

Quick facts

- The partnership between Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) and Port Moresby Technical College (POMTECH) enables partnership activities, including the lease of land where APTC facilities are located, utility and communication costs, refurbishment of trade facilities, contribution to asset maintenance, site redevelopment and building capacity and capability for POMTECH.
- The POMTECH and APTC partnership was established in 2008 to run until 2011. Then in 2011 the partnership was extended for another four years.
- The PNG government currently contributes funding towards seven technical colleges (national institutions) and 132 vocational training centres (provincial institutions) across PNG².
- More than 45 POMTECH trainers to date, have attended APTC for training to attain their Trade Qualifications at Certificate III and Certificate IV level. At the end of 2014, a number of trainers will also receive their Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.
- The APTC PNG campus is the only college where electrical trade personnel can attain their Certificate III in Electrical. There are currently 16 participants from Fiji and Samoa undergoing this training.
- The new hospitality and tourism facility at the APTC-POMTECH campus was completed in July 2014.
- In line with the APTC Capacity Building Strategy, funds have been committed over a four-year period since 2011 towards building capability and capacity.

²Department of Education, Technical Vocational Education & Training Division, Papua New Guinea- TVET Policy, 2005



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

CREATING SKILLS FOR LIFE

IMPACT Case Study

Facilitating Confidence in National TVET Training



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A partnership in support of growth and development in Papua New Guinea

The partnership between Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) and Port Moresby Technical College (POMTECH) is not just about increasing the quality of training and the capability of graduates, it is also about upgrading infrastructure, funding utility and communication costs, refurbishing trade facilities, managing assets and establishing new training facilities.

These improvements ensure that technical trade trainers receive quality training in a facility that meets international standards.

As part of this partnership, the state-of-the-art training facilities established by APTC at POMTECH are increasing the capacity of POMTECH trainers and the number of graduates with internationally recognised TVET qualifications.

The POMTECH and APTC partnership was established in 2008 to run until 2011. Then in 2011 the partnership was extended for another four years.

POMTECH is the largest and longest operating technical institution in PNG. The college has received minimal government support, resulting in a deterioration of facilities and a lack of new resources to teach important trade skills.

The PNG government currently contributes funding towards seven technical colleges (national institutions) and 132 vocational training centres (provincial institutions) across PNG¹. It would not have been possible to increase resources and improve infrastructure for POMTECH with only government funding. However, with the extension of the partnership with APTC, machinery in the workshops will be maintained and POMTECH will be able to both continue and improve operations.

Allan Tira, POMTECH Principal, is very grateful for the assistance from APTC to upgrade technical and infrastructure support. Allan believes that these improvements have raised the status of the college and helped it to become a highly regarded national institution.

"Even our stakeholders from the industry - mostly in motoring, building and construction - who have employed POMTECH graduates in the past are starting to show their support by sponsoring and sending back those very graduates to undergo the APTC training, seeing it is world class."

"POMTECH is looking forward to housing the National Automotive Training Centre, which APTC assisted to design. Construction is underway and it will have all the latest automotive training machinery once it is running," says Allan.

Having the new automotive training facility is important for raising the training status of POMTECH so that more industry clients consider POMTECH for their employee training. This shift is supported by the PNG Department of Education, which is hoping to increase the government funding for POMTECH over the next few years.

APTC PNG Country Manager, Trevor Birney, believes that the new APTC trade qualification allows trainers from other TVET institutions, not just POMTECH, to upgrade their technical skills to meet current industry standards and practices using the latest technology.

"APTC has had PNG trainers from Mt Hagen Technical College, POMTECH and several others from the vocational schools coming in for hospitality and tourism courses," says Trevor.

Training to APTC standards means that graduates are equipped with the latest industry knowledge and skills, and that they can then pass these on to their students.

Some of the trainers from other TVET institutions coming to POMTECH have minimal or no knowledge of how to operate heavy machinery. With the APTC training, they can develop these skills by learning to use the latest machines that are installed at POMTECH.

"The national curriculum had not been updated in nearly 10 years," says Trevor. "If student learning is to be a fundamental part of getting quality education, then teaching aids for trainers must be updated every 3 to 4 years."

When PNG and Australia signed the PNG-Australia Partnership for Development in Niue in 2008, the Australian government made a commitment towards greater cooperation with PNG for development priorities.

