

CONCLUSION

The results of the 1994 eruption in Rabaul were catastrophic yet the response by SMEC and its associates, in co-operation with the clients, government departments, and community resulted in a number of plans showing initiative and engineering excellence.

SMEC and its associates grasped the complex issues involved in this project, such as the concepts of *risk*, *compromise* and *mitigation*. The features of excellence that SMEC's team displayed were:

Assessment of Hazards and Risks. SMEC determined the complex nature of these hazards and associated risks. Additionally, they cast into perspective the '*risk*' concept, that would influence the overall project.

Classification of Volcanic Effects. SMEC assessed the damage to the entire town and classified the volcanic effects.

Formulation of the Town Plan. SMEC was the facilitator for the plan and brought together diverging views of the government and community to agree on a workable '*compromise*'.

Development of the Engineering Plan. SMEC challenged conventional wisdom and developed a restoration plan for all infrastructure that would '*mitigate*' the effects of another eruption

To the credit of the community and the government who are prepared to support it, Rabaul will continue to live.

In years to come, when the events of September 1994 are fading in people's minds, it is hoped that Rabaul will again enjoy the status as the pre-eminent town in Papua New Guinea in which to live, work and visit. However, it is important to remember that there will be another eruption and opportunity now exists to rebuild a town that will be less susceptible to these forces of nature.