



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



# Melanesian School Debate 2014 Report

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A report on the participation of the Solomon  
Islands team

22 November – 2 December 2014

Jasmine Waleafea and Chris Paul

## **Acknowledgement**

The efforts contributed by the following have enabled the Solomon Islands team to successfully participate in this MSD event;

- UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project for sponsoring the Solomon Islands team to participate in the debate competition.
- The Solomon Islands Government for supporting this event
- Ms. Marisa of the Parliamentary Civic Education Unit of NPSI for working tirelessly with the organizing committees to ensure that this event eventuates.
- National Parliament of Solomon Islands
- Ministry of Women Youth Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA)
- Melanesian School of Debate Committee for Solomon Islands (MSDCSI)
- National English Panel
- Parents
- Schools – Selwyn College, King George VI School, St. Nicholas College and Betikama Adventist College

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## 1. Introduction

The Melanesian School of Debate (MSD) is a forum where students from three Melanesian countries of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu come together to debate on development issues of interest in the Melanesian region.<sup>1</sup> The event is a first ever of its kind and occurred in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The event was sponsored by the Department of National Planning and Monitoring of Papua New Guinea and hosted by the Institute of Business Studies (IBS). The IBS is a tertiary education provider in Papua New Guinea, offering academic and professional courses in the fields of Accounting, Business and Computing.<sup>2</sup> IBS has had the experience for hosting (national) debate competitions in Papua New Guinea, hence taken the initiative to host this inaugural MSD debate competition.

### 1.1. Background History of IBS Debates<sup>3</sup>

The Institute of Business Studies (IBS) in Papua New Guinea has initiated the first IBS School Debate Competition within Port Moresby since 2009 with the theme *Developing Young Leaders of our Nation*.

The aim of the competition is to prepare the younger generation of Papua New Guineans to become good leaders of tomorrow. Further, the competition provides an avenue for schools to socialize through academic competition as such to build and foster relationship with the schools. This has been very successful for the last three years with sponsorship from corporate organization who shared the vision to develop the young leaders of our nation.

IBS School Debate has now been hosted nationwide in Port Moresby, Lae, Enga and Kokopo, and the winners of the four centres battle it out in the National Debate Titles in Port Moresby.

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<sup>1</sup>Melanesian School Debate (MSD): Discussion Paper, p. 1

<sup>2</sup>*Wikipedia*. Institute of Business Studies, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute\\_of\\_Business\\_Studies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute_of_Business_Studies)

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Business Studies. <http://ibs.ac.pg/cms/index.php/2011-10-03-05-23-16/2011-10-03-05-05-16/national-debate>

## **1.2. RYP Observation<sup>4</sup>**

In 2013, a Regional Youth Parliament (RYP) Conference was held at the National Parliament of Solomon Islands in Honiara, starting on 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September. Twenty five youths representing the twinned Parliaments; New South Wales (5) and the Solomon Islands (20) participated in this one week program. Along with the participating countries, there were representatives from Transparency Vanuatu (2) Vanuatu, Bougainville House of Representatives (1) and IBS (1) in Papua New Guinea, who attended the program as observers. These observers were intending to observe how the RYP was being organized. The observers noted that the RYP program was a success because it enabled participating students to be involved in high level discussion regarding issues that are of concern to the region.

## **1.3. Initiation**

The Melanesian School Debate (MSD) emerged from the success of RYP. <sup>5</sup>The successful turnout motivated the observers and representatives from Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, respectively, to organize a similar program involving students from Melanesian countries. This idea was pursued further by the observer from Papua New Guinea and who went on to organize this first ever MSD event in Papua New Guinea.

## **1.4. Purpose of a Melanesian School of Debate**

The purpose for having a MSD is to help build the leadership abilities of Melanesian students through engaging in the debate of development issues which are of concern to Melanesian countries. <sup>6</sup> Specifically, the purpose includes;<sup>7</sup>

1. To build the confidence of youth participants in becoming future leaders
2. To recognize the leadership qualities of youth participants
3. To enable youths to contribute to public decision making
4. To learn about the government and politics of other Melanesian countries

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<sup>4</sup>Melanesian School Debate (MSD): Discussion Paper

<sup>5</sup>Melanesian School Debate (MSD): Discussion Paper, p. 1

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid*, p. 2

5. To establish educational relationships amongst the youths
6. To enable youths to share their views on issues that are affecting their lives

