The Wafi-Golpu environment department has opened its doors to provide industrial training for university students for the first time.

Its first two industrial trainees; Woyo Kolo (University of Papua New Guinea majoring in the field of Energy and Environmental Physics) and Sheila Danga (Pacific Adventist University majoring in Environmental Science) have completed a three month placement with the Wafi-Golpu environment team having begun their attachment in December 2011.

The industrial training program offers current university students the chance to undertake on the job training with a view to future entry into the Morobe Mining Joint Ventures’ (MMJV) Graduate Development Program.

The Wafi-Golpu Joint Venture (WGJV) is one of three joint ventures that make up MMJV.

For Woyo and Sheila, this has meant exposure to a range of tasks and challenges over the last few months as they get their feet wet in the Markham River collecting water samples, venture inside a helicopter for the first time to visit remote monitoring sites, plant seedlings as part of Wafi-Golpu’s pioneering rehabilitation program and see community consultation and negotiation in action.

Since their attachment, the two have found the training to be of a very high standard and exciting at the same time.

“Although I have not fully completed the course of Environmental Science, I’ve learnt so many new techniques and applications,” says Sheila.

Sheila and Woyo have learnt that the department is made up of three main specialities in the field of Environmental Science which are Monitoring, Rehabilitation and Environment Management Systems (EMS). Both students were given the opportunity to learn and participate in the duties from each of the three sections.

As part of Wafi-Golpu’s baseline monitoring programme, the two travelled to different villages and sites collecting water samples and sediments and replacing old dust bottles with new ones for testing.

They also participated in the site’s new re-vegetation program through planting of grasses and shrubs on exposed areas of the access roads and exploration sites.

Woyo says his work experience has had its share of highlights, challenges and that pursuing a career in environmental science is much tougher than people might imagine.

“It is both interesting and fascinating when going out into the bushes for sampling runs both on foot and helicopter. Climbing and walking the tough steep terrains of Wafi-Golpu land and the savannah meadows of the Watut areas will be the first challenges you will have to overcome to call yourself a team member of the environment department,” explains Woyo.

The students thanked the Wafi-Golpu Environment team for providing the opportunity and for assisting them to learn, and also for making it an enjoyable experience.

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**Wafi-Golpu begins environmental training for tertiary students**

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MMJV assists survivors of tragic sea disaster in Lae

Following the worst PNG maritime disaster in the country’s short history off the Finschafen coast in Morobe Province, the Lae Business community pulled together to assist the survivors rescued from the seas.

MMJV was part of the Lae business community that came to aid of the survivors during this period.

MMJV Business Administration Manager Mrs Anna Wissink and some of the Lae staff donated dry goods including water, toilet paper, Snax Biscuits, tinned meat, cordial, laundry and bathing soap worth close to K5000 to the Lae Red Cross Branch to go towards the victims and families of the Rabaul Queen tragedy.

The donation was made on the February 8th about 6 days after the tragedy as part of MMJV’s contribution to the wider community.

On the 2nd of February 2012 PNG witnessed the worst maritime disaster in its short history.

On that fateful day an estimated 300 plus people, men women and children travelling on the MV Rabaul Queen sank just off the coast of Morobe, near Finschaffen district when encountering rough seas.

Tragically over 160 were unaccounted for.

The 243 survivors rescued were sheltered by the Morobe Disaster and Emergency Services with the Lae Business community chipping in much needed supplies in the duration.

LENDING A HAND: MMJV Business Administration Manager, Mrs Anna Wissink and MMJV staff present the donations to Red Cross staff at the Morobe Disaster and Emergency Centre, Lae.
The opening of one new double storey classroom at Grace Memorial Secondary School in Wau and two at Gabensis Primary School in the Huon Gulf has provided much needed relief for students and staff in the 2012 academic year.

Students at Grace Memorial Secondary school will no longer use the school mess for learning and the issue of overcrowding at Gabensis Primary school has been greatly reduced following the official opening of over K500 000 worth of the infrastructure projects recently.

Over the last few years both schools did their best to improvise in order to accommodate students due to the increasing numbers each year. Thanks to the HVJV education and infrastructure support program this burden has been eased greatly.

MMJV Community and Regional Development Manager, Benjamin Kamaya encouraged students to strive harder in their studies and improve their academic results in order to be successful.

The HVJV education and infrastructure support program is aligned to National, Provincial and District Education plans that ensure commitment from all stakeholders including the school board, parents and the host communities.

Headmaster of Gabensis Primary School Mr Philip Dau thanked HVJV for being the first in helping them implement their Schools Learning and Improvement Program (SLIP).

The assistance at Gabensis also included the provision of blackboards, desks, teachers’ tables, chairs and a water tank.

MMJV’s General Manager Sustainability and External Relations, David Wissink said education was the key to development and therefore helping support education infrastructure was an important priority.

