



Global University for Lifelong Learning
*Enabling **YOU** to make a difference in **OUR** world*

ADDRESS BY His Excellency Grand chief, SIR PAULIAS MATANE, GCL, GCMG, KST.J
Governor General of Papua New Guinea and Founding Chancellor of the Global University for Lifelong Learning on the occasion of its launch on Friday, 05th October, 2007, State Function Room, National Parliament House

- Prime Minister of PNG, Grand Chief, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Somare;
- Speaker of the National Parliament Hon. Jeffrey Nape;
- Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Sir Mari Kapi;
- Opposition Leader, Sir Mekere Morauta;
- Deputy Prime Minister, & Minister for Lands & Physical Planning and Mining, Hon. Dr. Puka Temu;
- Ministers & Members of Parliament;
- Dr. Richard Teare, President of GULL & Associate Prof. Jacob Winston, Country Representative of GULL;
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
- Representatives from Government Departments and the Private Sector;
- Church, Business, & NGO Leaders;
- Young and Leaders of tomorrow;
- Distinguished Invited Guests; and,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

We make history everyday for our families, communities, provinces and our nation, PNG. Whether they are significant or not, they, nevertheless, are the histories. Today ladies and gentlemen is a truly significant moment, not only for our families, communities, provinces and our beloved nation, PNG, but for the whole world. Today we are launching the Global University for Lifelong Learning, or GULL for short. No nation in the world, whether developed or developing, has anything like GULL. Thanks PNG. You are showing the people of the world, the way. Congratulations.

Some of you know that I have visited all seven continents on earth, either on government business or holidays. As a result of these visits and holidays, I was able to write books to share my experiences with the people in PNG. So far I have written 15 books about some nations in the world and it has enabled me to learn from writing about them and from sharing these experiences with others.

Visiting some countries in Asia, Asia Minor, Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and the Pacific since 1959, I saw many young people with no opportunity to attend school or college. In fact, the number of young people around the world who miss out on schooling is staggering. Recent research indicates that the number of children without access to education is more than two billion. As a former school teacher, what could I do to assist these unfortunate human beings to have some kind of education and to assist them towards integral human development? It took me a long time until I met two equally concerned people in late 2004. They were none other than British Professor, Richard Teare, and, Indian Associate Professor, Winston Jacob. Together, we discussed a dream, to start a university to educate those without educational opportunity. These two visionary professors are here with us today.

It brings me great joy to witness that philosophical dream come true today. Papua New Guinea is a nation in one corner of the globe, known as the "Land of the Unexpected"!! Yes, we are now on the world stage, and we can be proud of our achievements. My friends, it is not through failures, but, by our own successes that we are participating in the global knowledge era. We are today announcing to the world, the launch of the Global University for Lifelong Learning. We need new skills, new pathways to learning, governance systems & financing options. Lifelong Learning is crucial to compete in the global economy. It is through "Action Learning" that Papua New Guinea will lead the way for all developing nations, by our live success stories, via the Global University for Lifelong Learning, or (GULL).

Continued/

Professor Norman Longworth, in his book titled "Transforming Education in the 21st Century", highlights the key concepts of Lifelong Learning. He says that there are five indicators of a Learning Society. These are:

1. Learning is accepted as a continuing activity throughout life;
2. Learners take responsibility for their own progress;
3. Assessment confirms progress, rather than brand failures;
4. Capability, personal and shared values & team working, are recognized especially with the pursuit of knowledge; and,
5. Learning is a partnership between students, parents, teachers, employers & community, who all work together to improve performance.

British medic and futurewise thinker, Patrick Dixon, asserts in his book: Futurewise: Six Faces of Global Change: "The only way to cope with a changing world, is to keep learning." He also says: "We take hold of the future or the future will take hold of us."

How will the Global University for Lifelong Learning assist PNG and other developing nations? I should like to explain this with reference to three points:

First, the need:

The majority of the world's population can only dream about access to education. For those who aspire to develop themselves without pre-qualification [From school or college] or the means of paying fees and related study costs, the barriers to entry, are beyond their means. Imagine then, a different way - one without barriers - where GULL is the vehicle for knowledge transfer and balancing - from rich to poor, have, to have not. Unlike money, wealth and physical resources, knowledge that is shared is doubled for the benefit of all human kind. If learning is to be of real value to the learner and to our people in PNG in its application, the learning that takes place must be equal to or greater than the rate of change that is occurring.