### **1.5. Theme and Aim**

The theme and aim of the event are;

- Theme: *Developing Young Leaders for our Nations*
- Aim: *Inspiring Youths of the Pacific*

The theme and aim were reflected by the student's involvement throughout the program. The topics prompted students to think critically about the issues and enabled them to contribute effectively throughout the debate sessions. Such interactive participation is a portrayal of how the MSD event has molded these young students to becoming future leaders for our nation. Similarly, the sensitivity of the topics and the urgency, to act to address the issues discussed, displayed by the students revealed how these young leaders were being inspired by this competition.

## **2. Program**

The debate program comprised of two preparatory parts; the preparation prior to debate week and the program during debate week. Tables 1 and 2 provide a summarized outline of the preparatory activities that the students engaged in. The overall program of the debate competition is provided in Appendix 6.1 of this report.

### **2.1. Preparation Week**

The Solomon Islands team had a week working together in preparation for the debate competition. During this preparation week (Table 1) the students were being coached on how to address the debate topics and how to respond effectively to their opponents.



**Table 1.** A summary of the activities the students attested in preparation for the debate week

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Mon, 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Debate coaching
Tue, 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Debate coaching
Wed, 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Free <sup>8</sup>
Thurs, 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Debate coaching
Fri, 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Debate coaching Final logistic preparation
Sat, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Travel: Honiara – Port Moresby Welcome lunch at IBS conference room

### 2.1.1. Researching debate topics

In order to have a good understanding on the debate topics, the research on the topics was conducted. Topics for the debate rounds were made known to all participating countries prior to the actual debate week. This gives participants and their coach sufficient time to look for relevant information that may be used to formulate constructive ideas for the debate. For the Solomon Islands team, three articles were gathered for each debate topic. From these three articles, two were directly related to the debate topics. The third article provides a global perspective on the debate topics.

The following criteria were used when gathering the information/articles. The articles must at least;

- Provide information that directly relates to the focused area of discussion, e.g. Melanesia, Pacific, as per the debate topic
- Provide information that contains the global perception in them
- Provide up to date information thus it was ensured that at least ‘the latest publications’, starting from 2010, are provided

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<sup>8</sup> November 19 was declared a public holiday due to the National General Elections

- Provide an excellent overview of the debate topics. This means information from the articles can be used to develop; arguments for (advantages), arguments against (disadvantages), comparative data and statistics.

Relevant information from the PAC News was also provided as supporting information to the articles. The students also did further research on the topics themselves so that they are well informed about the context of the topics.

### **2.1.2. Debate coaching: Dissecting the topic**

The students were coached on how to analyze debate topics in order to effectively address the topic questions. Since all the participating countries have been informed about their position in relation to the topics for the round robin debate sessions, this coaching activity is aimed to affirm the team's stand in their position. The steps for dissecting the topics are;

1. Identifying key words in the topic
2. Defining the key words
3. Establishing views on the topic
4. State reasons and conclusion
5. Refuting views

Using the above steps, students were divided into two groups namely the Affirmative group and the Opposing group. The affirmative group prepared arguments that supported the topic and the opposing group prepared arguments that disagreed with the topic.

The two teams then had a combined discussion to identify pointers 'for' and 'against' the topic. These pointers were used to create arguments that were used by the team during the debate session.

Using the pointers, the team anticipates possible rebuttal ideas that may be raised by the opposing team. These rebuttal ideas were used to rebut possible arguments that were emphasized by the opponent.

After dissecting the topics, the main ideas were collated and incorporated into arguments for each speaker to argue on during the debate.

## 2.2. Debate Week

The actual debate program is a weeklong (Table 2). The rounds commenced on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and the final occurred on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. During this week, final preparations for the debate and group discussions were held after dinner each day. The team utilizes this time to collate and cross check arguments to ensure that the arguments correspond. As for the final debate, the preparation was done according to the steps described in section 2.1.2 of this report.

A detailed description of the debate sessions is discussed in section 2.2.1 of this report.

