



TropLinks applauds renewed links between PNG and Queensland

Ian McLeod, President of northern Australia's peak body promoting tropical expertise has welcomed the news that Queensland and our nearest neighbour have reinvigorated a Memorandum of Understanding to further develop trade links.

Present at the MOU signing in Port Moresby on Wednesday 15 May, Mr McLeod said the MOU will help focus resources on vocational training for priority industries including resources and infrastructure, help improve management and governance processes, explore joint venture opportunities, and encourage exchange of people and ideas between cross-border parties.

"PNG is the focus of a huge amount of trade mission and development focus for northern Australian business, and this encouraging step will further cement our warm and fruitful relationship."

Mr McLeod said TropLinks research showed the global tropical economy is projected to reach US\$40 trillion by 2025, some 20 times greater than Australia's overall economy.

He believes that this huge increase in the tropical economy will drive parallel expansion in knowledge intensive industries supplying products and services in areas including tropical health, environment, agriculture and community development.

"With our excellent tropical research and expertise and our vast tropical footprint, Australia has the potential to secure an increasing slice of this tropical market, and working alongside partners like the PNG Government and businesses we are well placed to deliver."

"But it won't happen until we connect the researchers, companies, investors and entrepreneurs required to build the industries that will create and deliver the goods. Then we need to connect our industries more effectively with the rest of the tropical world."

TropLinks is a network of research bodies, companies, industry groups and economic development organisations working together to build the critical mass needed to promote Australian expertise into the global market. Within the network, members maintain their own corporate identity but benefit from the synergy of like-minded others and the complementary skill sets that TropLinks offers.

"Many of the new products and services sought by the tropical world will be driven by innovative research and development, offering an opportunity for suppliers to build a strong knowledge-based industry around their tropical expertise. Knowledge developed for tropical markets will not only improve the lives of people in developing nations, it will improve the lives of all Australians, especially those living in the North, and help us better manage our own tropical environment."

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