

CASE STUDY

Name:
Lesley Bennett

Title:
Program Manager,
Women in Mining &
Petroleum Program, PNG
Chamber of Mines &
Petroleum

Country:
Papua New Guinea

IM4DC Program:

1. Community Aspects of Resource Development (CARD) 2013, Australia
2. IM4DC Alumni Forum and Conference 2014, Australia
3. 7th Sustainable Mining Development Conference Canada 2015

The Women in Mining & Petroleum Program is aimed at addressing the issue of unequal distribution of benefits to women and children in mining communities in Papua New Guinea.

My involvement with IM4DC has shown me that the challenges faced in PNG are similar to other developing, resource-rich countries around the world – particularly Africa and countries in South America. We have addressed these challenges by designing appropriate programs and identifying consultant trainers to implement the programs. The programs are designed to impart skills and deliver equipment to enable women to benefit economically from the opportunities that are available to them. This experience has given me a deeper appreciation of what the project is working to achieve. I am also more appreciative of the need to work collaboratively with other partners/stakeholders

Lesley has endeavoured to include government agencies in the design of the programs. An example is the engagement of the National Department of Education's National Literacy Awareness Secretariat to facilitate the Adult Literacy & Numeracy component of the program. Industry partners of the Chamber are also assisting the program with logistics and awareness.

I have been with the program for over 8 eight years and I have built a relationship of trust with the communities that the program engages with. I have, where possible, engaged local women in the training. This has helped to build confidence and a sense of self-esteem among the target group.

For the future, I would like to see skills training better aligned to development, where women can utilise the skills learned to benefit from the spin-offs offered by developments. More research needs to be done to find out how development is perceived through the eyes of the communities. Development agencies/partners, including government and industry, need to better understand the communities' interpretation of 'development'.



Baking Training for village women near ExxonMobil's PNG LNG Hides Gas Conditioning Plant



Meeting with Ramu Nickel mine women leaders