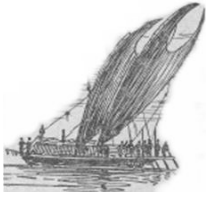




Steamships sponsors young scientist for further studies in England



Steamships has announced the sponsorship of a young biologist for further studies in the United Kingdom.

28 year old, Junior Novera is the proud recipient of the Chevening Scholarship which, he applied for earlier in the year.

The scholarship is a 1 year program to study a Post-Graduate Masters Degree in Environmental Science at one of the leading universities in England.

This is the first international post-graduate scholarship that Steamships has supported in the field of Environmental bio-science-the scholarship is part of the British High Commission's Chevening Scholarship Program and will be conducted in accordance to their study guidelines.

Upon hearing the news, Junior said he was lost for words and thanked Steamships for making his dreams come true. "I am so grateful and thankful to Steamships for the sponsorship and for Steamships to give this opportunity; is a big plus for the company especially towards helping the country to preserve its environment and sustain it by investing in human resource", said Mr Novera.

Junior graduated from the University of Papua New Guinea in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and took up his first posting to join Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) as an intern biologist.

During this time, his research work and thirst for knowledge brought him to some of the most isolated locations only accessible by plane. One of the most notable was a hunting survey conducted with the Sokamin people in Sepik. He was to study how the locals survived on wildlife consumption in the area.

It was also an opportunity to educate the Sokamin community on the issues of conservation and its implications, for instance, carrying out awareness focusing on the threats of hunting practices.

In 2007, Junior joined the PNG Institute of Biological Research (PNGIBR) as one of the top students in scientific research and has never looked back since. PNGIBR is a non-government organization founded by a group of local biologists who do biological research on the country's unique flora and fauna. It also emphasizes on training promising PNG students to carry on the mission and as an organization hopes to produce well-trained

research and conservation biologists to drive conservation forward in Papua New Guinea.

It is where Junior completed his Honors program with the University of Papua New Guinea. His supervisor and co-director, Banak Gamui says he is proud of Junior's achievements and believes he will be a great asset to the country when he returns after studies.

"Junior is one of our top students here at the research center, he's very effective in his job, works independently, has a pleasant personality and gets along well with everyone, he deserves the scholarship for working very hard", he said.

This is also a rare opportunity for Junior as the knowledge gained will enable him to take up advanced research on biology and ecology of animals and publish the data collected.

"With a Master of Science in Conservation Biology/Wildlife Management, I will be able to design scientific research projects and carry out quality research, the training will make me a better skilled scientist.

I will also be able to reach out to a greater audience such as teaching Biology or Conservation Biology at tertiary institutions in Papua New Guinea", he said.



Left: Junior Novera- the post graduate student and intern biologist at the PNG Institute of Biological Research in Goroka, sponsored by Steamships to take up studies in England.

Upon his return, Junior hopes to give back to the country by mentoring and training young upcoming science students in respective universities as well as publishing collected data. *Continued on next page..*

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He says there is still much to be learnt and discovered about the biodiversity of the country, particularly where a large number of plants and animals are still unknown to science.

Junior's sponsorship from Steamships highlights the company's role as a responsible corporate citizen, contributing to develop the country's human resource through community assistance targeted at Education and the Environment with a major focus to provide the highest quality research into very sensitive and unique rainforest systems.

In October 2008, John Swire & Sons and Steamships embarked on a project to support rainforest studies in Papua New Guinea. This resulted in the funding of Centre for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS), a 50 hectare forest monitoring plot and research center at Wanang in Madang province.

The Swire funding worth K700,000 for a period of two years will use the plot for a series of small-scale 'carbon monitoring stations'.

The study is part of the Smithsonian Tropical Forest Science studies undertaken around the world and in PNG will be coordinated by Madang-based, Binatang Research Centre.

It is hoped that these stations will be implemented across PNG to enable landscape and regional monitoring of forest carbon stocks.

Steamships is working closely with the Wanang project providing in-country



Above: Staff of Binatang Research centre work on a plot survey at Wanang in Madang.



Above: Junior Novera (right) as part of his internship, leads fellow researchers at the PNGIBR research centre during one of his field trips, collecting data.

support through sponsoring post-graduate scholarships that promote environmental science and forestry education; strengthening skills and knowledge in the area and Junior Novera is the first post-graduate student to be sponsored under the program.

With the environment continually threatened by human activities such as logging, mining, agriculture and the effects of climate change, this move is welcomed as it will go a long way in sustaining the amazing biodiversity of the country's flora and fauna.

Junior through the study will also help contribute to Research in Conservation Biology by helping the government formulate management plans in affected areas such as the mining industry and logging.

Formulating government policies aimed at protecting the country's biodiversity is a must in sustaining the environment for future generations to enjoy and the responsibility lies upon every Papua New Guinean to conserve our fast-depleting natural resources.

The country lacks professionally skilled scientists in this area to do quality research and Junior as an asset, will no doubt drive conservation forward in Papua New Guinea in the years to come.

Junior who hails from the northwest district of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville leaves in September this year to pursue his studies.

We wish him all the best, well done & **Congratulations from Steamships!**