

# DATUMS IN THE PNG OILFIELDS - CONNECTING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE

*Richard Stanaway*

Quickclose, PO Box 1364, Carlton, Victoria, Australia.

## **Abstract**

PNG is currently riding the kapul's back with increased global demand for petroleum products and minerals. Several major projects are in full operation, nearing production or are in an advanced stage of feasibility studies. This is a very challenging time for PNG's surveyors as new positioning techniques such as GPS are often being used on older exploration sites that use a multitude of earlier horizontal and height datums. Are surveyors expected to tie their state-of-the-art surveys to the earlier datum, or do they start afresh? How is earlier survey information related to these new surveys? The PNG Oilfields area near Kutubu is perhaps the most complex and difficult surveying environment anywhere on the planet. The extremely rugged nature of the terrain and long and chequered history of surveying there have produced several datums and associated problems. This paper presents the findings of recent geodetic surveys of the PNG oilfields and discusses how earlier datums have been related to PNG94. The paper also shows how GPS methods can be used to achieve best practice outcomes for surveyors, not just in the PNG Oilfields, but on any resource project in PNG.