiversity scientists that protection of the forest preserves the subsistence lifestyles of indigenous forest peoples. But in fact, all this preserves is high rates of infant mortality, illiteracy and short life spans. The forest dwellers might as well be in an open-range zoo established for the pleasure of environmental campaigners. And how does that help the 40 million people in Indonesia still living below the poverty line?

Here, we arrive at the nub of World Growth's position. Apart from the fact that deforestation rates have been overstated, and that the leading cause has been misrepresented, humanitarianism dictates that we devise solutions to protect the environment without restricting our capacity to lift people out of poverty.

No reasonable person would object to that. A reasonable person would, however, object if solutions to environmental problems exacerbated rather than improved the condition of the world's poor, unless they elected to subscribe to sort of morally unacceptable strategies to reduce population, which has been entertained by one of our critics, biology professor Paul Ehrlich.

*'Alan Oxley is chairman of the Washington-based World Growth Institute and a managing consultant at International Trade Strategies in Melbourne.'*

*'This article was written in response to an open letter by 12 leading conservation scientists'*

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### Non Presence of Government Services

In Kamusie, there are only four teachers for the upper primary and three for lower primary/elementary school. According to some kids interviewed, "we go sit in the classroom till 12pm and return home when no teachers to attend to us". One of the major reason most teachers left is of lack of basic banking services for them to get their salaries, there should be Micro Bank set up in Kamusie through PNG Sustainable Development Program with the assistance of the company to provide the building and electricity. This is to benefit the employees, land owners, ordinary villagers and others.

Health and education infrastructure services at Wawoi Guavi is very significant for the local people. If those services are not provided by Rimbunan Hijau the size of the Western Province budget strongly suggests that they would not be provided at all.

With the National Government's aim of achieving its 2050 development Vision in 50 years time to fulfill its seven pillars of the National Health Plan, it has to make a start now. Embraces in the plan for example, is a strategy on how drugs reach rural health centers, to fully achieve this it must first and foremost address the issue of deteriorating roads and communication infrastructures within the country, take Western and some parts of Gulf provinces for example, it is only accessible only by air and sea transport.

The government should be proactive and encourage more public private partnership with the businesses, churches and others in achieving such Visions, Plans and even the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)s of Papua New Guinea.



- frm page 4 - Obtaining a sustainable PNG Forestry Industry

#### Forest industry and education

Forest operators may be required to build community schools in the areas where they are operating. These schools provide the opportunity for many thousands of young Papua New Guineans to go to school close to home. The Forest Industry can build these schools because they operate in the area and can provide the materials and labour to construct classrooms close to villages, which means children don't have to travel long distances to go to school. If the Forest Industry operators did not build these schools and teacher housing, many children would not have the opportunity to receive an education. try develop. At present, the Industry sponsors students in many educational areas such as technical and tertiary training both in PNG and Overseas.

#### Forestry and business development for rural people

The Forest Industry creates many business opportunities for rural people from the payment of royalties and premiums to landowners and to landowner companies and the spin-off business activities. Because of the presence of Forest Industry operations in their area, Landowner companies are provided with business opportunities in industries such as in transport, trading, sawmills and many other business opportunities that would not exist if the logging companies were not operating in the area. Logging companies pay millions of Kina every year to landowners through royalties and premiums. Some of this money is invested in businesses of their choice to provide more income and jobs for the people of timber areas. By creating these business opportunities and paying royalties and premiums to the landowners, the forest industry is doing its part in the distribution of benefits which results in spin-off improvements to rural communities.

#### Infrastructure

One of the major problems faced by rural people is their isolation caused by a lack of roads and bridges. Transport infrastructure is a very important tool of development. Forest operations build roads and bridges which enables peoples villages to be connected with services. This improves the lives of rural people because they can travel by road to sell their produce in markets. As the Forest Industry in PNG grows and expands it will provide many more and different jobs for the people of this country.

As the Forest Industry grows there will be more schools built which means



that more children will have the opportunity to be educated which will help the country develop. Forest operators have been responsible for building many of the roads in the remote rural parts of this country and continued forestry operations will ensure that more and more people have roads and bridges in their areas. With access to these roads, people can trade with each other and carry their produce on trucks and PMV's instead of having to carry heavy loads on foot over long distances. The construction

of roads and bridges provides the infrastructure that will help the country develop and provide many more jobs and opportunities for young school leavers. Airstrips and wharves improve access to remote areas by easier transportation and delivery of goods. This helps to improve the standard of living in rural areas.

#### The future for forestry in PNG

Papua New Guinea is fortunate to have these timber resources and we must develop them in a sustainable manner that will provide jobs and economic opportunities now and ensure that there is enough resources left for future generations to benefit from. This can be done if the correct management of the resources is put in place which allows for a balance of harvesting and conservation for the future. For planned management to be effective, there must be commitment of resources for development in the nation's long term interest.

By managing our forests properly it is possible to harvest some areas today and allow the natural re-growth to be available for future generations to enjoy. Papua New Guineans can help by planting useful timber trees or fruit trees in their areas, and trying to get people to take an interest in improving the forest in their area.

Expansion of the Forest Industry in PNG will also provide some jobs for people in areas such as sawmilling and processing of timber products. PNG has the opportunity to develop its forests in a sustainable and productive way that will both maintain the environment and create jobs for school leavers. As a developing country, PNG must take sensible steps to utilise its natural resources in a way to benefit the nation in the long term. there is enough forest in PNG for protection, conservation and resource development in

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# That's SO MaLA ySiAn LaH!

