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U.S. Cisco Systems Explores Business Opportunities in PNG

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea: Three representatives from Cisco Systems visited Papua New Guinea (PNG) this week from March 19 to 22: Jonathon Dixon, General Manager for Media and Communications; Tim Fawcett, General Manager for Government Affairs and Policy; and James Pickering, Service Provider Business Manager. Based in San Jose, California, Cisco is the number one global network communications company in the world. The networking technology that Cisco provides transforms how people connect, communicate, and collaborate. The purpose of Cisco's visit was to explore how it can work more closely with PNG's government and business community, and to provide insight into best practices on national infrastructure projects.

The United States supports PNG's efforts to use technology to promote the growth of business and innovation, and to foster inclusive, sustainable, and transparent economic growth. In today's interconnected world, affordable internet access is an economic driver that has transformed how companies around the world do business. Through free, on-line courses offered by some of the world's leading universities, the internet also provides educational opportunities that are not bound by borders and distance.

While in Port Moresby, Cisco had fruitful discussions with government, civil society, and business representatives, including Minister of Communication and Information Technology Hon. Jimmy Miringtoro, the National Information Technology Authority (NICTA) CEO Charles Punaha, Telikom CEO Charles Litau, Acting Secretary for Trade, Commerce, and Industry Gerard Dogimab, and the Executive Director for Transparency International PNG Emily Taule. A recurring topic of the meetings was creating more competition in the market for internet service providers and mobile digital service providers. "When you have strong competition amongst competing companies, you bring down the price. This opens up access and opens up equity, and that's fantastic for communities, fantastic for a country, and more importantly, fantastic for creating jobs," said Timothy Fawcett.

During their visit, Cisco engaged over one hundred computer science students and faculty at Don Bosco Technical Institute on Thursday March 21. Their message to students was "don't underestimate the power of innovation." James Pickering encouraged students to think of ways to "creatively change the market" by getting more involved in technology and innovation. Addressing Don Bosco students, Jonathon Dixon said "you are the creative future of this country, allowing more of you to access the online and using your creativity to create new business opportunities is important, we would like to be part of that journey with you."

Cisco Systems executives also met with the PNG business community on March 22 to discuss how technology can continue to be the driver of competitive opportunities in PNG. Already, the technology that Cisco offers is helping businesses in Papua New Guinea and around the world advance and become more interconnected. Cisco is also ensuring that the next generation of Papua New Guineans is tech-savvy through training provided through its network training center in Lae.

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Supporting Inclusive, Sustainable, and Transparent Economic Growth in Melanesia

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