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Press Release

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U.S. breaks ground on New Embassy Compound site

In a significant act of enduring friendship between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the United States of America, U.S. Ambassador Teddy B. Taylor and Acting-Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade Ambassador Lucy Bogari broke ground and turned soil to mark the beginning of construction of the New Embassy Compound (NEC) in Port Moresby yesterday.

Situated on three hectares of land, the multi-building complex will include a chancery, compound access control and two building support annexes.

The new facility will incorporate numerous sustainable features such as solar photovoltaic systems – an energy recovery unit, LED perimeter site lighting and indoor pendant lighting which adjusts to incoming natural light to reduce demands. The site's open "green" space includes rainwater harvesting swales and will use indigenous and adapted plant species for reduced irrigation demand and storm water runoff.

The facility's design targets Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification by the Green Building Certification Institute.

The project was designed by Karn Charuhas – Champman & Twohey of Washington D.C and will be constructed by Caddell Construction Co. Inc of Montgomery, Alabama.

The state-of-the-art complex will accommodate approximately 75 embassy staff and is scheduled for occupancy by August 2014.

A visiting delegation from the United States consisting of U.S. Pacific Fleet Command Admiral Cecil Haney, the USAID Mission Director for the Philippines and the Pacific Ms. Gloria Steele, Mr. Jeff Prescott from the Office of the Vice President, and Mr. Edgard Kagan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific also participated in the ceremony.

The ground-breaking ceremony was witnessed by members of the PNG government, the diplomatic corps, business community, invited guests and the media.