

## **PNG To Draw Up Detailed Plan To Improve Power Supply**

Papua New Guinea will draw up a detailed plan to improve power supply in the country where 90 per cent of the population still has no electricity. The Japan Special Fund, administered by the Asian Development Bank, is providing a US\$1.2 million grant for PNG to prepare a power sector development project design that will increase supply of reliable and sustainable power at reasonable cost. The PNG Government will contribute a further US\$300,000 to the project. At present, more than 90 per cent of the population in PNG (mostly people in rural areas) has no electricity. In urban centres, the power supply is often unreliable. Energy and power are recognised as critical ingredients for development and poverty reduction in the Government's Medium Term Development Strategy 2005 to 2010. According to the ADB, PNG is rich in renewable energy resources, with more than 15,000 MW of hydropower potential; coconut-based bio-diesel, geothermal, wind, solar and marine resources are also viable options. "The challenge is for the country to use its energy resources to move the country toward a more sustainable social and economic development," says ADB senior energy specialist Luigi Bodda.

[Source essa news]