



The PNG Handicraft Delegation & PHAMA officials visit the MSG Secretariat

**28 August 2018**

A delegation consisting of prominent tourism officials from East New Britain and Milne Bay Provinces in Papua New Guinea visited the MSG Secretariat to commence their three-day consultative and educational visit to Port Vila.

Included in the delegation is the Country Manager of Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA), Mr Sidney Suma and Chief Executive Officer of Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, Mr Sioni Sioni.

On behalf of the Director General, the Officer in Charge (OIC) Mr Ilan Kiloe welcomed the delegation to the Secretariat and thanked PHAMA Program for assisting and organising the important visit emphasising the enthusiasm demonstrated by the delegation to promote tourism activities in Member countries.

Mr Kiloe stressed the importance the MSG Secretariat places on collaboration between members on tourism activities as it is well connected to the multi-destination tourism program currently being pursued and approved by Leaders in 2013 as part of the “MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan”.

Following the official welcome, the Programme Manager for Economic Development Mr David Hopa delivered a presentation on the MSG Multi-destination Tourism Program for Melanesia. In his presentation Mr Hopa highlighted the reasoning behind working on these initiative as to market Melanesia as a single destination with a trail of activities and events for tourists and foreign visitors to attend, participate in and enjoy while touring our sub-region of Melanesia.

Meanwhile, the Director General of MSG concurred that tourism activity plays an important part in our member’s economies as it continues to add value to our Gross Domestic Products and contributes in a positive way to the livelihood of our rural population.

He says, tourism activity involves the lives and efforts of our people right down from the grass-roots or the informal economy up to policy and decision makers and most importantly continues to help provide employment, disposable income, government revenue and the needed infrastructure for the rural areas where the population mass are.

The Director General expressed his profound gratitude to the Government of Vanuatu through the Ministry of Tourism, and PHAMA for involving the MSG Secretariat in the planning, organisation and facilitation of this visitation program and assisting our Wantoks from PNG provinces who are eager to learn more about Vanuatu’s tourism environment including the Tourism Ambassadors program.

The visit concluded with a tour of the MSG Secretariat and familiarisation of the work program and activities of the MSG.

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