The company is committed towards helping communities within the footprint area of its operations.
For non-geologists, trying to understand the geological language and terms will seem like a daunting task. But it is important for those who will be working closely with geologists to learn and understand, if not all but at least the basics of what geology is.

Such is the importance of this field that recently 15 MMJV employees were sponsored to attend a weeklong Geology for Non-Geologists course at the University of Technology.

And a good number of these MMJV staff are locals from the Hidden Valley mine and Wafi-Golpu exploration areas.

Course facilitator, and Professor at the University of Technology, Doctor Kaul Gena says general areas in geology were covered during the training, to assist participants in their various fields.

Grace Reuben, a participant from the Hidden Valley Geology Department, said in her role as Data Administrator, she handles a lot of technical information. "Following the course, I now have a better understanding of the data that crosses my desk."

"Many of us are locals, including myself and this shows MMJV’s commitment to the community."

Other MMJV staff that attended the course from January 23 to 27 included heavy equipment operators, geology data administrators and exploration field assistants.

Acting Head of the University of Technology’s Mining and Engineering Department, Manau Saki said amid the current mining boom in the country, such courses are vital. "The department will always strive to reach out to educate our people," said Mr Saki.

MMJV’s training policy places great importance on developing its workforce and there is a particular emphasis on advancing its local employees.

MMJV Exploration teams continue to push the boundaries

The New Year has seen deployment of two helicopter supported drill rigs into Heyu Prospect (in the upper Watut) and Kesiago Prospect (near Wafi).

The Heyu drilling is targeting Hidden Valley style gold/silver mineralisation along the Watut Fault whereas drilling at Kesiago is targeting porphyry copper/gold mineralisation similar in style to the Wafi-Golpu deposit.

Deployment of the drill rigs has put considerable pressure on exploration’s Community Affairs personnel who have to contact and negotiate access and casual labour hire with landowners and other stakeholders. To their credit disruptions have been minor.

Drill locations that are located close to established bases, e.g. Hidden Valley mine camp, Wau or Demarkwa, are used for accommodating drill crews with morning and night shift changes by helicopter avoiding establishing bush camps. More isolated sites require bush camps.

In an effort to improve camp standards exploration has ordered and is scheduled to take delivery of the first of several Weatherhaven kitchen and ablution units in the next quarter. They are also investigating using one of the local camp service providers to manage the camps.
Inland fish farming is gaining momentum in the Bulolo District as more people get to learn of the nutritional and economic value of the venture.

Recently 66 existing and intending fish farmers from the Watut and Mumeng areas attended a fish farming training at Pelengkwa village to gain basic knowledge, technique and skills to venture into farming for better returns.

The 66 including 28 women were from the Middle Watut villages of Gawapu and Leklu and Mumeng villages of Pelengkwa, Bening, Witipos, Bangulum and Samsam.

Most of the participants are members of the Mumeng Inland Fish Cooperative Society, a registered organization with 173 registered members and another 830 interested members.

The Mumeng fish cooperative facilitated the weeklong training for its members and intending members.

The training covered both theory and practical sessions on site selection, project design, pond construction, fertilization, stocking, feeding, sex identification, brood stock care, spawning, rearing, harvesting, processing, marketing, fish health/disease identification & prevention and pond management.

The Fish Farming Training for middle Watut is the fifth funded by HVJV and conducted by the Morobe Fisheries Management Authority (MFMA) as per a Public Private Partnership Agreement signed in 2010 for the development of inland fish farming projects for communities in the Upper, Middle and Lower Watut areas.

Training materials were translated to Tok Pisin to enable participants to understand and participate fully in the theory and practical lessons which also included question and answer sessions.

This initiative by the MFMA has proved to be very effective.

MFMA’s inland fish expert and trainer, Steve Norewec said handouts as well as notes written on the blackboard in Tok Pisin helped the participants to understand the subject.

Mr Norewec said practical sessions saw participants visiting existing ponds to learn the proper steps in selecting suitable sites to build a successful project.

They were taught the right way of digging pond, slopping walls, installing overflow/inlets/drainage, patching pond leakage, fertilization and stocking.

“It was rewarding to see that the participants were keen to learn in both the theory and practical sessions,” he said.

Chairman of the Mumeng fish cooperative, Waikesa Joseph thanked HVJV for the funding support to MFMA to convert the aquaculture plan for the communities along the Watut River into reality for the benefit of the people.
1st Grand Winner & 1st place - MMJV Value of Commitment to Our People by providing training.

2nd place: MMJV Values – Working together and with respect among employees and contractors is an MMJV Value practiced at all sites including at Hidden Valley mine.

1st place: Community - Cocoa Poly Bag Distribution to Wongkins Community.

1st place: Employees – Hidden Valley employees enjoy lunch at site.

