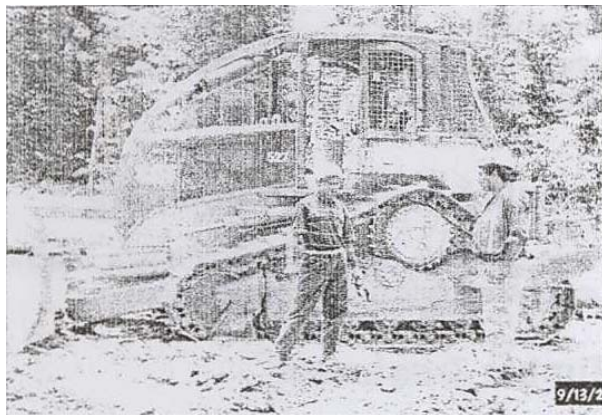
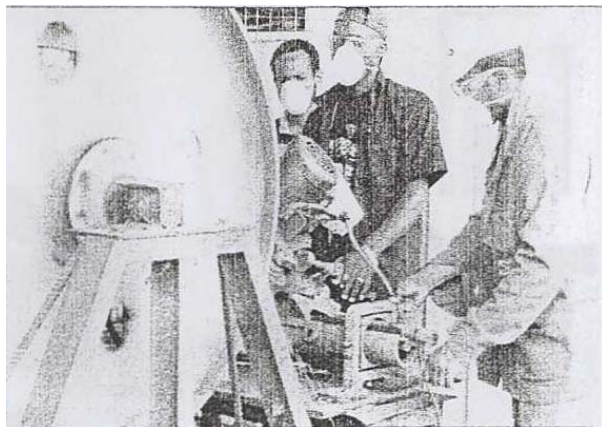


Timber and Forestry Training College



WOOD SECTOR APPRENTICESHIP



Background

The trades of Saw doctoring and Wood machining were originally taught at Malaguna Technical College Rabaul. In 1978, the Timber and Forestry Training College (then called Timber Industry Training College) was established and courses for stage one and stage two apprentices in the two trades commenced at the college in Lee.

The Department of Labour and Employment is responsible for all apprenticeship training and under their management approximately 100 hundred artisans have completed apprenticeship in both trades since 1980.

Industry Needs

The timber production and processing industry in PNG continues to require qualified trades people who are competent, experienced and committed to saw doctoring and wood machining and who are able to utilize their skills to assist industry and the Nation into effective domestic processing.

As the PNG government continues to emphasis processing of the sustainable timber resources of our land, a key to success is the development of a POOL of skilled artisans that will ensure investment potential is realized in this sector. There continues to be a demand for qualified tradesman.



Apprenticeship System

The system for apprenticeships in saw doctoring and saw milling is as follows:

- **Pre Employment Technical Training (PETT)**

Prior to apprenticeship, this 40 week course must be completed satisfactorily. TFTC certifies over thirty trainees each year on this course. All these graduating trainees, male and female, have a wide basic training in timber industry subjects and are available to industry as potential apprentices.

Note: Industry can sponsor their own selected trainees to this program and this has been done in the past with very good results.

- **Apprenticeship Contract**

An employer who has fulfilled certain criteria laid down by the apprenticeship and Trade testing Board is able to recruit an apprentice and apply to the controller of apprentices for his or her indenture

A blue application to enter apprenticeship is signed by the apprentice and the employer and sent to the controller National Apprenticeship and Trade testing Board

Secretariat. (Forms are available from TFTC, NATTB, and Labour offices)

- **Apprenticeship Agreement**

An apprentice agreement (called the indenture) is a contract and legal document, which obliges the parties to carry out certain terms and conditions. The employer is required to provide practical training for the apprentice in a specified trade, and observe the conditions of employment set out in the apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board Act 1986 and regulations. The apprentice is required to serve his/her employer conscientiously, attend Technical Training Courses, keep his/her employers rules and treat their employer's property with care.

- **Signing of Agreement**

The agreement is prepared for signing when the apprentice has successfully completed the probationary period. The agreement is signed by the apprentice and a representative of the employer in the presence of an officer from the Dept. of Labour and Employment. The apprentice and the employer are each given a copy of the agreement. If an apprentice has not signed his/her indenture within six months of starting work, he/she should speak to his/her employer about it. If there are further delays, then the apprenticeship branch should be contacted.

- **Conditions of Apprenticeships.**

The apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board has established conditions for apprentices that cover salary, accommodation, leave, course attendance and etc. Every company employing apprentices should have a copy of this information.

- **Training Courses**

During the four year apprenticeship, two eight week courses must be attended at TFTC.

Stage one - Following one year trade experience.

Stage two - After successful completion of stage one and usually following at least an other year of apprenticeship.

An artisans certificate (Trade Certificate) is only issued following successful completion of both courses and completion of the four year contract.



Job Descriptions

Saw Doctor

The work of a Saw Doctor Tradesman includes leveling, tensioning, grinding and filing of all saws used in sawmills and timber workshops: the making of saws both band saws and circular saws, their welding and repair. The operation and maintenance of all specialized machinery used for the above work, setting up the sawmill machines so that saws operate efficiently and the utilization of specialized products in tungsten carbide tipping, stellite tipping etc.

Wood Machinist

The work of a Wood Machinist Tradesman includes setting up and operation of all wood machining equipment including planners moulders, resaws, sanders, the grinding and setting up of all types of knives and cutters used on these machines. The processing of timber into joinery materials, mouldings, floorings, weatherboards, etc. and the maintenance of all machines and grinders as mentioned above.



Timber College

The college offers a range of courses from Saw, Doctoring, Furniture Manufacturing, Wood Machining, Small Sawmills Training, Chainsaw Training and other services.

Some of the products for TFTC include Rough sawn timber, Dressed all round timber, Treated timber, treated poles/post, Mouldings treated, Kiln Dried timbers, Weatherboards, Veranda Decking, T&G Flooring, Quads, Window sills, Door frames, Dowels, Picture Framing and others.

The college can also do special courses upon customer request.

To organize a training program, please contact the college, through the Principal/Registrar on the address shown below.

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Timber & Forestry Training College
Bumbu Campus

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