



UNITED NATIONS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

WanWok

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Bridge Human Rights Gaps in PNG: UN

Papua New Guinea joined the rest the world in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 10th of December 2008.



To mark the Anniversary, the PNG UN Office hosted an exhibition of posters supplied by the French government at the Crowne Plaza showing the declarations 30 articles. The Department of Community Development in partnership with ICRAF also staged a public celebration at the Sir John Guise Stadium with drama plays and musical activities.

Speaking at the UN celebrations UN Resident Coordinator, Dr Jacqui Badcock said in PNG there is a large gap between the rhetoric of human rights and its sobering realities on the ground. She added “ we cannot overlook the fact that there are still many children who are not going to school, women and men are not accessing healthcare, girls and women face violence, and people living with HIV are still subject to discrimination and stigma among other issues.”

Chief Ombudsman of PNG Chronox Manek in response pledged the country’s commitment to promote human rights throughout the country and the Pacific.

Minister for Community Development, Women, Religion and Sports Dame Carol Kidu said human rights should not be taught as a foreign concept and that it is important to indigenize human rights in PNG.

UP COMING EVENTS

December 18 2008

UN Christmas Party and Launch of the Federation of UN Staff Association (FUNSA)

Common Advocacy Corner

Launch of new project to improve markets in PNG

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in partnership with the National Capital District Commission and the Department for Community Development launched a new programme on Monday 8 December at the Koki Market, Port Moresby titled “Participatory research on gender issues in Papua New Guinea’s fresh produce markets & the informal economy.” This is part of a regional programme jointly funded by UNIFEM and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to support urban and rural women market vendors, local government leaders and market managers to improve the physical, social and economic conditions of markets in PNG.

Programme Officer for UNIFEM, Ms. Julie Bukikun said marketplaces are important sites to earn basic cash incomes. They are also important sites for urban communities to buy high quality local foods at reasonable prices.

“However, women market vendors face serious issues and risks such as expensive and hazardous long distance travel to and from markets that exposes them to physical, social health and safety risks, including sexual and gender based violence; and poor market conditions such as overcrowding, poor sanitary and health conditions,” she said. In addition, Ms Bukikun said women have little or no opportunity to participate in determining rules and regulations for market management and operations.



Photo—courtesy of the National Newspaper

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