



**The Centre for Democratic Institutions**

## **PNG Investigative Reporting and Personal Skills Workshops**

**Madang: 30 June -4 July 2003**

**Loloata Island: 7-11 July 2003**

At the request of the Media Council of PNG (MCPNG), the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre (APJC, formerly known as Journalists International), supported by the Centre for Democratic Institutions, designed and delivered two workshops for media practitioners in Port Moresby and Madang. The workshops focused on strengthening the skills of PNG journalists in attacking corruption and promoting good governance in their country. These workshops combined training in assertiveness and other personal communication skills with the techniques of investigative reporting.

The training team comprised John Wallace, Program Director of APJC, Dr Steve Tanner of the School of Media, Communication and Culture at Murdoch University and Robyn Wallace, an educational management consultant specialising in affirmative action and mentoring programs.

### **Background**

Political instabilities and the break down of law and order in Papua New Guinean society and government restrict the ability of the media to operate effectively and report critically. Media practitioners are confronted with corruption, threats of violence and a lack of media infrastructure. In supporting PNG media workshops, CDI aims to provide practitioners with the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to play an effective role in combating corruption through critical reporting.

The Investigative Reporting and Personal Skills workshops compliment three other PNG governance related media workshops supported by CDI that have been designed and delivered by John Wallace. In November 2001, CDI supported a media workshop that focused on the skills associated with reporting on public affairs. The workshop aimed to develop a more professional approach to the media's reporting of the PNG government ([http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au/png/PNG\\_PublicAffairs\\_Nov01.htm](http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au/png/PNG_PublicAffairs_Nov01.htm)).

In November 2002, CDI supported a media workshop that reviewed media coverage of the 2002 elections in PNG and aimed to develop strategies for covering future elections ([http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au/png/PNG\\_Election\\_Reporting\\_Nov02.htm](http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au/png/PNG_Election_Reporting_Nov02.htm)).

According to John Wallace, the APJC had not previously attempted to integrate personal communication skills into an investigative reporting program. Responses from the Investigative Reporting and Personal Skills workshops proved this to be a successful initiative. John Wallace commented that “The proposal was keenly welcomed by the Media Council,” he said, “but we were unsure how well this material would be received. In fact, the participant evaluations and other feedback show there is widespread recognition of the value of developing personal communication skills, not just for journalism but for public life in PNG generally.”

## Participants

The first workshop was held at the Divine Word University in Madang. Participants comprised twelve media practitioners and ten journalism students from DWU:

1.	Mr Eric Tapakau	Post Courier	Port Moresby
2.	Mr Eric Kone	Post Courier	Port Moresby
3.	Ms Elizabeth Sasere	Post Courier	Kokopo
4.	Ms Anisah Issimel	NBC	Madang
5.	Ms Carol Umbo	NBC	Lae
6.	Ms Donna Saiwal	NBC	Wewak
7.	Ms Suenema Waninara	PNGFM	Port Moresby
8.	Ms Selina Korei	NBC	Vanimu
9.	Mr Jobby Paiva	CDI FM	Port Moresby
10.	Mr Peter Korugl	FORD	Mt Hagen
11.	Mr John Jay	FORD	Mt Hagen
12.	Mr Jerry Ginua	EMTV	Boroko
13.	Mr Frank Genaia	DWU	Madang
14.	Ms Helen Tuka	DWU	Madang
15.	Mr Jaive Smare	DWU	Madang
16.	Mr Kingston Namun	DWU	Madang
17.	Ms Lillian Basse	DWU	Madang
18.	Ms Melissa Fairi	DWU	Madang
19.	Ms Miriam Mantu	DWU	Madang
20.	Ms Priscilla Winfrey	DWU	Madang
21.	Ms Dorothy Bengo	DWU	Madang
22.	Ms Annette Sete	DWU	Madang

The second workshop was held at the Loloata Island Resort near Port Moresby. Participants comprised 13 media practitioners and five journalism students from the University of Papua New Guinea:

1.	Mr Jerry Tave	NBC	Boroko NCD
2.	Ms Priscilla Jonathan	NBC	Alotau MBP
3.	Ms Nancy Gah	NBC	Kimbe, West New Britain
4.	Mr Peter Niesi	Post Courier	Port Moresby
5.	Ms Maureen Gerawa	Post Courier	Port Moresby

6.	Ms Gorethy Kenneth	Post Courier	Buka, Bougainville
7.	Mr Moresi Ruahma'a	National	Boroko NCD
8.	Mr Dominic Krau	National	Boroko NCD
9.	Ms Esther Gegelagi	PNGFM	Port Moresby
10.	Mr Francis Benny	PM's Media Unit	Port Moresby
11.	Ms Titi Gabi	EMTV	Boroko NCD
12.	Mr James Kaltobie	CDIFM	Port Moresby
13.	Mr Bonner Tito	FM100	Port Moresby
14.	Ms Lilian Bago	UPNG	Port Moresby
15.	Ms Beatrice Bonakoya	UPNG	Port Moresby
16.	Mr Stanley Nondol	UPNG	Port Moresby
17.	Ms Nancy Lagdom	UPNG	Port Moresby
18.	Mr Barnabas Orere Pondros	UPNG	Port Moresby

## **The Program**

In association with MCPNG, APJC designed a program that combined personal skills work with the technical and professional skills needed for investigative reporting. The personal skills content drew on a range of current organisational and management theory and was tailored to the needs of media workers in PNG. The investigative reporting content built on the work of earlier programs from previous workshops in PNG on reporting government and elections. The outline of the program is attached at the end of this report.

