

International Law/Public Law Seminar

CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT

Speaker: **Mr Anthony Regan**
State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project,
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU

Date: Tuesday 3 February 2004
Time: 5.30-6.30pm
Place: Staff Library, Faculty of Law, Building 5
corner Fellows and East Roads, ANU

Anthony Regan is a constitutional lawyer who lived and worked in Papua New Guinea and Uganda 1981-1996. He has been involved in peace processes in Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, and has been involved in post-conflict constitution-making processes in Uganda, East Timor and Bougainville. He advised the Bougainvillean parties to negotiations with the PNG government on the political future of Bougainville, 1999-2001, and has been living in Bougainville since August 2002, assisting in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement of August 2001 and the amendments to the PNG Constitution that implement that Agreement.

His presentation will first outline the social, economic and political context of the Bougainville peace process since the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement on 30 August 2001. It will then provide an overview of:

- the amendments to the PNG Constitution that implement the Peace Agreement;
- the institutional framework supporting implementation of the Peace Agreement, with particular reference to the role of the international community (notably the United Nations Observer Mission on Bougainville, the Australian led unarmed regional Peace Monitoring Group, the Australian led Bougainville Transitional Team, AusAID, NZAID and other donors);
- the main steps taken to implement the amendments to the PNG Constitution, with particular reference to:
 - the weapons disposal program, progress in which is linked to coming into operation of the constitutional amendments and the election of the Bougainville autonomous government;
 - steps in implementation of autonomy, including transfer to the interim Bougainville Government of powers to control police functions in Bougainville;
 - the process for making a constitution for the autonomous Bougainville Government;
- aspects of the controversy that developed late in 2003 about the constitutional validity of the amendments to the PNG Constitution implementing the Peace Agreement.

Enquiries

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