3rd place: Operations – Employees in full PPE at the mine site.

3rd place: Employees – Kip and Imbi at the Wafi-Golpu project take time to enjoy the beautiful environment while at work.
2011 Photo Competition Winning Entries

3rd place: MMJV Values – Our Lae supply, logistics and accounts team knows that by working together as a team, jobs can be done faster and efficiently.

2nd place: Environment – Tera mats are used to assist with slope rehabilitation in the replanting of shrubs and bushes under the Re-vegetation Program.

Environment 2 – 3rd place: Environment – Some of the beautiful natural scenes at Hidden Valley.

2nd place: Community – Nursery Materials Distribution to Wampan Community.

1st place: Operations – Some of the heavy equipment including haul trucks used at the Hidden Valley mine. At the background is the TSF and the Hamata Process Plant.
Tuesday March 6 was a very special day for Nauti Investment Limited, one of the three principal landowner companies at the Hidden Valley mine.

On this day, Nauti Investment Limited (NIL) signed a major contract worth K2.3 million over a three year period with Hidden Valley Joint Venture (HVJV).

Under this contract NIL is now directly responsible for implementing the environment re-vegetation program at the Hidden Valley mine which was previously under Hidden Valley’s Environment Department. It will be involved in running the nursery where local plant species are cultivated and conducting the actual replanting on exposed slopes in and around the mine site to reduce soil erosion.

NIL Chairman, Nathan Kupa thanked HVJV for having the confidence to award the contract to the people’s company.

He said through the current partnership, HVJV and NIL can be able to bring more developments to the people of Nauti.

MMJV’s General Manager, Sustainability and External Relations, David Wissink said he was very happy to see that a contract of this kind has been awarded to the landowners for the first time.

Mr Wissink said involving landowners especially in spin-off businesses was a priority of the company and it is willing to provide the opportunity and the support.

“Show the whole world what you can do as there are more opportunities available,” said Mr Wissink.
The Hidden Valley mine employees joined their other colleagues from other mining operations throughout the country to observe the first National Mining Safety Week this year.

The National Mining Safety Week is the initiative of the office of the chief inspectorate of the Mineral Resources Authority as a lead up to the second National Emergency Response Challenge 2012 which will be held in September.

The weeklong activities started on March 5th and ended on the 11th.

Hidden Valley’s Deputy General Peter Hannigan said the event provides an opportunity for all employees to reflect on what is important to their lives.

“Safety Week is a celebration of what we do every day, a celebration of all the people who do not put themselves at risk (the vast majority of our employees), a celebration for our families as we return home from work.

“Stand up and speak out when you see things that are being doing wrong or could be improved, work with each other to solve our problems and most importantly if you are not sure if you can do a job safely then stop the job and seek help in solving the problem.

“I applaud all of our employees for their ongoing efforts in eventually making Hidden Valley the safest mine in PNG,” said Mr Hannigan.

The safety week activities at Hidden Valley included promoting healthy eating habits, an activity headed by the National Catering Services; walking race to promote the need for a healthy lifestyle; a poster competition on how to communicate Safety; The Safety initiative is promoting the changes we are making to make a safe work environment; The Hazard hunt is promoting our daily need to be observant of the risks that surround us every day; Daily health promotions reflect the care that we must take in lifestyle choices; The Safety Quiz reinforced the need to be knowledgable in order to make good decisions.
The MMJV is committed to the development of its employees. And this is evident through its Comprehensive Training and Development Program established for its employees to undergo in their respective fields.

MMJV aims to be the employer of choice through such initiatives in ensuring training is conducted for its employees who are permanent and engaged contractors.

This was revealed by MMJV’s Wafi-Golpu Human Resource Team at a one-day road show staged by the Australian Trade Commission in Lae.

During a presentation attendees were told that all MMJV staff and its contractors are required to do all safety training which is a must for the mining industry in Papua New Guinea.

“Currently, we have the capacity to provide supervisory training up at Hidden Valley, for Wafi-Golpu we are still talking to people. Personal development, operator training continues to be one of our main focus areas up at Hidden Valley for our local operators.”

Safety and Emergency Response Training sessions are also held by the Emergency Response team. Geologists and other professionals also get to undergo training on site as well as offshore training for staff.

Morobe Mining has nine registered trainers recognised by the National Training Council of Papua New Guinea while four have undergone a Diploma program in training and assessment. Fourteen more will be registered this year (2012), with another four due to undertake Training and Assessment Certificate IV (TAA) with another two taking up Training and Education Certificate IV.

“MMJV has also started a graduate development program (GDP) with a list sent out to major tertiary institutions to select the best candidates to undergo this training.”

For the GDP, students were selected from the Universities of Papua New Guinea, Technology and Divine Word.