The workshop in Madang included the following guest speakers: Father Jan Czuba, the President of Divine Word University, Mr Ila Geno, the Chief Ombudsman, Mr Justin Tkatchenko, policy adviser and Mr Philemon, Chair of the Media Council. Mr James Yali, the Madang governor, hosted a pre-workshop reception at the Madang Club.

The workshop in Loloata Islands included the following guest speakers: Mr Mike Manning, Director of the Institute of National Affairs, Mr Chonox Manek, the Public Prosecutor, a representative of Transparency International, Mr Vincent Bull of Allens Arthur Robinson, Mr Ila Geno, the Chief Ombudsman, a representative of Kina Securities Ltd, Ms Rita Abe, and Professor Les Eastcott, the Vice Chancellor of the University of PNG. Also attending were Mr Justin Kili, of PNGFM and a member of the Media Council's training committee, Ms Andiopa Sabadi from the Media Council secretariat, and Mr John Rei from Media Council.

## **Participant Evaluation of the Workshops**

Comprehensive surveys of participant views on the content and delivery of the program were conducted at conclusion of the workshops. These surveys indicate high levels of satisfaction. Both sections of the program rated very highly in terms of providing useful insights, standard of instruction and value of practical work. These responses were matched with a high rating for the program overall.

According to participants, the “most useful part” of the personal skills section was the work on assertiveness and its application to journalism. This was followed by an understanding that differences in personal style have an impact on public life.

The “most useful part” of the investigative reporting section was the Bird of Paradise hypothetical exercise. This exercise required participants to provide research directions and other responses to a developing corruption story, including working in teams to write news reports. Participants generally felt that they would have liked to have done more work in both areas.

### **The Editors’ Anti-Corruption Task Force**

A significant outcome from the workshops was the establishment of an anti-corruption Editors’ task force, formed as a sub-committee of the MCPNG. Senior participants in the workshop met during the week of the Loloata Island workshop to form the task force with the goal of developing strategies to advance the MCPNG’s war on corruption campaign.

This task force will spearhead the news/editorial aspect of the war on corruption campaign. The primary role of the task force is to receive and sort through tips and information on allegations of corruption and to use this information to compile stories aimed at exposing corruption. Through the task force, a news campaign against corruption will be sustained by member media organizations. Members plan to seek funds to employ an investigative journalist who will work from the MCPNG secretariat to produce news reports that can be accessed by all news media in PNG.

Peter Niesi of the *Post Courier* has been appointed Chairman of the task force, Yehaira Hriewhazi of the *National* has been appointed Deputy Chairman and Ttit Gabi, of *EMTV* has been appointed Secretary of the task force. Monthly meetings have been scheduled to coincide with MCPNG meetings. This will promote close collaboration and information sharing between the two media bodies.

### **Conclusion**

Mr Oseah Philemon, Chair of the Media Council’s training committee, commented that the workshops had successfully achieved the goal of empowering reporters for the task of reporting corruption. Understanding the importance of this type of training for media practitioners, Mr. Philemon commented that the council would like the opportunity for more PNG journalists to participate in the program. The importance of this training was further reinforced by media organisations where employers provided their own funds to enable participants to attend the media workshops.

## THE PROGRAM FOR MEDIA WORKSHOPS IN MADANG AND LOLOATA ISLAND

### DAY 1

#### Overview and goals of program

#### Personal skills:

- Who am I?
- Personal style analysis

#### Investigative reporting:

- Introduction to investigative reporting
- Accessing records: hard copy data
- Bird of Paradise hypothetical (start)

### DAY 2

#### Personal skills:

- More on personal style analysis
- Sources of personal power
- Personal communication skills

#### Investigative reporting:

- Surfing the net for information
- Databases and data manipulation

### DAY 3

#### Personal skills:

- The power of assertiveness
- The power of values

#### Investigative reporting:

- More on databases
- Introduction to financial statements

### DAY 4

#### Personal skills:

- Networking, mentoring and teamwork
- Time management
- Dealing with stress

#### Investigative reporting:

- More on financial statements
- Company reports and balance sheets
- Politicians and how they manipulate you

### DAY 5

#### Investigative reporting:

- Legal and ethical issues
- Reluctant sources
- Bird of Paradise wrap-up