

GOVERNOR - MILNE BAY PROVINCE.

HON: JOHN LUKE CRITIN

His Excellency Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane the Governor  
General;

Honourable Benny Allen Minister for Environment and Conservation,

Mr. Asterio Takesy, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific  
Environmental Program.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen  
I welcome you all to Milne Bay.

Today we are here because the World faces a crisis called Global  
warming which is caused by excessive pollutant gases from the cars  
and factories of the developed nations upsetting the balance of our  
ecology. We see rising sea levels, reefs being destroyed, land being  
swamped, floods and cyclones. Our people feel angry and helpless in  
the face of problems they did not create. Milne Bay contributes little  
towards Global warming we are a carbon neutral ecology.

Mother nature can satisfy the needs of simple people – it cannot  
supply all of the wants of the greedy but if the warnings are not  
heeded it is the simple Island people of the South Pacific who will be  
the first to suffer as homes, land and even islands are lost to the rising  
seas and reefs die.

The Governor General is our leader in the fight against Global  
warming and my personal views are strongly with him. There is talk  
of tourism and eco tourism which I support and we expect to have an  
International airport at Gurney next year. Milne Bay has a multitude  
of attractions for Tourists from the magnificent game fishing to the  
Trobriand dancers but it is only a small part of our development  
program.

On behalf of the National Government, all of the other 19 Provinces of Papua New Guinea and its people I welcome to all to Alotau and the Milne Bay Province.

I extend special thanks to His Excellency the Governor General for once again gracing our Province with his presence.

To our international and national dignitaries thank you all for coming to the Conference.

Milne Bay is ready and willing to actively participate in your endeavors and I hope that the cultural programme we have prepared for you and your natural surroundings will provide you with some valuable insights into Milne Bay