



UNITED NATIONS  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

# WanWok

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## UN Calls for greater commitment in the fight against HIV AIDS in PNG



The PNG UN office is advocating for greater commitment from all levels in the fight against HIV AIDS. RC Dr Jacqui Badcock made this call during the World Aids Day celebrations on December 1 2008 at Murray Barracks , Port Moresby.

Dr Badcock said everyone needs to play a role in advocacy. "We all including our leaders need to understand that HIV AIDS will hold back development and it is indeed an expensive issue.

Dr Badcock said PNG's HIV AIDS rate is 1.6 compared to that of the sub Saharan African countries which are much higher. "If we do not take the necessary steps now we will reach these countries status very quickly without even realizing it.

Dr Badcock also encouraged everyone to get tested for HIV.

Governor of NCD Powes Parkop supported the call by encouraging everyone to come forward and get tested in order to stop the virus from spreading any further. He said "fear shame and stigmatization were the main killers of people living with the virus rather than the virus itself.

Around 3,000 people attended the celebrations throughout Port Moresby, including school children and members of the public.

**UP COMING EVENTS**  
**9 December 2008**  
 Interantional Anti-Corruption Day  
**10 December 2008**  
 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

## Common Advocacy Corner



### International Volunteer Day

Today, 5th December 2008 is International Volunteer Day. Volunteers around the World are celebrating this day with the realization of the values of their contribution to the challenges of peace and development.

Following are extracts from various statements to mark the UNV Day:

#### The UN Secretary General

"The altruistic spirit of volunteerism is immense and renewable. On this International Volunteer Day, I urge all members of our global community to tap this great reserve of energy and initiative."

#### UNV Executive Coordinator Flavia Pansieri

"The activities that the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme undertakes and supports around the world provide telling examples of how to realize the values of the United Nations through direct action. Every year, thousands of volunteers are engaged in peace and development projects worldwide



including more than 7,500 UN Volunteers who contribute knowledge and skills to build capacity."

#### UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis

"Their work on the ground is an inspiration to us all and on this Day I pay tribute to their commitment, hard work and sense of mission."

#### UNV Programme Officer, Nenita Negros

"On this International Volunteer Day, let us recognize the power of volunteerism to promote peace and development around the world. Let us also pay tribute to the many millions of citizens all over the world who, every day – in ways small and large – volunteer their time, ingenuity, solidarity and creativity to help build a better, more sustainable future."



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