**STAR SPECIAL, Tuesday 31 August 2010.**

*Cutting lanes when we driving. Mouthing off at other drivers. Burring durian breath. Keeping our handph-ones on at the movies and worse, talking loudly on it. There's a lot to gripe about when we talk about Malaysians and their bad habits but there's also much to make us smile. Packing a bottle sambal belacan or bringing along some cup noodles every time we go overseas, be cause the foreign fare is unbearably bland. Recognising a fellow Malaysian far away from home when we can hear sentences finishing with "lah".*



*It's three in the morning. Where else will you find insomniacs hanging out but at a mamak stall? And if there's a live football game on, you can be sure Malaysian fans will be there, tucking into supper and drinking the Malaysian favorite beverage, teh tarik.*

*Ever wondered why most Malaysians, when they pick up a newspaper, will ignore the one on the top and instead, dig for one from the middle. Is the news fresher the further down you go?*



*When you are stuck in rush hour traffic and need to get some where in a hurry, listen out for the all-too familiar siren of the ambulance. Then do what savvy Malaysian drivers do and quickly tail the ambulance, weaving in and out of traffic to be on your way.*



*Ever spotted an accident on the highway and wondered how the tow truck operators can get to the accident site before the police do? Be prepared for drivers on both sides of the highway to slow down, stare, and of course, take the vehicle numbers as well.*



*It's becoming an all-too-common sight - an entire family squeezed together and merrily riding on a motor bike, with mum and dad helmeted to comply with the law but the kids bare-headed. And even if they do have a helmet on, chances are its either too big or too small*



*Ask any Malaysian dude who he likes to hang out with and he'll introduce you to his "brudder". It doesnt matter if they come from different ethnicities, cultures and religions, because deep down a Malaysian guy will call his good friends "Macha" (Tamil for brother in law)*



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## Obtaining a sustainable PNG Forestry Industry

the Nation's interest, if the right decisions are taken to promote long term resource development through resource security. Our forests are not "disappearing" because of the timber industry. We must use our forest resources wisely in the long term to ensure that they can sustain long term activity. Logging causes changes to the forest, and if these are managed adequately, the forest recovers to provide further future benefits.

The Forest Industry works closely with Governments at both the National and Provincial level to ensure that the forests can be developed in a sustainable way and to ensure that the environment can be utilised and conserved in a responsible way.

The Forest Industries Association expects that the Forest Industry will continue to develop in Papua New Guinea and will in the future expand into new areas of operations including down

stream processing. The potential exists for the Forest Industry to create many thousands of new jobs and boost the country's export earnings to help Papua New Guinea towards higher standards of development. At the same time, we can protect our forests for many uses. One very important purpose is to maintain forest industry and rural development based on the approximately 30 per cent of PNG which has long term forest utilisation and management potential.

## Conservation Debate: A Question of Growth

Jakarta Globe

Alan Oxley | October 27, 2010

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/opinion/conservation-debate-a-question-of-growth/403613>

**The refusal of the Indonesian government to allow Rainbow Warrior, dubbed by some as Greenpeace's environmental warship, to dock in Indonesia recently, reveals a growing impatience in Southeast Asia toward the attitudes and methods of Western environmentalists.**

There are two sources of disaffection. The first is disregard of the poor and economic growth.

The second is distortion of science to make a political case.

The declared aim of Greenpeace and WWF is to see an end to all conversion of forest to any other purpose everywhere. There is no scientific case for this and a powerful economic argument against.

World Growth joined the global debate to argue for solutions that respected action to reduce poverty, not displace it. This has drawn criticism, as we expected, and we welcome it.

At last the impact of green strategies on poverty is now on the table.

To those who argue that biodiversity is threatened unless all conversion of forest land ceases, we ask the

questions: "What biodiversity is expressly protected by global cessation of conversion of forest land to other purposes and how is that biodiversity scientifically measured?"

To World Growth's knowledge, no scientific analysis supporting this position has so far been produced.

However, one political effort has been made to set how much forest should be preserved globally to be able to protect current biodiversity.

Signatories to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity proposed at one point that 10 percent of the world's forests needed to be set aside to protect biodiversity. WWF has reported that that target has been met.

The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that 21 percent of forest land in South and Southeast Asia has been set aside for biodiversity conservation (considerably more than the CBD's proposed 10 percent).

The United Nations Environment Program has reported that 21 percent of tropical forests are in protected areas. In temperate forests the percentage is less than 13 percent, but even then we cannot be too precise.

For example, the FAO recently revised its deforestation figures for 2000-2005 downwards by more than 12 million hectares — half the area of Britain. Two points to underline here are that plenty of forest land remains for productive activity and that globally the rate of deforestation is modest and declining.

The FAO reports the global deforestation rate has declined from 0.20 percent of forest land per annum to around 0.14 percent per annum over the past two decades. This reflects historical and current empirical research on forests and economic development — that as societies become wealthier, deforestation slows, stops and eventually gives way to forest expansion.

That said, this is all educated guesswork. The technical basis of the measurement of global measure of forest cover could be significantly improved, and the FAO has been pressing for this to be done. This would evidently be useful information. Instead of agitation for this from biodiversity activists and environmentalists, there is silence. This is not surprising. Science is adduced to support a political case when it suits, not to establish facts.

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