The support by Australia for the private sector-led growth in PNG by improving the environment for business; supporting rural livelihoods and income generating opportunities in the agriculture sector; strengthening technical vocational training institutions - like POMTECH - and supporting infrastructure that encourages economic growth.

In light of this commitment by the Australian government, it is important that workers in these developing industries are adequately skilled to support growth and development.



APTC Commercial Cookery Head Trainer, Steve Johnston with Jim McCamish



Mechanical Trade Students at APTC PNG Campus



Joint APTC-POMTECH students display their ability to use state-of-the-art equipment

Training begins at new hospitality and tourism facility

Construction of the new hospitality and tourism facility at the APTC-POMTECH campus was completed in July 2014.

Having the facility in PNG means that PNG students can be trained in their own country rather than having to go to the Fiji and Samoa campuses.

In line with the APTC Capacity Building Strategy, funding has been committed over a four-year period since 2011 towards building capability and capacity. This has enabled APTC to offer institutional capability and capacity training in key areas, including leadership development, trainer and tutor training to AQTF level (via the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment), industry and institutional mentoring and experience, infrastructure and equipment, and curriculum and resource material development.

"Having this new facility is a bonus for PNG", says Nanai Sinemaue, APTC Commercial Cookery Tutor. "It is also the first of its kind here having all the high-tech equipment and it is an honour for me to be part of the APTC training here," says Nanai.

Nanai, from Gaire in Central Province in PNG, is a seasonal chef by profession and graduated with a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment from APTC in May this year. Prior to joining APTC, she was a trainer with Fubilan Catering Services at the Ok Tedi Mine in Western Province. "I will be with APTC as long as APTC remains in PNG so that I can help build our country's human resources," says Nanai.

APTC Commercial Cookery Specialist Trainer, Steve Johnston, has been a chef and trainer for nearly 40 years, with experience in various major hospitality and tourism training institutions in Australia. He has been with APTC for the last 7 years - having been based in both Fiji and Samoa.

Steve is ecstatic to now be teaching in PNG and looks forward to making sure that his students acquire more skills and knowledge when they return to their employers in PNG.

One of his students, Jim McCamish, feels very grateful to be taught by Steve at APTC. "I am really privileged, firstly as one of the first students to be trained at this new APTC hospitality and tourism facility, and also to be trained by Mr Johnston, who is an international APTC cookery trainer," says Jim. Jim has worked as a steward and chef at the Grand Papua Hotel for 3 years.

Several hotels and commercial catering agencies have committed to send staff for training at the new facility, which offers training in programs such as the Certificate III in Hospitality and the Certificate III in Commercial Cookery.

The APTC PNG campus now also has dormitories to accommodate up to 80 students. The hospitality and training facility has two large training classrooms, a high-tech training kitchen, restaurant and bar training areas and an office space for five training staff. The classrooms can also be used to facilitate other training programs, including the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE).

Establishment of state-of-the-art facilities

The National Training Centre is a major achievement of the APTC-POMTECH partnership. This centre provides state-of-the-art equipment for training in various trades.

POMTECH Principal, Allan Tira, is excited that this centre is one of the best in the country, which means an increase in people from various industries across PNG will attend the centre to upgrade their skills.

With the investment of funds over a four-year period, APTC has fitted new machinery into the fabrication and welding; and fitting and machining facilities.

It has also run operating training for the computerised machines installed.

POMTECH trainers now have the know-how to use the machines during their training sessions.

In addition, over the same period, additional funds have gone towards redevelopment activities at the APTC campus, including the establishment of the new hospitality training facility and the relocation of existing accommodation to POMTECH.

Amos Dorogori, Maintenance Fitting and Machining Assessor, has been with POMTECH for 20 years. Amos was also once a tutor with APTC and was recalled to POMTECH - highly commended by APTC - having attained both the Certificate III in Fitting and Machining and the Certificate IV Training and Assessment qualifications.

The PNG APTC campus is also the only college where electrical trade personnel can attain their Certificate III in Electrical. There are currently 16 people from Fiji and Samoa undergoing their training in this qualification.

¹ Department of Education, Technical Vocational Education & Training Division, Papua New Guinea- TVET Policy, 2005

⁴ APTC_POMTECH Letter of Agreement_v4-120602