**Table 2.** A summarized outline of activities during the debate week in POM

Date	Activities
Sun, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Launching Ceremony at Bluff Inn Evening: Final preparation for Round 1
Mon, 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Debate Round 1: Vanuatu vs Solomon Islands Topic: <i>All customary land in Melanesia should be registered to ensure sustainable development and economic growth</i>
Tue, 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Debate Round 2: Vanuatu vs PNG Topic: <i>Donors should decide how Pacific Island countries spend their money</i> Evening: Final preparation for Round 3
Wed, 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Debate Round 3: PNG vs Solomon Islands Topic: <i>It is fair for Australia to negotiate with Pacific Island countries to host asylum seekers</i> Announcement of teams to the finals Evening: Preparation for Final
Thurs, 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Excursion: Port Moresby International School, National Museum & Art Gallery, 'TainimGraun' Talkback Show Evening: Final preparation for the Final
Fri, 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Debate Final: PNG vs Solomon Islands Topic: <i>Natural resource extraction in the Pacific Island</i>

	<i>countries has led to immense wealth for its people</i>
	Announcement of winners
	Presentation of Trophies
	Farewell dinner
Sat, 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Excursion: Adventure Park
Sun, 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Free time
Mon, 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Presentation for the best overall speaker of the competition
Tue, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Travel: Port Moresby - Honiara

### 2.2.1. Debate

The participation in the debate session was indeed an experience that enhanced the capacity of all participants in public speaking. The Solomon Islands team participated in three debate session, two debates in the round robin sessions plus the final debate session (Table 2).

The Solomon Islands team set a benchmark for the debate competition in the first round against team Vanuatu. This benchmark is evident in the outstanding performance of the speakers and the use of excellent references to support their arguments. This is the result of students having a good understanding about the debate topic.

After round 1 the adjudicators provide feedback to the teams regarding their performance in the debates and what needs to be improved. The Solomon Islands team considered these critics and went further to demonstrate the adjudicator's suggestions in the next debate sessions. This approach helped the team attain the leading points in the round robin and was being qualified for the final (Table 3).

Table 3: Performance of all teams in the round robin.

Round	Papua New Guinea	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu
1	Bye	5	2
2	5	Bye	2
3	2	5	Bye
Total	7	10	4

In the final debate, the student's performance improved a lot after having being nurtured throughout the debate sessions. Speakers in the Solomon Islands team debated confidently and had more interaction with the audience. The Papua New Guinea team though did maintained their position by emphasizing on the unequal distribution of wealth and human development index amongst Pacific Island countries. Team Papua New Guinea eventually won the competition by 3 points.

The Solomon Islands team received three awards from the competition. This includes the following;

<b>Award No.</b>	<b>Name of award</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
1	1 <sup>st</sup> runner up award	Trophy (1) Medals (4)	SI team members
2	Best male debater of the competition	Trophy	Denmark Pahu
3	Over all best debater of the competition	Mac Laptop	Denmark Pahu

The third award was presented by Governor Powes Parkop, the Governor for National Capital District in Papua New Guinea.

The students acknowledged that their confident to speak in public have improved a lot during this event. A detailed copy of the student's feedback about their participation in the debate sessions is provided in Appendix 6.2 of this report. The IBS will provide a visual copy of the debate sessions which will be available at the PCEU of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

### **2.2.2. Excursion<sup>9</sup>**

The excursions broadened the student's perception on the outlook of life and prompted them to analyze how they may be able to do things differently when they become leaders of their countries in the future.

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<sup>9</sup> Extracted (and summarized) from Isaac Barley's speech during the presentation

The diverse cultures and traditions were evident in the numerous traditional crafts that were displayed at the National Museum & Art Gallery. The exhibition of these crafts shows the value that Papua New Guinea has for its cultures and traditions. A similar impression was shared during the visit to the Adventure Park where some of the different flora and fauna unique to Papua New Guinea were displayed.

The visit to Port Moresby International School (POMIS) helped students to value the importance of attaining an education. The excellent study environment experienced in POMIS motivated the students to persevere in their studies with the limited educational resources that they have.

In the *Tainim Graun* talkback show the students attained first hand information about HIV/AIDS. This show was an informative session that spoke out against the stigma and discrimination against the victims of HIV/AIDS and transgendered people. The show revealed that Papua New Guinea also has issues to address despite being the largest Melanesian country with higher status amongst other Pacific countries.

A common thought shared by the Solomon Islands team regarding the excursion is why Solomon Islands is not able to develop like Papua New Guinea. A detailed copy of the student's feedback about the excursions is provided in Appendix 6.2 of this report.

