



# International Girls in ICT Day -2023

## Theme: Digital Skills for Life



Since 2012 the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) has joined the global community in commemorating the International Girls in ICT Day. An initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), this day is celebrated every fourth Thursday of April. Today, we celebrate this important day to partake in the global effort to raise awareness on encouraging and empowering girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICT.

Over the years NICTA has celebrated this day by way of running school essay competition, awareness programs throughout the country, open days, workshops and virtual forums (during COVID -19). NICTA's Girls in ICT Tertiary Scholarship program is a testament of NICTA's contribution towards addressing the disparity in number of males dominating the ICT related fields. The program supports the Government Digital transformation Policy by investing human capacity.

This year and every year, NICTA, the ITU and our partners work together to inspire and encourage girls to pursue a future in ICTs and to empower them by ensuring they have the necessary skills, confidence and support to achieve their goals. NICTA's Girls in ICT Scholarship has been running since 2016 with a total of eleven young girls and women passing through this program.

We welcome partnership with industry stakeholders and the education and learning institutions in the country to drive this agenda. NICTA has partnered with the Institute of Business Studies (IBS) to increase the number of girls participating in similar program. This year is the first year of implementation for this arrangement where an additional five (5) are benefiting from this scholarship to take up Information and Communications course at IBS.

International Girls in ICT Day 2023 is themed "Digital Skills for Life", a theme suiting for a developing state like Papua New Guinea. The trend of doing business, learning, general day to day communication and basic livelihood is now shifting to the digital platform. For girls and young women to thrive in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers, they need to acquire skills to become both ICT users and creators in the digital world.

**We commend all women in the ICT space and wish all a HAPPY INTERNATIONAL Girls in ICT Day !**

**Kila Gulo -Vui**  
Chief Executive Officer

### NICTA Girls in ICT Scholarship

On May 17 2012 while celebrating the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, NICTA announced the GICT Scholarship. Three years later, in 2016 the scholarship was launched.

- Encourage more girls to pursue a career in ICT in PNG
- Minimize the gender imbalance in ICT sector in PNG
- Promote and contribute to ITU's \*\* global initiative on GICT

- Implement Government policy on empowering women & girls - Meet social obligations to have an educated ICT society

The scholarship is aimed at those who have completed grade 12 and have been accepted to study any of the ICT related programs at a NICTA recognized tertiary institution in the country. It covers full tuition for duration of the program, book allowance, fortnightly stipend and transport costs.

Since its inception, 11 female Papua New Guineans have passed through the program majority are now in the workforce. Each year NICTA awards 4 scholarships. This year (2023), four have passed out, 2 from the Divine Word University and 2 from PNG University of Technology.

This month also NICTA has signed 4 new scholarships with four awardees, all are studying at the University of Technology.

Currently NICTA has sixteen (16) existing scholarships; (including 4 new signed this month) .

15 from the University of Technology  
1 from the University of Papua New Guinea

ITU's Global Initiative \*\* International Girls in ICT Day International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Initiated by the ITU in October 2010, it aims at creating a global environment that empower and encourage girls and young women to consider careers in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

It also aims to promote gender equality in a male dominated field of ICT.

### Four New Scholarships for 2023



**Earlier this year , NICTA added four young Papua New Guinean females to its prestigious Girls in ICT Scholarship Program. Hendrica Fifine, Tabitha B.Ibana , Lisa Sariman and Jeroldine Sefo all who have commenced studies at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology are successful applicants of 2023.**

Scholarship Bonds were signed in Lae, Morobe Province on Thursday 6th April 2023, between NICTA represented by NICTA's Director Corporate Services and the scholarship recipients, in the presence of Deputy Registrar of the PNG University of Technology, Mrs Naomi Wilkins.

As part of scholarship onboarding, each scholar was presented with a laptop and 1tb external hard drive to complement the scholarship.

### Four Graduate, end journey with NICTA



**Molly & Laetitia-DWU**

**Esther & Justine -UOT**

As we prepare to celebrate the annual International Girls in ICT Day on April 27, we celebrate achievements of four young Papua New Guinean women who have recently completed degree

programmes in the area of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Molly Marapuni and Leitia Gareitz graduated last month ( March) from the Divine Word University with Bachelor of Arts in Maths and Computer Science while Justine Tau-Maró and Esther Ismiel graduated from the PNG University of Technology on the 19th of April with first degrees in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering respectively.

These four outstanding individuals have benefited from National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA's) prestigious Girls in ICT Tertiary Scholarship Program.

Scholarship application opens at the end of each year for female school leavers who are taking up ICT courses at NICTA recognized institutions.

### Kapal a force behind NICTA's Girls in ICT



International Girls in ICT Day is also about celebrating brave women in the field of ICT. One such example is NICTA's female Principal Engineer Ms. Molina Kapal, who's story is of bravery and courage. Ms. Kapal has been the driving force behind NICTA's Girls in ICT Awareness and the face of NICTA's Girls in ICT Tertiary Scholarship until recently.

Ms. Kapal was involved in a tragic incident whilst on duty travel 3 years ago and almost lost her life. This has resulted in her having facial impairment. This experience has not stopped her from living her dream " to be a role model to young Papua New Guineans, especially females. Three years after that fateful night, Ms. Kapal for the first time came out to speak at the National Women's Day Celebration hosted by the National Capital District Commission (NCDC) in Port Moresby on Friday 24th of March 2023.

Ms. Kapal spoke about the challenges that she has overcome with her current circumstance but commends her employer, NICTA's past and present for its undivided support in ensuring that there flexibility to allow her time for recovery from the tragedy.

Ms. Kapal has been with NICTA for the last 18 years after joining the organization as a fresh graduate after completing her studies at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology as an electrical engineering .

"Be prepared to be alone, it is challenging. One has to be mentally, and physically strong to be in this field , " said Kapal at her first public appearance after 3 years.

I said to myself, that I want to be a role model for those that are coming up and I have been doing that for the last 18 years with NICTA. It was challenging, but the good thing is I had very supportive male colleagues and bosses who have supported and mentored me this far.

I have faced some challenges as a woman, striving in my profession as a female engineer at work and going home to play the role of a mother , is no easy feat , said Kapal.

"ICT has given a voice to woman. It has given women the visibility and the opportunity to equally participate in decision making. I realize and appreciate that ICT has given women of PNG the opportunity to be heard and seen." Said Kapal.

Kapal says her experience has given her the strength to push on in life and be an inspiration to others. Ms. Kapal has been spear heading NICTA Girls in ICT awareness programs over the years says she is committed to making a difference in her role as woman in the ICT space.