



UNITED NATIONS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

WanWok

Issue 13, Friday 21 August 2008

UN Country Team Retreat in Wewak



Last week the UN Country Team held its annual retreat in Wewak, East Sepik. The UN Country Team in Papua New Guinea (PNG) includes the representatives of UN Agencies that are 'off-shore' or 'non-resident', but which support PNG from their respective regional offices, like UNESCO, UNIFEM and FAO. During the retreat, the UN Country Team reflected on the achievements made so far and identified what the UN Country Team can do jointly to further support the implementation of our UN Country Programme together with the Government of Papua New Guinea.

It was agreed that an important new strategy paper will be drafted to guide us through the next two year phase of our 'Delivering as One' process.

Teambuilding exercises were weaved through the sessions.

The retreat provided time and space for frank and open discussions, which allowed for several action points to be identified. The UN Country Team agreed to have inter-agency Ad Hoc Working Groups explore ways to accelerate UN support to a select number of provinces, to facilitate a broader consultation on streamlining efforts to work with Civil Society and also identify key advocacy messages in the field of HIV/AIDS

that we as a UN family can put our weight behind. Another concrete agreement was that FAO and UNESCO will work with relevant Task Teams to explore ways to integrate their programme activities into the 5-Year Strategic Plans and Annual Work Plans, and aim to have their agencies represented in the Programme Coordination Committee (PCC). UNIFEM now has a local presence through a National Officer and have already started to do this and UNESCO and FAO are both exploring ways to have a local presence as a way forward.

The UN Country Team also looked into general efficiency and effectiveness by highlighting the success of the quarterly programme reviews, while flagging the importance of re-visiting the proposed solutions to address work/life balance issues as presented earlier during the Town Hall Meeting in June 2008. The retreat was well placed to host lively debates on the past, present and future of the 'Delivering as One' process and following through on some of the outstanding implementation issues. It was agreed that an important new strategy paper will be drafted to guide us through the next two year phase of our Delivering as One, now that we have been globally recognized as a 'self-starter' country.

UP COMING EVENTS

8th September

- PNG GEF SGP National Steering Committee Meeting
- International Literacy Day

COMMON ADVOCACY CORNER

Each week a colleague from the UN family will talk to you on how the UN Country Team is contributing to Nation Building—

Steven Narawen, National Programme Coordinator—UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme



PNG GEF SGP at a glance

PNG joined the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Project (GEF SGP) in 1993 with a record of more than 50 projects in the areas of biodiversity, preservation, climate change prevention and protection of international waters. Although, there were a lot of challenges, the programme created greater environmental awareness within the communities in which SGP projects were implemented.

The PNG GEF SGP programme has seen a reduction in funding allocation over the years with the main reason being that of poor delivery. Lessons learned from these projects are building blocks for new initiatives and progress. The programme will be holding its first National Steering Committee meeting in Port Moresby on 8 September 2008 to discuss these issues and way forward specifically to align Country Programme Strategy (CPS) to the present and ever changing socio-economic conditions of PNG.

On the whole there is a need for programme strategies to be periodically reviewed to take into account the changing circumstances, especially in relation to emerging environmental threats of global significance, government priorities/ policies, donor interventions and mandate, and NGO and CBO initiatives.

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

UN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM