



VOLCANO INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: 10th April 2007
File: A8001/A8002-02
Volcano: Tavurvur, Rabaul, ENB
Period of activity: 09th April (12:30 LT) to 10th April (12:15 LT) 2007

Tavurvur, Rabaul, East New Britain

Low level activity continued.

The activity consisted of thin to thick white grey emission rising to about 500m before being blown east of the volcano on the afternoon of 9th. At night a change in wind direction resulted in the ash cloud being blown to the north and northwest. This morning (10th) the emission rose to about 2000 metres before drifting northwest of the volcano resulting in fine ash fall in Rabaul and surrounding villages. Occasional weak roaring noises continued to be heard accompanying some of the emissions. A continuous weak fluctuating glow accompanied by weak projections of glowing lava fragments was visible last night.

Seismic activity continued to remain at very low levels, with a marked increase in small low frequency events. There have been no high frequency events from the volcano.

The GPS at Matupit indicated no significant movement.

A new thermal area has come into existence between Sulphur Point and the Old Gun west of what was Escape Bay (filled by lavas 1996-97). The thermal area may have been due to a change in the drainage pattern or stress build-up due to squeezing of the ground at Tavurvur. The area had decolourisation water (yellow-orange) after the 1994 eruption. Temperature measurements ranged from 70 to 85° C. The temperature of this new thermal area is similar to the Rapindik hot spring area at Greet Harbour.

People are advised not to venture close to Tavurvur in case of being hit by lava fragments from the occasional explosions. Normal precautions should be taken by those who are exposed for long periods to the dust, masks etc.

Outlook

The mild eruptive activity is expected to continue with the occurrence of occasional explosions. However, the chance of a big eruption occurring such as that on 7th October 2006 is very low.

For further information, listen to the Provincial Radio in an emergency or contact the officer-in-charge at Rabaul Volcanological Observatory (RVO) on telephone number 982 1699 or fax 982 1004.