

Papua New Guinea – Formation of a Chefs Association



I have had ongoing conversations with Papua New Guinea regarding the formation of a National Chefs Association for the past 3 years. It is through the expatriate chefs residing in Papua New Guinea that have been of great assistance in getting this to the initial stage of a formal meeting to discuss options and possibilities.

After some quick emails to secure a date for a meeting I headed off to PNG early March to meet with local chefs and expatriates chefs. My wife and I lived in PNG and having departed PNG some 32 years before it was a little bit of a home coming and to see what developments that have been done in a third of a century.

Papua New Guinea is a land of ancient cultures with a recorded 830 different languages and a very tribal existence. It is a beautiful colourful country with magnificent scenery and amazing bird life. So the transformation of Port Moresby to a more sophisticated city was a pleasant surprise. With the meeting date set no one was certain on numbers that may attend. Initial suggestions was about 15-20 would be good. It was a pleasant surprise that 50 locals and expatriates supported the initial meeting. The first stage of the meeting was

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to talk about Worldchefs and how they would fit into this global family. What Worldchefs does and the benefits that could be made available if they became a member.

I was enthused by the support and the questions raised and the excitement of getting their association off the ground. Their first meeting will take place on the 5th April. There is a lot of work to be done to get all the paperwork completed and registered as an association. With the help of NZ Chefs I was able to give them a copy of NZ Chefs constitution that they could cut and paste to suit their own needs.

It is important that we grow the Worldchefs network throughout the Pacific Rim as we have such diverse cultural backgrounds that is unique to this region and needs to be celebrated.

We wish the founding members well in their deliberations and hope that they can get their association formed to get the chefs of PNG more organized as a profession and with the support of Worldchefs and the members of the Pacific Rim start to develop a working relationship for the benefit of all associations.

A special word of thanks to James Robinson, Executive Chef at The Gateway for allowing a function room to host the meeting and to Mike Scheumann, Executive Chef at The Holiday Inn for his kind hospitality.

Murray M Dick,
Continental Director - Pacific Rim