



Looking for Research Participants for a TVET graduate tracer study

Dr Francis Odhuno and Dr Elizabeth Kopel, Senior Research Fellows at the PNG National Research Institute (NRI), are currently conducting a study about labour market outcomes of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) graduates in Papua New Guinea (PNG). This study is open to all 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 cohorts of TVET graduates who completed their training from any TVET college or institute located anywhere in PNG.

Understanding the labour market outcomes of TVET graduates is currently needed because PNG's extractive sector is set to expand, with the construction of the next mega-project – the Papua LNG project – about to start next year. Moreover, negotiations for reopening Bougainville Copper is at an advanced stage, while Frieda River, P'nyang, Wafi-Golpu, Pasca, and Woodlark are also some of the extractive industry projects in the pipeline.

Lessons from the first mega-project – Exxon Mobil's US\$19 billion PNG LNG investment – suggest that the project construction phase saw unprecedented growth in formal employment. Yet, at its peak, less than 5 percent of the PNG LNG project workforce were Papua New Guineans, meaning that a majority of the trade and technical jobs were taken by expatriates during the construction of the project. There is, therefore, a general concern that PNG must not miss out again. In view of the impending extractive sector projects, a rapid skills anticipation survey is needed to find out whether PNG is ready with trade and technical skilled manpower that these projects will require?

This study is anonymous, voluntary and you do not need your employers' permission (if you are currently working) to participate. You can participate by filling in a short online questionnaire (10 to 15 minutes), but first, we need to confirm your credentials to take part in the study. **Please send a copy of your most recent TVET certificate** to the researchers at francis.odhuno@pngnri.org. The link to the online questionnaire will be sent to your email address after verifying your authenticity and eligibility.

PNG NRI research projects contribute to the Institute's role in conducting research to inform and influence public policy in PNG for improving the welfare of the people. If you choose to participate in any research project, your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time.