“HOLIDAY INN UPNG RESEARCH RESOLUTION” –  
FOSTERING AND ENHANCING UPNG RESEARCH CULTURE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Preamble:
We the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and our Strategic Partners present here at Holiday Inn, Port Moresby, on this 10th day of September 2010 resolve to agree to develop and foster a thriving culture of intellectual inquiry and policy entrepreneurship capabilities in the staff and students so that they enhance their abilities to address the fundamental questions of respective disciplinary and professional knowledge generation with positive cumulative effect on both the extension of disciplinary bodies of knowledge and the development of solutions to problems of government, industry, and community, nationally, regionally and globally.

The partners duly acknowledge the immense contributions made by participants and that detail comments have been captured by the University of Papua New Guinea Office for Research. Particular acknowledgement is made of the invaluable contribution rendered to this workshop by our strategic partners, including the United States of America through the University of Utah. From the richness of these deliberations the Partners have derived some broad resolutions. In this regard, we agree to incorporate the following fundamentals in the development of UPNG’s Research Operational Plan that:

Whole-of-Government Approach:

1. The University of Papua New Guinea’s mission statement of “delivering excellent education and research results for nation building and global advancement towards an innovative and empowered society” is aligned to the requirements of enhancing the quality and increasing the quantity of innovative and collaborative research espoused in the Papua New Guinea Vision 2050, PNG Development Strategic Plan 2030, and the Millennium Development Goals
(MDGs). The Government recognises through its various policy pronouncements that research is important for service delivery, monitoring and evaluation of PNG Vision 2050, continuous data collection for policy changes, harnessing natural resources and biodiversity, improving human capital training through teaching and supervision with the cumulative impact of adding value to the country’s Vision of becoming a “Smart, Wise, Fair, Healthy and Happy Society by 2050”.

2. Acknowledge existing situational reports on the status of the current state of research, teaching and learning at UPNG and the country as a whole as espoused in the King-Lupiwa Report on Research Capacity of Research Institutions in PNG, and Open College Review Report.

3. Acknowledge the renewed culture of the UPNG research community and its stakeholders towards the promotion of research to enhance teaching and learning.

**Research Ethics and Quality Assurance Governance Framework:**

4. Embrace the work of the PNG Vision 2050, PNG DSP 2030, MDG’s and Office of Higher Education (OHE) in developing the Research, Science and Technology (RST) Governance and Administrative Framework and call for the extension of such a Framework to include other academic disciplines such as liberal arts and business.

5. Work to begin on setting up a Research Advisory Committee to help chart various research centres’ strategic and operational plans.

6. Work to begin on establishing a Research Ethics Committee comprising representatives of all research centres to work in close consultation with the RST Governance and Administrative Framework with the specific tasks of, among other responsibilities, setting university-wide research ethics
and protocol, and quality assurance guidelines. The immediate conclusion of the review of the Research, Science and Technology Act 1992 to incorporate research and provide a regulatory framework for funding and research in PNG ought to also be explored through the CHE.

**Research & Publication Capacity Building and Incentive-Based Management System:**

7. Recognise the importance of capacity building through training in advanced methodological and analytical tools for research and data analysis. Coupled with this, mount a university-wide Basic and Advanced Research Methodology Courses for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Also develop clear guidelines for individual and panel supervision of research and theses.

8. Recognise the importance of university-wide write-shops to enhance the capacity of researchers in the writing and submission of publishable manuscripts to internationally refereed academic and practice journals.

9. Call for the development of a university incentive-based system that stimulates innovative research from prototype to product development and policy outcomes, and adequately rewards research and publication in both local and international journals.

10. Whilst emphasising teaching and learning, the importance of research should be reflected in university-wide policies such as the university staff portfolio in the Staff Handbook.

11. Mount a competitive research and graduate scholarship awards scheme targeting the R&D outcomes of the Government of Papua New Guinea and all stakeholders.
12. Embark on HRD of academic and technical staff to gain higher qualifications specifically through research using different collaborative modalities including twinning arrangements with our partnering universities.

13. Establish and maintain knowledge management system to systematically and effectively file and store all data sets generated by research initiatives.

**Resourcing:**

14. Acknowledge and appreciate the Government of Papua New Guinea’s expressed commitment to Research & Development (R&D) particularly in earmarking 5% to R&D in the PNG Vision 2050, PNG DSP 2030 and UPNG’s own resource commitment towards research.

15. All partners agree to take carriage of UPNG’s strategic research initiatives and infrastructure development needs deliberated on during this workshop and to commit strategic resources to ensure effective implementation in the next 5 years.

**Strategic Partnerships:**

16. The development and implementation of UPNG’s new research pathway will require critical strategic partnerships—both internal including local universities and professional bodies and external partners such as the University of Utah College of Pharmacy and other twinning arrangements.

17. The role of the OHE as the link between government and universities in PNG as far as research and higher education policy is concerned is duly acknowledged.

**Implementation, Reporting and Communication Strategy:**
18. The Office for Research build the resolutions herein into its next 5-Year Implementation Plan and effectively monitor progress and to submit an Annual Performance Report to the research and policy development community.

19. Develop an effective communication and policy entrepreneurship strategy for disbursing research findings and outputs to stakeholders.

20. The UPNG Research Plan will provide new energy and solutions to enable the attainment of the PNG Vision 2050 and PNG DSP 2030 strategic targets and priorities for research.

Parties to the Agreement on behalf of the UPNG, OHE, Schools and Open College:

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Professor A. Mellam
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