Continuing advances in global wireless technology will eventually mean that - anyone - anywhere - will be able to access and use, the full potential of the world wide web and its vast store of inexpensive and free content. The GULL web system will also assist the people of PNG in this endeavour. That said, technology is no more than a tool - the real key to learning is active engagement in the process of change - it starts from the individual and thereafter I expect to see our vital institutions become modernized and equipped to face the global challenges of the 21st century.

Second, the response:

GULL provides the professional frameworks, and awards, to enable people everywhere - especially those in developing nations - to make a difference in their respective workplaces and communities. Our focus is to enable people who do not have the time, opportunity or access to mainstream education, to attain their full potential. We want them to achieve more than they could ever hope or dream - for themselves and for others [family, community, employer, nation].

A second key point is that GULL offers formal recognition to the vital learning that occurs outside of traditional education and training programmes. In fact, in a person's lifetime, only a small percentage of what a person needs to live, work and grow, comes from traditional learning in a classroom or training room. The world is alive with knowledge - GULL recognizes 'active' learning as essential to the individual, the community, societies, and our fragile, interconnected planet. There is no formal curriculum [the curriculum is derived from the learner's work] and each pathway to professional certification is aligned with the learner's level of experience and seniority.

Third, the global infrastructure:

GULL is a not-for-profit foundation registered in California, United States of America. It aims to support an array of organizations such as: Government Agencies, Social and Faith-Based Groups, Professional Bodies, Training Agencies and Companies. Global support services are provided from the United Kingdom where all income is reviewed, and accounts checked and compiled by a qualified, independent accountant. Any trading surpluses that are not needed for central support services will be used to sponsor GULL's work among the poorest and neediest people in developing countries.

It is with great honour and pride that the Government and the Nation of PNG endorses, and recognizes, the Global Mission of the Global University for Lifelong Learning. It is also a matter of great honour and pride that GULL's Founding Chancellor is from Papua New Guinea. It is a privilege to champion the educational development needs of PNG and of the developing world around the globe.

Continued/

But what is there for the people of Papua New Guinea? And what should we do? We need to be useful members of our society, participate in its constructive activities, and ensure that our nation carves for itself a distinct place among the nations of the world.

Although PNG is rich in natural resources, about 85 per cent of our population lives at subsistence level. It should be a matter of great concern to us that, even after three decades of independence, PNG has to look towards other countries for skilled manpower and infrastructural facilities. An increase in migration from rural areas to urban centres has led to a rise in unemployment. Feelings of insecurity and unrest among our people giving rise to sporadic violence at one place or another, leads to erosion of our economy, and retards our progress.

We have, therefore, to take steps to work towards universalizing education. Our goal should be to create action learning avenues in every town and every village, provide electricity to every home, whether it is located in city, town or village, and expand the network of small, medium and big industries.

The national and provincial governments should have time-frames for providing welfare services to our people, aimed at ameliorating their lives and raising their standard of living. Our villages and towns have to be made self-sufficient. For this to happen, we certainly need the cooperation and participation of our people - all of whom need to be actively engaged in the process of change and of economic transformation.

The Lord has been kind enough to bestow PNG, not only with rich natural resources, but, also with a beautiful ambience too. It is therefore, unfortunate that PNG has not been able to attract as many tourists as it should have. A major reason could be that PNG still remains an unknown country, even after three decades of independence. A second major reason, to my mind, is that the country is conspicuous for law and order problems, and is perceived by many in the outside world as corrupt.

I have been advocating both to leaders, and to other Papua New Guineans, that our national economy be further strengthened, by revitalizing our agriculture and tourism sectors. Let our people understand that tourism is the single biggest potential source of income for our country. Other smaller countries like Fiji, with a population of approximately 800,000, are able to attract 500,000 tourists annually, while in PNG with six million people, the number of tourists visiting each year is much smaller and even declining. This leads to a loss of foreign exchange, which affects the strength of our Kina.

If we prepare, the day will surely come when we shall not have to look towards countries or international agencies for assistance in implementing PNG's economic programmes. I believe that today - PNG time truly has come! GULL exists to support lifelong learning for all our citizens and as it's Founding Chancellor, I believe that its creation can enable my personal vision for Papua New Guinea to be fulfilled. Knowledge has no boundaries. It has to be acquired from all possible sources. This is not difficult. It needs only our determined efforts and vision. This should not be my vision alone. It should be the vision of all Papua New Guineans. Lifelong Learning holds the key and I ask each and every citizen to respond to the opportunity that GULL will now provide.

Paulias Matane
Governor General