

# PNG Chefs to link with overseas industry



EXECUTIVE Chef Mike Scheumann and some of the Kopi Haus Restaurant team.



PNG Association of Chefs President Christopher Lokel (left) and Executive Chef Mike Scheumann.

BY PRISCILLA HARRY

THE newly formed PNG Association of Chefs (PNGAC) is bringing change into PNG's culinary world.

Over 50 chefs throughout Port Moresby have come forward to be part and parcel of the association and to join in the campaign to contribute to the tourism and hospitality sector in the country.

Their vision is to create opportunities for all interested and currently working in the food and service industry, while also providing education and promoting the value of healthy living.

President of PNGAC Christopher Lokel is delighted that the PNG Chefs Association will link all local chefs with the international industry, giving PNG nationals a network to further develop their skills and expose them to international standards.

With the assistance of this network, we would like to let the public be aware of this great opportunity."

Christopher said.

The PNG Association of Chefs is a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of culinary professionals and all things culinary in Papua New Guinea.

IHG PNG has been very instrumental in working alongside the PNGAC and supporting locals Chefs who have been able to come together to form the association after trying for the past four years.

The association has been recognized by PNG Tourism Promotion Authority and have registered under Investment Promotion Authority, and are now a certified and affiliated to the World Wide Chefs Association.

"It is the first of its kind and we currently have on board 50-60 local chefs that are involved and we are already moving forward with the World Wide Chefs Association," Christopher said.

"We are interested in forming an elite coalition amongst industry professionals both locally and

abroad to see where we are able to co-exist and develop best practice for the profession in the country," Christopher added.

The Association believes strongly in training and development as a main focus and has opened affiliation to tertiary institutions that have somewhat a hint of culinary subjects included in their curriculum.

Executive Chef of the Holiday Inn and Suites & Holiday Inn Express, Mike Scheumann also added that they're not only looking at the food but the nutritional aspect and also to be apart of projects associated around the world, also looking forward to educating school children and their parents on how to produce a balanced lunch.

In order to maintain a balanced diet.

"We have different styles of cooking found in our communities and goal is to bring up the masthead in tourism and hospitality."

"We do not expect miracles over-

night but believe that if planting a seed in the mind of youngsters at an early age and expose to them to the possibilities of the profession being a successful career choice, this may spark a whole new culinary culture in Papua New Guinea," Chef Mike added.

Papua New Guinea's Cuisine is equally diverse as our culture and if given the attention and development it needs, Gastronomic Tourism may contribute greatly to the economic sector.

**PNGCA's main objectives are:**

- To promote networking between PNGAC members so they get to know each other, share ideas and form strong industry networks and contacts.
- To encourage supplier members to work with the catering and hospitality industry to improve product quality, introduce new products and equipment and respond to chefs' requests and needs.

- To affiliate to the Asia-Pacific and World Bodies to receive regular updates of what's happening in the international culinary world and provide useful training tools, tips and techniques.
- Organize with various related professional bodies and educational establishments, training courses apprenticeship schemes and related vocational links.
- To promote the development of employment opportunities for Papua New Guineans within the Industry locally and internationally.

PNGCA will roll out its schools project by October 25th, and are excited to have on board certain groups that have committed to assist

Meanwhile, Chef Mike will leave for Kuala Lumpur next month to represent PNG at the World Wide Chefs Association International meet to officially receive the Affiliation Certification for the Papua New Guinea Association of Chefs and WAOS.

## Papua New Guinea Association of Chefs

*We are dedicated to improve culinary professionals in Papua New Guinea.*

A PROUD INITIATIVE OF IHG PNG



Holiday Inn & Suites AN IHG HOTEL



AN IHG HOTEL PORT MORESBY



CROWN PLAZA AN IHG HOTEL PORT MORESBY

