

Papua New Guinea Country Report on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)



□ CANDIDATE INFORMATION AND DETAILS

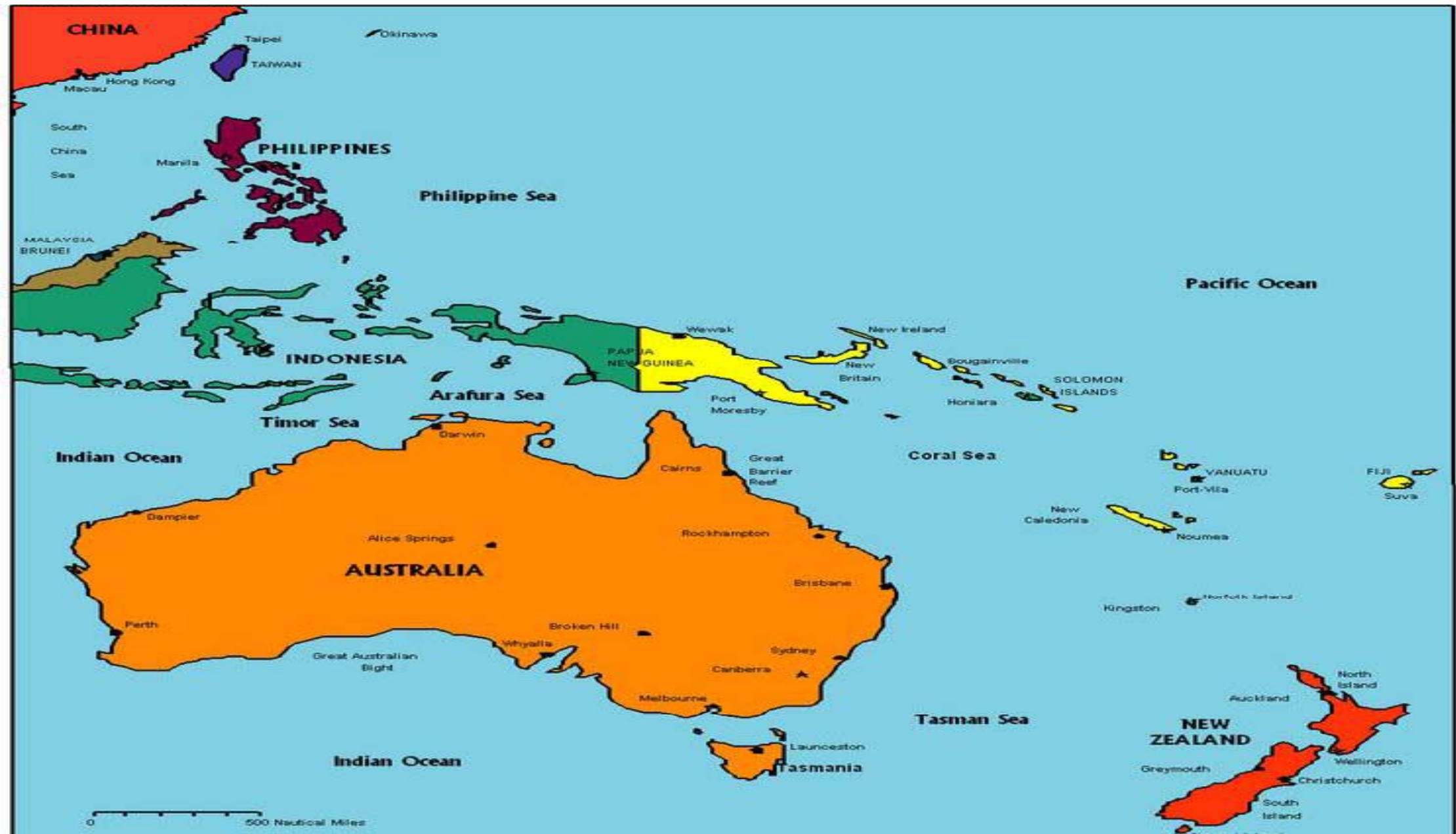
- NAME OF APPLICANT: Adrian Kinau MAIKAI
- ORGANIZATION/DEPARTMENT: National Department of Health
- YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL/OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

- I specialize in the area of policy development and implementation however I don't necessarily possess industrial/occupational experience in the area of occupational safety and health. My participation in this training is the result of my Government's request to JICA to train PNG government officials in preparation for APEC 2018. Thus, as a member to Committee on APEC Policy Issues (CAPI), I was granted this rare privilege to undergo and participate in this training.

□ COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a country in the Oceania Region that occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, The western half of New Guinea forms the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua. Also located to the North of Australia.

- ▶ Capital City: Port Moresby
- ▶ Total Populations: 7 million (2011 Census).. Estimated at 10 million today
- ▶ Land Mass: 462,840 km² (178,704 sq mi)
- ▶ Government: Unitary Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy (Queen Elizabeth II Represented by Governor General as in all Commonwealth Countries)





Latangai Island

Bismarck Sea

New Britain

papua new guinea

Daru Island

★ Port Moresby



□ Status Quo of industrial/occupational accidents and occupational diseases

- Currently unknown or unclear (current records cant show the true/correct status quo of OSH in PNG**
- This is primarily attributed to several defects identified in the current OSH System in PNG**

□ Defects of OSH in PNG

1. Many Laws dealing with OSH matters. As such too many Government agencies involved. No single Policy and legislative frame work for OSH
2. Current PNG OSH laws are outdated and have outlived their useful lives
 - The scope of the current OSH laws is very narrow and piecemeal by design which creates an unfair 'playing field in the market place and gross discriminations against a significant number of workers who are not covered.
 - These laws inherited the prescriptive form of legislation typical of the colonial era that has evolved in a piecemeal reactive manner.
3. Many employees do not have a safety policy, Safety Management Systems or workers compensation policy, These oversights tend to enable them to avoid the cost of OSH therefore do not register workers compensation claims.
4. There are no adequate statistics of the shift of costs related to employees with permanent injuries resulting in loss of employment in the rural and urban areas
5. Lack consistent national reporting system thus, it does not accurately reflect an accurate National profile on OSH in PNG.

□ Data Collection Methods for Statistics

- Papua New Guinea currently has a very fragmented and weak data collection system. PNG lack consistent national reporting system that can capture real-time statistics using methods relevant and necessary to the country.
- Papua New Guinea has neither comprehensive nationally synchronized OSH research strategy nor national reporting system for occupational accidents, diseases and ill-health.

❑ Current Laws and Regulations in PNG

- ▶ Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Act of 1961, supported by the Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Regulation 1965 (Cap 175A)
- ▶ Explosives Act 1953(Cap 308), Explosive Regulation 1956
- ▶ Inflammable Liquids Act 1953(Cap 311), Inflammable Liquid Regulation 1968
- ▶ Trade Licensing Act (Cap 96). These excludes the Mining legislations.

NOTE: PNG Gained Independence in September 16th 1975

❑ Labor Inspection System in PNG

- ▶ The current labour inspection system of PNG is very weak and are non-existence across most parts of the country, similar to the data collection system.
- ▶ This is mainly due to;
 1. Institution and Human Resource Capacity Constraints
 2. Not clear Legislative and policy framework in place

❑ Workers' accident compensation Insurance

- ▶ Only one major organisation regulating worker's compensation. That is the Office of Workers Compensation
- ▶ Compensation is only for actual injuries but not occupational diseases that are contracted at the workplace. In addition, significant categories of workers are excluded from the right to compensation.
- ▶ No responsible organization or agency to actually carry out research or tests to provide scientific evidence of a work related disease to substantiate claims forwarded to the Office of Workers Compensation
- ▶ Workers' compensation schemes are based on a trade-off; workers acquire the right to compensation from a state compensation fund (regardless of fault) for injuries and ill health caused by work but forfeit the right to institute civil claims for damages against their employer. Employers are required to pay an assessment to the Compensation Fund and are insulated from the possibility of costly civil claims.

❑ Safety of equipment and facilities in your country

- ▶ As a result of a non existence of proper OSH System, it is quit difficult to identify/determine of equipment and facilities until a proper audit and assessment of facilities.
- ▶ This audit is done by a different Gov't agencies across the country, municipal authorities but not coordinated by an agency as OSH system
- ▶ However, companies and industries responsible for such equipment's and facilities play a vital role to ensure compliance to safety and health, especially in the extractive industries (Mines, Gas & Oil Fields)

❑ Training Education Programs

- ▶ Appropriate training and education program on Occupational Safety and Health related issues are non-existence or if available are not part of overall training and education program on OSH that Government offers.
- ▶ Training institutions/organisations in different fields do emphasis safety as major priority. E.g: engineering, pilot, medical professionals, and technical fields.
- ▶ Many private organisations, especially the organisations in the mining and petroleum sector facilitate OSH training for their employees.

