



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Business and Society
Report | SDG Video

Papua New Guinea, Cocoa Bean, Infrastructure and Poverty

Introduction

Cocoa bean is one of Papua New Guinea's export commodity. They also export crocodile skin, logs, gold, and other commodities. Based on my previous experience working in Papua New Guinea, they really need improvement on the infrastructure sector. This infrastructure will open the access to anything. With a better infrastructure, transporting anything will be much easier. Including access to the tourism destination. There are a lot of beautiful places in Papua New Guinea.

My Story

I was working in Papua New Guinea for six years before I decided to continue my study in Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. Papua New Guinea is a beautiful country and a lot of places still untouchable. I've been living in 3 cities so far. Port Moresby (NCD, capital city), Lae (Morobe province, 2nd largest City, even though there are big differences between Port Moresby and Lae), and Madang (Madang province, the 5th largest city). My husband has been travelled to more cities because he is the head of audit department, such as Goroka (Eastern Highland province, 7th largest city), Mt. Hagen (Western Highland, 4th largest city), Kokopo (East New Britain province, 8th largest city), and Rabaul (East New Britain province).

And we both agree that they need to build more infrastructure to open isolated places so they also can have a better access for medical, education, etc.

Their Story

We have interviewed several cocoa farmer, fermentery, and locals. We want to know what would be their biggest barrier. And we found out that infrastructure and transportation are their biggest barrier for the fermentery. While CPB is the main concern for the farmer. In addition, their price also low. For 1Kg of cocoa bean, the farmer only get K 1.20 (about USD 0.3474) from the fermentery. While fermentery get roughly K 400 (about USD 115.8) per bag (64 Kg). The price is depend on the market price.

So, many fermenteries are in the village. Small village which most of the time doesn't even exist in google map. The fermentery need to carry the cocoa bag on their shoulder and walk for about 1.5 hours from their home to the main road, so they can bring it to down town.

Their transportation also far from standard. Sometimes they have to share the ride with animals (most of the time chicken or pig) or vegies. And its also cramped inside the truck. To carry a bag of cocoa bean (64 Kg), the truck driver charge them K 10 (USD 2.895). So the transportation expense is eating the revenue.

Conclusion

In my final video, I put this sentence: now, its your turn to take an action. Because I want businessman out there come and help them out. Doing business while helping people. Not bad right? I proposed below

1. Infrastructure

If there only one thing the government have do, it will be build infrastructure. Because this infrastructure is crucial for almost everything. It will also open isolated villages/communities, connecting them to the nearest cities. With a good infrastructure:

- the food distribution will be easier (SDG# 2)
- medical center and supplies also can be access easier (SDG# 3)
- school can be access easier and PNG people can get better education (SDG# 4)
- transporting commodities also become easier. If they can export more, then it means an economic growth for them. And they will have a better living (SDG# 8)
- and with that economic growth and decent job, PNG people don't need to move to big city (Port Moresby or Lae or any other bigger cities) just to get a job. They can just work in their village. This will lead to sustainable cities and communities (SDG# 11)

2. Transportation

Transportation have the almost the same crucial level with the infrastructure. The only difference is transportation need infrastructure. The current condition, people from village will ride PMV (4 tons truck turning into a public transportation) to the nearest city/town. And sometimes, they have to share their space with animals (chicken, pig, etc) and commodities (cocoa, vegies, etc). There is a gap between the demand for transportation and the supplies. The transportation can be:

- Transporting human
- Transporting animal
- Transporting commodities

Most of the vehicle that use to transport commodities are owned by the company. Example: cocoa bean cooperative have the vehicle (truck or at least a single cab car) to pick up the cocoa from the fermentery. The problem is, the total vehicle is not that many. And they have limitation in human resources and time. Some places need 3 - 5 hours to reach to. So what I can proposed is to provide the transportation for these kind of companies.

3. Cocoa fermentery

There is also a possibility to build a fermentery near the farmer and employ the local fermentery. This is specially for company with a strong finance. This is also good to educate the farmer regarding the cocoa disease.