



UNITED NATIONS  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

# WanWok

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## UN PNG Celebrates UN Day and Launch of the State of the Asia Pacific's Children 2008



UN PNG celebrated the UN Day with the successful launch of the *State of the Asia Pacific's Children 2008* on 24 October 2008. Speaking during the celebrations, Dr Jacqui Badcock quoted the SG and said: "On this 63rd anniversary of our Organization, I join you in celebrating United Nations Day. This is a crucial year in the life of our United Nations. We have just passed the midpoint in the struggle to reach the Millennium Development Goal". Dr Badcock also highlighted a number of issues in the Report including that Papua New Guinea accounted for more than 90 per cent of the Pacific's under-five deaths in

2006. She added that their mothers are also in danger and that pregnant mothers continue to die resulting in a very high maternal mortality rate.

Dr David Mokela, Chief PMGH Chief Pediatrician confirmed and expressed similar sentiments whilst Minister for Community Development, Women, Religion & Sports, Dame Carol Kidu urged the government and partner agencies to address these issues. She also said that these regional studies provide crucial benchmarks for policy development in PNG.

Dr Puka Temu while launching the *State of the Asia Pacific's Children 2008* said the government is aware of the major challenges in the area of child and maternal mortality and is now addressing these issues through its 10-year National Health Plan. He also said the "Delivering as One" has set a high standard for us to follow and that "working together I am sure we will deliver results".

**UP COMING EVENTS**  
**28 OCTOBER 2008**  
*Launch of the Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report: Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives*

### The UN REDD Scoping Mission

UN (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) in collaboration with Governments of Norway and Australia and World Bank REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) scoping mission led by GoPNG is in the country consulting key relevant parties to assist PNG government design a national REDD framework which outlines an initial roadmap to progress its REDD readiness activities.



The REDD team met with the Executive Director of the Climate Change Office Dr Theo Yasause in a media conference at the UN Office on Thursday 23 October followed by a courtesy call at the Mirigini Haus and a reception hosted by the Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare at the Government State Function Room on Friday 24 October 2008.

Addressing the REDD Team, Government Ministers and Officials, and Development Partners, Sir Michael said PNG people's livelihood depend on the utilization of the forest but "we have decided that we want to promote and we will promote REDD"

In response RC Dr Jacqui Badcock said the UN is aware of the sensitiveness of landowner issues and discussions. "That is why we plan to take this on as a challenge and approach it with great care and sensitivity", she said.

### Common Advocacy Corner Bon Voyage Duah!

UNFPA Representative Duah Owusu-Sarfo will be leaving us on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 to take up his new post in Zambia after 4 years of his selfless efforts in the activities of UNFPA and UN.



During his time in PNG, he accomplished many challenges. Those notable ones are:

- Initiated the Development Partners Forum on Health which is now being held bi-annually;
- Mobilization of resources for Department of Health through NZ AID for the amount of US\$1.9 Million, for the Reproductive Health Program for 2006-2008, He chaired the Theme Group on HIV/AIDS;
- He travelled widely throughout PNG, particularly to some of the most remote health facilities;
- He has initiated the PNG Forum on Parliamentary Committee on Population and Development.

He has been an active member of the UNCT and has been one of the main contributors to the One UN Country Programme (UNCP).

Duah has been a strong advocator for the cause of Papua New Guineans in many forums through the UNFPA mandate. He has also been an inspiration to his staff and the people he has worked with, particularly, Papua New Guineans.

This is YOUR weekly update. Please tell us about the progress on "Delivering as One". We would love to hear from you. Send your article ideas or suggestions to [elizabeth.turi@undp.org](mailto:elizabeth.turi@undp.org)

**UN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**