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NKW add new inclusion to its transport fleet

The NKW Limited has made a new addition to its transport fleet. The company owned by the three principal landowner villages of the Hidden Valley mine which are Nauti, Kwembu and Winima took delivery of the new bus called Brahman in English or Dong Feng in Chinese recently.

The Brahman made its first trip from Lae to Bulolo last month January with the first lot of 26 passengers on board.

The new bus was brought in from China where its Dong Feng name derives from. The bus can sit up to 30 passengers at one trip and is also fitted with overhead storage spaces.

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SAFETY TIP!

Fitness for work

As an employee you have a general duty to:

Ensure your own safety and health at work.

Avoid adversely affecting the safety and health of any other person through an act or omission.
MJV has signed an agreement to allow training to be conducted on timber and forestry management at its Wafi-Golpu project. 

The agreement was signed with the Bulolo Timber and Forestry College (TFTC) of the University of Technology. Wafi-Golpu Village Development Coordinator Jackson Yuave says this agreement will see training for quality timber production and management conducted for locals in the project area. Mr Yuave said that this would continue with the strong partnership between TFTC and MMJV. He said such trainings will also provide an opportunity for the resource owners in the area to equip them with the necessary skills in improving their livelihoods.

MMJV Sustainability and External Relations General Manager, David Wissink said that it was important for the joint venture to help create opportunities like this for the community to participate in.

Mr Wissink said there are also similar opportunities for local communities up at Hidden Valley to benefit from with the Benefit Sharing Trust arrangement already in place. He said such arrangements would see housing projects among others take place. “We are here and you’re here, and we need to make good use of the opportunities that arise. And importantly we have to work together to see these projects happen,” said Mr Wissink.

Site specific inductions - doing the rounds at Hidden Valley

As part of MMJV’s on going priority in work safety practices, thirty four new employees were given specific induction training at Hidden Valley training centre. Amongst these employees were six females who endured the long journey up to the site to join the rest of the induction group. The induction covered human resource, safety, medical and emergency response, company asset/security, camp management and catering, environment responsibility, company travel and other administration areas.

One of the key messages stressed during the training was for safety to be prioritised whilst on any of MMJV’s sites to ensure incidents are minimised. The induction participants involved those from contractors such as Hornibrook NGI, Hidden Valley Contractors (HVC), Morobe Mining Joint Ventures, Wafi Exploration, Traverse Drilling and land owner company, NKW Holdings Limited.

All the participants were in their full site uniforms while attending the induction. They are now equipped to put into practice what they have learnt during the nine-hour induction session at the cool Hidden Valley site.

The participants thanked Hidden Valley Training Dept for the induction which will help them to start on their new jobs on the right foot safety wise.
Somewhere in a remote part of Papua New Guinea, a woman is giving birth. Given the statistics of PNG’s ailing health services, her chances of surviving and that of her child hang in the balance.

This is the grim reality faced by the majority of the women folk in PNG and elsewhere in most of the Pacific countries.

As a result of the high maternal mortality rate, the National Department of Health embarked on implementing the Village Birth Attendant (VBA) program aimed at helping mothers have safe pregnancies and births, both for themselves and for their babies. Under this program, village women are trained to assist with births, perform antenatal care, provide referral to other health services and participate in health promotion.

Such is the importance of the VBA program in the Bulolo and Huon-Gulf Districts of Morobe Province that HVJV has already funded a number of VBA trainings for communities in the districts. HVJV is the operator of the Hidden Valley mine and one of three joint ventures that make up Morobe Mining Joint Ventures.

In December last year HVJV funded the fourth such VBA training facilitated by District Health officers for the Lower Watut River communities where 32 women and one man attended. HVJV used in excess of K65,000 in funding all the VBA trainings in 2011 alone.

At the graduation of the 33 participants at the Wampar Health Centre, an emotional Wampar Council President Peter Namus spoke of the many mothers from the Watut River communities who have lost their lives during child birth.

Mr Namus thanked HVJV for all the community projects it is implementing to improve life in the village communities in the Watut region.

The participants also expressed appreciation to HVJV for funding the VBA training.

“Mothers and babies dying during birth is a major concern in villages and we would like to see relevant government authorities and stakeholders support the VBA program to help us reduce these deaths,” they said.

MMJV Community and Regional Development Manager, Benjamin Kamaya said the company is committed to supporting the VBA program in the communities.

Mr Kamaya said the work Village Birth Attendants do is voluntary but very important.

“You will be contributing to your communities in saving lives and MMJV will assist where we can in partnership with the government through the VBA program,” he said.

The participants were provided information on proper health and hygiene during pregnancy; identify high risk mothers and help them seek proper health care and assistance; assist in safe delivery in the village and administer first aid when necessary.

With the VBA program, the culture and people’s mindset also play an important role to determine its success in the communities.