### **3. Issues surrounding the conduction of Debate**

#### **3.1. Topics**

The Topics that were selected were very relevant and pertaining to our Melanesian Region. As described in the previous chapter, intensive researches are required to adequately inform the participating debaters on the scope of the issue discussed. Relevant examples are also required to qualify a particular team's side of the argument. The Solomon Team "*cleverly*" manages to score past the PNG Team in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round only because they kept to the question. That is to precisely illustrate the toughness of the debate.

While a topic or two the Solomon Team can obviously relate to, others are abstract and the countries who can relate to such issues have stronger arguments to defend their side of the argument.

### **3.2. Levels of Debate**

The level of debate was excellent from all teams. There were evidence of high intellectual participation, ideas and rational processing. While common views were put forward, there were always arguable striking perceptions shared from the angle of someone who is yet to experience leadership; thus revealing how much insight and potential our young scholars can generate. As expressed by one of our Solomon Team participants *“it is liken unto a mini Melanesian Spear Head Group” forum where Melanesian leaders discuss issues that affects them*”.

While *Live Recording* material of the debate would be made available, it would be worthwhile if a tangible action such as having in place a communiqué is availed to participating countries.

### **3.3. Adjudicators**

While we audience may rate the performance of the debaters to our worldviews, at the end of the day the Adjudicators influence the decision on the overall debating process. In the last debate all the adjudicators are from independent bodies and organizations in Papua New Guinea. However there can be potentials for individuals to be emotionally attached to the issues discussed.

Representative members from the Solomon Team and Vanuatu Team can not join the Adjudicator’s team as they are heavily involved in coaching the team.

### **3.4. Selection Process**

The students in the Solomon Team were selected from the National Speech Competition that was held in September 2014. This competition was organized by the National English Panel (MEHRD) and with involvement and support from the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs.

While Mr. Isaac Barley was the runner up in the Senior Category 2014 National Speech Competition, Mr. Denmark Pahu and Ms. Tanya Wickham have previously participated in the Regional Youth Parliament in 2013 and have shown cases of their impressive performance. Ms. Jessica Parapolo was recommended for her role as the Honiara City Vice Chairperson and recent international participation at an exchange program in Spain. These youngsters are not ordinary individuals, when asked, these students have flagged their future ambitions as follows:

- ④ *Isaac Barley – Psychologist*
- ④ *Denmark Pahu – Future Prime Minister of Solomon Islands*
- ④ *Tanya Wickham – Lawyer*
- ④ *Jessica Parapolo – Psychologist and Social Worker*

Issues were raised in the media concerning the selection; however time and logistics would not allow ample time to canvass nationwide for a better cohort to represent Solomon Islands than this team. There is always room for improvement and hence earlier preparation 2015.

### **3.5. Mentors**

There were 4 Initial mentors selected to accompany the Solomon Team. However only 2 mentors accompanied the Team to PNG (*who are also writers of this report*), were nominated by the MSDCSI Team: Jasmine Navala Waleafea (Committee Secretariat) and Chris Paul (Research Officer – UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project) from the National Parliament Office.

Mr. Edward Anisitolo (Director of Youth – Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs) and Mr. Peter Stanley (National English Panel – Betikama Adventist College) were not able to travel with the team. The reasons for not having onboard the others are due to Logistic and other pending commitment.



## **4. Forward Looking – Preparation for MSD 2015**

### **4.1. Hosts for 2015**

The Pacific Institution of Public Policy (PIPP) in Vanuatu has confirmed their interest to host the Melanesian School of Debate in 2015. Therefore the four Melanesian Countries including Fiji who withdrew in the completion this year are looking forward to participate again in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

### **4.2. Preparation**

Given the green light indication from PIPP, MSDCSI Team can look ahead and liaise with stakeholders and sponsors.

Stakeholders in this regards refers to the bodies and organizations who operate closely with potential candidates such as the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family affairs, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, The National English Panel, Schools and the Parliamentary Civic education Unit of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

This year the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Projects and the Solomon Islands Government has fully sponsored the Participating Solomon Team. Hence there are interest business and individual households who are keen to financial support such a cause. Therefore earlier preparation can enable rallying of sponsorship.

## **5. Recommendations**

From the recent experience the following are some of the recommendation we wish to highlight as a bench mark for future preparation.

