



Government of Papua New Guinea

National Information & Communications
Technology Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

Papua New Guinea Launches National SFIA License to Strengthen Digital Workforce Capability

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Papua New Guinea has taken a significant step towards strengthening its digital workforce and advancing national digital transformation with the official launch of the country's Whole-of-Country Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) License.

The launch was officiated by the Chief Secretary to Government, Mr Ivan Pomaleu, OBE, who described the milestone as a strategic investment in Papua New Guinea's people, institutions and long-term economic future.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Mr Pomaleu said the adoption of the globally recognised framework demonstrates Papua New Guinea's commitment to building a skilled, capable and future-ready workforce to support digital transformation across government, industry and the broader economy.

"Today's launch is far more than the announcement of a license. It represents a national commitment to developing the human capabilities needed to drive innovation, strengthen service delivery and support sustainable socio-economic growth," Mr Pomaleu said.

The initiative was originally developed through an APEC project led by the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea. Through the acquisition of a Whole-of-Country SFIA license, Papua New Guinea joins more than 200 countries and jurisdictions worldwide that use the framework to support workforce development, professional standards and skills planning.

The SFIA framework provides a common international language for identifying, assessing and managing professional skills across information and communications technology, cybersecurity, software engineering, data management, digital transformation, business change and related professional disciplines.

Mr Pomaleu said the framework will play a critical role in supporting the Government's digital transformation agenda by strengthening workforce planning, recruitment, capability development and professional growth across the public sector.

For industry, SFIA will help establish clear skills expectations, improve talent development pathways and strengthen alignment with international standards and best practices. Education and training institutions will benefit from a practical framework for aligning curricula and qualifications with national workforce needs and emerging industry demands.

"In a rapidly evolving digital economy, skills are the foundation of competitiveness, innovation and productivity. SFIA provides government, employers, educational institutions and individuals with a common framework to identify skills, address capability gaps and build career pathways," he said.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the broader national benefits of the framework, noting that it will improve alignment between education, training and employment outcomes while enhancing labour mobility for Papua New Guinean professionals both domestically and internationally.

Mr Pomaleu commended NICTA, under the leadership of Chairman Mr Brian Riches, OL, and Chief Executive Officer Mr Polume Lume, for leading the initiative and securing the country's national license.

He also acknowledged the support and collaboration of the SFIA Foundation, government agencies, industry partners, universities, professional associations and development partners involved in the establishment of the ICT Skills Framework Implementation Committee and Technical Working Group.

Among the key stakeholders supporting implementation are the Departments of ICT, Higher Education, Education, Labour and Industrial Relations, Personnel Management and the PNG APEC Secretariat, together with industry leaders including Telikom PNG, Digicel PNG, Vodafone PNG, DataCo PNG, NISIT, EMTV, NBC, PNG Computer Society, PNG Employers' Federation and tertiary institutions across the country.

Mr Pomaleu called on all sectors to actively embrace and implement the framework.

"The true value of SFIA will not be measured by its launch, but by our collective commitment to implementation. Government agencies, industry, educational institutions and development partners must work together to embed SFIA into workforce planning, skills development and professional growth initiatives."

He further encouraged young Papua New Guineans and working professionals to use the framework as a guide for career development, skills enhancement and lifelong learning in an increasingly digital world.

Officially declaring the framework launched, Mr Pomaleu said the initiative would contribute to building a more inclusive, innovative and competitive digital economy for Papua New Guinea.

"Digital transformation is ultimately not just about technology. It is about empowering people, building skills, strengthening leadership, fostering trust and improving services for our citizens. With great pride and confidence in our people, I officially launch Papua New Guinea's Whole-of-Country SFIA license and Skills Framework."

The launch marks a major milestone in Papua New Guinea's efforts to develop a digitally skilled workforce capable of supporting national development priorities and positioning the country to participate more effectively in the global digital economy.

Approved for release

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