□ OSH in PNG in Summary

- ▶ Papua New Guinea does not have a well-established and functioning Occupational Safety and Health System that can adequately and efficiently eliminate or minimize the number of work-related accidents and diseases in Papua New Guinea.
- ▶ Outdated Legislations,
- ▶ No OSH Policy
- ▶ Weak Institutional framework
- ▶ Weak Inspection System
- ▶ Weak or No proper OSHRM and Risk Assessment
- ▶ Weak workers compensation

□ Way Forward – In improving OSH in PNG

- 1. PNG OSH laws, institutions, administrative systems and values urgently need complete overhaul. (Currently in Progress with facilitation of single Policy and OSH Bill to Parliament for enactment)**
- 2. ENFORCEMENT- OSH legislation enacted in terms of the integrated OSH system must be effectively implemented and enforced if accidents and diseases are to be prevented.**
- 3. NETWORKING- Foster professional and institutional networks with development partners and countries, with experience and knowledge in OSH**

□ Conclusion

- ▶ Analysis of the current OSH System in PNG reveals significant defects and shortcomings.
- ▶ This shortcomings presented understanding on institutional, policy and legislative constraints hindering effective and efficient management of OSH System in PNG
- ▶ Papua New Guinea Government now understands and recognises the need for a single OSH Policy and Legislations that enables a conducive environment for OSH.
- ▶ Measures to improve OSH in PNG has now completed with the OSH Policy and Bill now before Legislature and Government for enactment

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

NATIONAL HEALTH BOARD

Provincial Health & Hospital Boards

DEPUTY SECRETARY - NHP & GS GR 20

DEPUTY SECRETARY - DHSS (001) NHSS GR 20

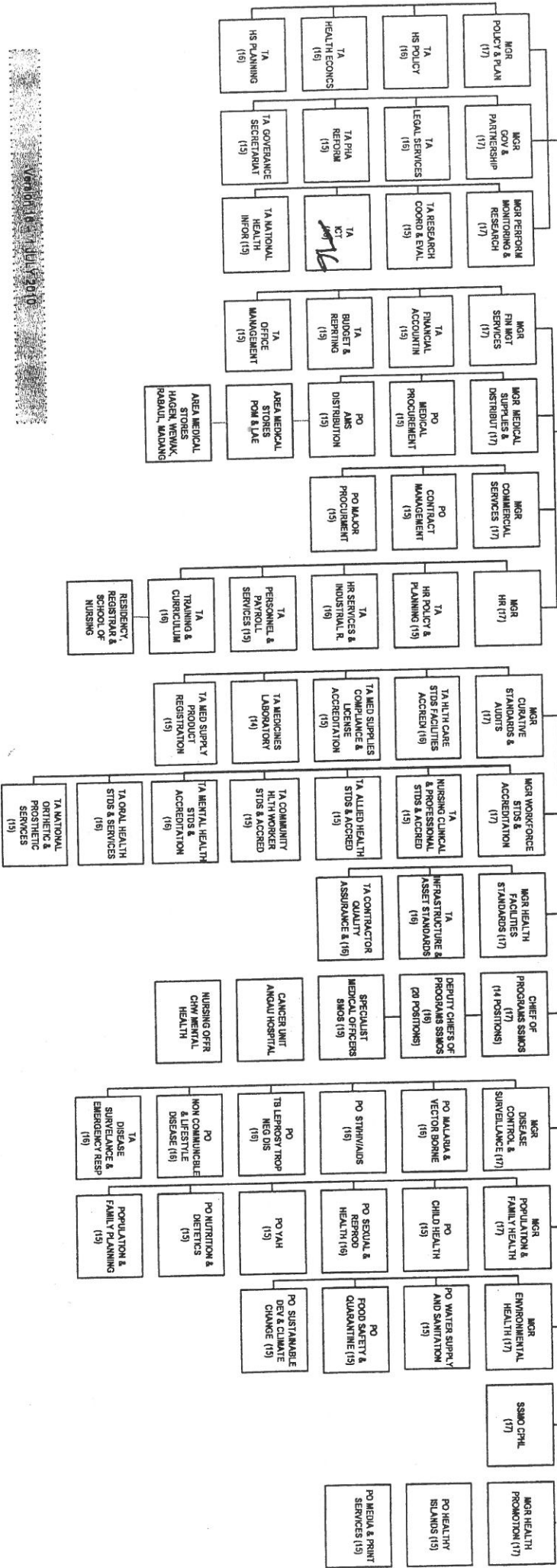
EXECUTIVE MANAGER STRATEGIC POLICY (18)

EXECUTIVE MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES (18)

EM /CMO MEDICAL STANDARDS (19)

EXECUTIVE MANAGER PUBLIC HEALTH (18)

NCD HEALTH STAFF



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