It is recommended:

1. That the MSDCSI together with MEHRD canvass preparation for the event earlier. Each province to select representative Team for the National Debate Competition and National Selection.
2. That the MSDCSI together with MEHRD inform relevant stakeholders about the event and appeal for possible sponsors prior to the National Debate Competition as per Recommendation 1.
3. That accompanying staff to the MSD 2015 must at least comprise of teachers from each schools that have student representatives who will be part of the Solomon Islands Debate Team.
4. That the Solomon Islands Debate Team to MSD competitions must comprise of a minimum of Six (6) students.
5. That MSDCSI address recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 so that the logistics for the MSD event can be done properly within a sufficient time frame.
6. That MEHRD through the National English Panel promotes the High School Debate Competition as an annual event, similar to how the Annual High School Speech contest is being promoted.
7. That an alternative would be that the MEHRD through the National English Panel involves the Senior Secondary Students in the Debate Competitions and the Junior Secondary Students to be engaged at the Speech competition.

## 6. Appendix

### 6.1. Overall program for the MSD Competition 2014

# **Melanesian School Debate Competition 2014**

*Developing young leaders of our Nation*

**Moresby Arts Theatre, Waigani**  
**24<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014**

#### **Day 1 – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2014**

10:00 am	Custom welcome – custom dance	10:30 am	Event Welcome and Prayer
10:45 am	Keynote speech – Hon. Powes Parkop, Governor – National Capital District		
11:00 am	Rules overview, introduce teams, adjudicators, chairperson		
11:15 am	Teams to be introduced.		
	<b>Debate commences: Round 1 Vanuatu Vs Solomon Islands</b>		
12:00 noon	Debate concludes, adjudicators wrap up, winners announcement		
12:30 pm	<b>Lunch served to all teams, teachers, volunteers</b>		
1:30 pm	Workshop on the topic debated (all teams) Small presentation from someone who works in the field Go over what areas were missed, how to improve		
3:00 pm	Conclude for the day.		

#### **Day 2 – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2014**

10:30 am	Event Welcome and Prayer		
10:45 am	Rules overview, introduce teams, adjudicators and chairperson		
11:00 am	<b>Debate commences: Round 2 Vanuatu Vs PNG</b>		
11:45 am	Debate concludes, adjudicators wrap up, winners announcement		
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch served to all teams, teachers, volunteers</b>		
1:30 pm	Tour of National Parliament		

2:30 pm      Tour of National Museum & Art Gallery  
3:00 pm      Conclude for the day.

## **Melanesian School Debate Competition 2014**

*Developing young leaders of our Nation*

**Moresby Arts Theatre, Waigani**  
**24<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014**

### **Day 3 – Wednesday 26th November, 2014**

10:00 am      Event Welcome and Prayer

10:45 am      Rules overview, introduce teams, adjudicators, chairperson

11:00 am      **Debate commences: Round 3 Solomon Islands Vs PNG**

11:45 am      Debate concludes, adjudicators wrap up, winners announcement  
Announcement of Teams in Grand Final & Topic

12:00 noon    **Lunch served to all teams, teachers, volunteers**

1:30 pm      Workshop on the topic debated (all teams)  
Small presentation from someone who works in the field  
Go over what areas were missed, how to improve

2:00 pm      Tour – Nature Park

3:00 pm      Conclude for the day

### **Day 4 – Thursday 27th November, 2014**

#### **Finals preparation**

10:00am      Movie Day

1:00 pm      Tour - Adventure Park

2 teams in Grand Final will be given access to internet and other resources to help them prepare.

## **Melanesian School Debate Competition 2014**

*Developing young leaders of our Nation*

**Moresby Arts Theatre, Waigani**  
**24<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014**

**Day 5 - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2014**

**Grand Final**

10:00 am	Custom welcome – custom dance
10:30 am	Event Welcome and Prayer
10:45 am	Keynote speech
11:00 am	Rules overview, introduce teams, adjudicators, chairperson
11:15 am	GRAND FINAL
12:00 noon	Debate concludes, adjudicators wrap up, winners announcement
12:15 pm	Presentation and thank you
12:30 pm	<b>Farewell Lunch - Entertainment</b>
1:40pm	MC to close Programme

**END OF PROGRAM**

## **6.2. Report speech from the participating students**

### **Report speech**

On behalf of the debating team and the two coaches Mr Chris Paul and Mrs Jasmine, we sincerely want to thank the UNDP office and the SIG office for this wonderful chance and more than merely a privilege to convey our stories based on our experiences during the ten days living at Port Moresby, selectively on the days we staged our debate talents on the round robin stages and the final round of the debate challenge.

