



Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea CONFERENCE 2019

Hosted by the University of Papua New Guinea in
partnership with UNESCO
Port Moresby, September 23-24, 2019



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages

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Minutes of LSPNG 2019 Conference Organising Committee (COC) Meeting No.1

Date: 16th January, 2019
Venue: Council Room – UPNG
Time: 1 pm – 3:30 pm

Chair Person: Olga Temple (UPNG)
Present: Malinda Ginmaule (SIL PNG)
Andrew Kina (National Cultural Commission)
Linus Digim'Rina (Anthropology, SHSS UPNG)
Stacy Bauke (PREM UPNG)
Jim Robins (Director PREM)
Willie Emmanuel Jonduo, ML (Director NLAS DOE)
Andrew Boli (Director, Culture/UNESCO)

Apologies: Wesley Lakain (Secretary-General, PNG NATIONAL COMMISSION)
Don Niles (IPNGS)
Sakarepe Kamene (UPNG) – President LSPNG
Robbi Peterson (SIL) – the LSPNG Treasurer

AGENDA followed:

- Welcome** by Olga Temple (Chair Person), on behalf of LSPNG President, Mr. Kamene;
She introduced the LSPNG Executive and spoke briefly about the purpose of this meeting and LSPNG history
- General Introductions:** all participants introduced themselves to others.
- Brief overview of LSPNG 2019 Conference Concept Note:**
The Chairperson described the LSPNG 2019 conference in the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages as an amazing opportunity for PNG to shine as a unique repository of so many of the world's languages.
She informed the meeting of the Executive's interactions with UNESCO since December 2018, which resulted in LSPNG registering officially on the UNESCO IYIL website, and getting UNESCO permission to use UNESCO IYIL LOGO for the purpose of celebrating and promoting Indigenous Languages and cultures in partnership with UNESCO.
She explained the reasoning behind the chosen LSPNG 2019 Conference Theme ("Unity in Diversity: Celebrating the Indigenous Languages of the South Pacific."), emphasizing its relevance to achieving the PNG Vision 2050 development plan.
Dr. Digim'Rina (Anthropology, UPNG) suggested that in further communications and public communications the role of LSPNG theme in terms of "Promoting Unity in Diversity" should be succinctly illustrated, using a visual or a text-box, listing LSPNG achievements in the area of language documentation and Tok Ples literacy work that has been done since LSPNG was founded in 1967.

4. **A brief discussion of UNESCO's five areas of interest** (Increasing cross-cultural understanding and cooperation; Promotion of indigenous languages through knowledge-sharing; Integration of indigenous languages into standard setting; Empowerment through capacity building; and Growth and development through elaboration of new knowledge) followed, with the Chairperson pointing out that these broad areas of interest encompass and re-enforce LSPNG concerns and interests.
5. **Suggestions from members regarding any additional areas of concern:** Willie Emmanuel Jonduo, ML (Director NLAS, Department of Education) expressed his grave concern regarding the survival of all 867 PNG languages, posing a challenge for the conference: We must find a way to ensure that all PNG languages are maintained and used by the young generation, as many of them are currently on the brink of extinction. "What are some practical ways of preserving the indigenous languages of PNG?", he asked. The Chairperson remarked that SIL PNG linguists have been able to document and store the descriptions of hundreds of Papuan and Austronesian languages of Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific region, and that a huge amount of research into the grammars and phonology of Tok Ples languages has been published in the LSPNG journal, *Language and Linguistics in Melanesia*. A lot of work has also been done in orthography design, literacy work, etc.
Mr. Jonduo reiterated that our concern is not only preserving language descriptions, but also ensuring that our young people keep using their indigenous languages.
Ms Temple suggested that multilingual education could enable them to use several languages to their own, as well as to national advantage.
6. **Suggestions regarding COC sub-committees** included:
 - a. Scientific Sub-committee, to organize the Call for Papers and do the vetting of Abstracts and editing the selected papers for publication (UPNG & SIL-PNG)
 - b. Fundraising
 - c. Logistics & Security
 - d. Catering
 - e. Accommodation

Andrew Boli suggested setting up a Working Committee, but the Chairperson felt that that could be done only next week, when LSPNG President, Mr. Kamene, returns from his field trip.

Recommendations:

- Secure the cooperation of all the organisations that are directly or indirectly involved in language work (e.g. NRI, UNESCO-PNG, SIL PNG, Universities/Colleges, etc.)
- Create an 'Action Plan' for a fundraising drive, using ideas similar to those that proved effective in 2015, when UPNG hosted the highly successful 49th LSPNG conference in the Laguna hotel.

Ms Temple promised to send a list of sponsors of the 2015 LSPNG conference to Mr. Jim Robins (Director PREM, UPNG), who has good connections with government and business organisations.

Ms Temple will meet with LSPNG President (Mr. Kamene) and update him on this meeting and seek further input on the next action plan for upcoming COC meeting.

LSPNG members will be informed about this and all other LSPNG 2019 COC meetings through the Kivung Billboard of the LSPNG free-access online journal, *Language & Linguistics in Melanesia* @

www.langlxmelanesia.com

7. **A.O.B.:** The official launching of the UNESCO IYIL2019 in Paris on the 28th of January – members were not aware of this invitation.

Date of the next meeting will be communicated to members next week.

Minutes written by Malinda Ginmaule (SIL-PNG)