



**MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES OF THE
INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

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**SPEECH FOR PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON THE OCASSION OF THE
2023 KICCOF, BUSAN KOREA**

Your Excellencies, colleague ministers, distinguished officials and delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me start by congratulating all speakers who have taken the podium today.

I am sure all participants have embraced the robust discussions on oceans and fisheries cooperation, and the opportunities that the Pacific family can offer to the Republic of Korea, and vice versa.

As the Minister for Fisheries and Marine resources of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, I am delighted to speak on the topic of the ***'Importance of Fisheries and Maritime Cooperation between Korea-Papua New Guinea'***. I will endeavor to do the topic justice within the time allocated to me.

But before I do that, let me first thank the Government of the Republic of Korea, in particular, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries through its agency Korea Maritime Institute, for inviting me, and for arranging for my delegation to travel to the majestic city of Busan.

In 2018, senior officials from the Korean Maritime Institute and the National Fisheries Authority of Papua New Guinea held a workshop in Port Moresby. Allow me to provide a high level summary of the key points captured in those discussions:

- In Aquaculture – both parties agreed of the need for greater research in feed development, broodstock research for prawns and mud crab production.
- Collaboration in undertaking Rapid assessments to measure cold storage capacity and chains, with a focus on Market access and the need to develop Transport and infrastructure to support the industry and enhance trade between both parties.
- The establishment of an Applied Fisheries research arm to complement the National Fisheries College was mooted; and
- A review of our port plans was carried out, with an analysis to guide future developments including considerations by KOICA. A number of NFA project personnel were trained at the Korea Maritime and Oceans University on port planning as part of this process.

Unfortunately, the implementation of these plans was hindered due to the onslaught of the global COVID-19 Pandemic, with shutdowns and shifting priorities being the order of the day.

As minister - I will ensure the National Fisheries Authority of PNG connect with KMI, and also the Korea Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and other affiliated institutions with the aim of establishing relevant working committees to achieve these outstanding goals. The Political will is there, it is now time for our technocrats to get to work.

In recent times, the main fisheries relationship between PNG and Korea has been facilitated through a bilateral fishing access agreement between PNG NFA and the Korea Overseas Fisheries Association (KOFA) which is annually re-negotiated and renewed.

For 2023, a fishing access agreement was signed for KOFA vessels to fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) only. Within these bilateral fishing access negotiations, KOFA vessels are allowed to fish in PNG waters for the

2023 licensing period by purchasing fishing days from PNG from the PNG Party Allocable Effort, for the KOFA vessels and those vessels assigned to other PNA Party flags including Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru and Vanuatu who are part of the Association.

Under this new fishing access agreement, KOFA and Associates allocated a total of 44 vessels to fish under this fishing access agreement and are poised to pay up to USD13m this year.

I would like to see that Papua New Guinea (through the National Fisheries Authority) and Korea elevate to this fisheries access consultations to a full bilateral level, involving not only the Korean Deep Sea Purse Seine Fishing Fleet owners, but also the relevant Government agency from Korea so that development cooperation matters can be discussed in order to build a long term diversified relationship in fisheries development and management.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Hon. James Marape enjoyed fruitful discussions with the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol. They have set the platform for collective commitment and collaboration.

From the fisheries standpoint, I join my Prime Minister in calling for the reopening of the KOICA office in PNG. KOICA played a significant role in acting as a conduit for development between Korean investors seeking business opportunities in Papua New Guinea. It is my firm belief that this important framework must be established and managed at a bilateral level, and that development partners, implementing agencies and multilaterals work within the confines of that overarching agreement.

The primary theme of our summit is the *“Cooperation towards a better future for Pacific Island Countries”*. Papua New Guinea believes that the Pacific Island Countries are “stronger together”. The Pacific Ocean connects us, rather than divides us and as a Pacific family, it is our desire:

- to increase economic returns and ensuring the sustainable management of fisheries and the abundantly unexploited marine resources.

- Declaration of Action on Climate Change including, through COP21.

Korea has always displayed a willingness to cooperate with Pacific Island Countries and the PNA members for “better access to the region, thereby reinforcing the mutually beneficial cooperation in the fisheries sector.”

Korea has the latest technology and expertise to invest in strategic sectors such as transport infrastructure and energy that can create the enabling environment for economic prosperity in small open economies like PNG.

I take this opportunity to encourage Korea to prioritize a greater portion of the ROK-PIFS Cooperation Fund (RPCF) on maritime technology towards assisting PIC’s with the challenges of managing their EEZs.

There is also an opportunity for Korea to support the Pacific regional organizations' (particularly PIFS, FFA, SPC and SPREP) in their efforts to embrace the Blue Pacific Strategy and strengthen their maritime surveillance which is critical in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and pollution.

Before I conclude, I would like to place on record the strong desire from PICs to increase our share of the value of our shared resources and the tuna industry at large. I have spoken at length with other Pacific Leaders about the need to inaugurate strategic hubs for processing and quarantine within the region. Consolidating our land, labour, capital, infrastructure and technical know-how to drive our regional agenda and the need to establish our own regional fund to part-take in jointly funding country initiatives to manage and develop their own fisheries and marine resources for the benefit of their people.

I will be hosting a Pacific Fisheries Ministers Meeting in the East New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea – to workshop these ideas prior to the hosting of the World Tuna conference in early September.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to address you all, and wish you all a safe passage home when you depart the beautiful shores of Busan.

Gam-sa-ham-ni-da (Thank you)!