Once again to the sponsors, UNDP and SIG, we deeply acknowledge our appreciation for being our major sponsors on this event. We have been greatly financed by you and thank you for rendering your trust on us too. Not forgetting the CIVIC department here in the parliament, especially Marisa Pepa, for your outstanding support and tireless effort in organizing and preparing the team to attend the Melanesian school of debate.

It is through you guys, your support, your stand to prepare us for the future, we were able to display our talents abroad. And we were being thankful because this is where we build our confidence in the field of public speaking, at the same time it also develop our perseverance to become leaders one day to serve our nation Solomon Islands.

The host country Papua New Guinea is the biggest Melanesian country in the pacific with 22 provinces and four regions namely, highlands region, Islands region, Momase region and Papua region. She has a diverse culture which can be seen on the crafts displayed at the national museum in Port Moresby. And during one of our tour to the national museum we have really amazed by seeing the vast sorts of crafts representing the different provinces in PNG. That shows that PNG is culturally strong. In terms of development PNG is much well of than Solomon Islands. Going over to PNG was an eye opener for us because what we expected to see in PNG is going to be like was not what we have seen. Before leaving to PNG we thought Port Moresby would be just like Honiara, but however it was different. Port Moresby was really a city furnished with supermarkets and new storey buildings. In the parliament there are 109 seats so as the country was represented by 109 members. Since PNG itself has problems on registering customary lands and hosting asylum seekers, that is why we were there to debate these Melanesian related issues.

Firstly, on round one we were on the opposing side and Vanuatu was on the affirmative side. We debated upon the topic 'All customary land in Melanesia should be registered to ensure sustainable development and economic growth'. On this battle we have learnt that whilst it is important to register all the customary land to make convenient on claiming legal rights over the lands, however, we defended that idea and agreed that not all customary lands should be registered. Because traditionally we have already earned the title of ownership on our lands through tribal and clan system of owning land and registering land would encourage people to rule the lands. That is why we believed that registering of land would then leads to selling or leasing of land to foreign investors if the land is open to the commercial world because people were thinking that registering of land gives them freedom to do anything with the land. Whereas even if we do not lease our lands to foreign investors, we can still manage our own lands

through whatever means, for example; agriculture, like planting of cocoa where the seeds can be sold with great prizes. By looking at this we have no doubt but can really be certain that there is sustainable development and at the same time the economy growing.

Secondly, on the round three of the round robin debate challenge, we were on the affirmative side and PNG was on the opposing side. That day the topic was 'It is fair for Australia to negotiate with pacific Island countries to host asylum seekers'. On the contrary, Team PNG has good opposing arguments by saying that asylum seekers who were coming in to Manus Island and Nauru put more pressure on the population and the resources. And we ourselves also acknowledge the fact that Australia in this scene could be really unfair because they have a really huge land mass compared to Manus Islands and Nauru. Why do they have to negotiate with pacific Island countries who are small in land mass and currently increasing in population to host asylum seekers? However we won the favour of the judges because we stick to the context of the topic. We based our arguments on the word negotiation. We believed that Australia is doing the right thing because they were just negotiating. Australia is not going to be the one to decide whether the pacific island countries should host asylum seekers. But Fairly Australia was giving equal chances to the pacific island countries to decide for themselves whether they agree upon the idea of hosting asylum seekers. For that reason we argued that if is fair in the sense that Australia was respecting pacific island country's sovereignty, letting pacific island countries to decide for themselves whether to host asylum seekers or no.

Lastly, after the announcement was done on Wednesday that team Solomon top the round robin debate challenge with 10 points and PNG was the run up for the grand final with 7 points, we were on the brink to decide who's going to be the champion on Friday. Even the judges have seen this final as for the team Solomon's favour because we were going for the topic and the topic has been significantly relevant to many of the current developments in PNG. Well the topic is 'natural resources extraction in the pacific island countries has lead to immense wealth for its people'. However as you guys have known we were out paced on Friday during the final round of the Melanesian school debate. PNG was so strong at the end by arguing that yes extraction could have led to immense wealth in the pacific but their say no to it was a tough edification to us by giving real evidences in PNG itself. They have argued that most of the lands in PNG were been given to foreign investors and not all people benefits from the investments due to foreign management.

On the other hand, we tried to provide it to them that wealth in this case is not just monetary power (money) but wealth can be also the natural resources. So there is no reason we can say that rural people are poor. Because they can still extract the natural resources which is wealth through small scale extraction to serve their purposes for example, mining, logging and canneries can also increase and sustain the economy of the country.

Finally, this is our general report for today. The main learning outcome for the team is not to just participate and winning the debate but that matters the most in general;

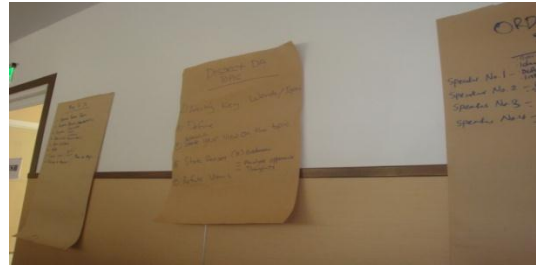
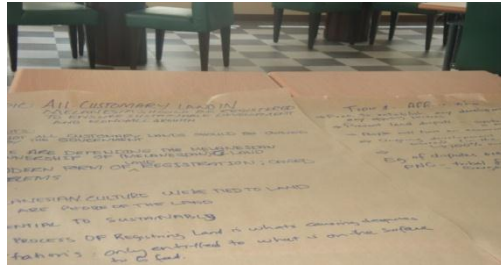
1. This debate has built our confidence to speak in the public
2. This debate has able us to meet new friends

3. This debate has broadened our understanding on the issues Pacific Island countries have faced
4. This debate has linked the relationship between Melanesian countries.



### 6.3. Snap Shots

#### Preparation Week – Honiara



**PTC Conference Room:** Brain storming of topics and developmnet of arguemnets. Here also the Team decides on who to be the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> speaker.



It is all about Team work. These students all come from difference schools, but have to leave all their differences to work it all out.

#### Leaving Honiara for Port Moresby, PNG.



Filling in the Immigration papers at Henderson International Airport, and then the Team posed for the Paper's pictures before boarding Air Niugini for Jackson International Airport, POM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014.

#### In Papua New Guinea – Day 1 (22 November 2014)



Welcomed by the PNG Team and was later joined the Vanuatu Team for a Group photo.



Later the Teams were brought to the IBS Saraga Campus to a Welcome Luncheon.



After lunch, the Solomon Team and Vanuatu Team visited Vision City to change their currencies and then check in at the Edgewood Apartment and retire for the day.

### In Papua New Guinea – Day 2 (23 November 2014)



A short visit to IBS Mt. Erima Campus. Then to the Pacific Adventist University, 14 Miles out of POM City.



The Cotigent were given a VIP welcome at the Bluff Inn to a Welcome Dinner Hosted by the Minister of National Planning.



### **In Papua New Guinea – Day 3 (24 November 2014)**



The Solomon Team taking it on easy; while waiting for the debate to start outside the Moresby Arts Theater.



Before the debate begins, the audience was entertained by the “One Love Band” from South Africa – Late Lucky Dube’s vocals. Then the Line up for Round One – Solomon Vs Vaunatu.

### **In Papua New Guinea – Day 4 (25 November 2014)**



Round Two begins with Team Papua New Guinea taking on Team Vanuatu.

### **In Papua New Guinea – Day 5 (26 November 2014)**



Round Three Team Solomon Taking on Team Papua New Guinea.

## In Papua New Guinea – Day 6 (27 November 2014)



A short excursion to POM Internations School and joined the Tanim Graun Talkback Show. The students were also given the opportunity to ask questions to the panel.

## In Papua New Guinea – Day 7 (28 November 2014)



Team Solomon taking on Team PNG in the Final Round. A very tight race indeed!



Solomon Team was the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up; they posed with the Representative from the PIPP, Ms Dulcie Somare and the organizing staff of IBS.

## Arrival



On arrival the Solomon Team was warmly greeted by the MSDSI Team in Honiara. Looking forward to 2015 in Port Vila.

Tagio Tumas