



UNITED NATIONS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Waintaim

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Issue 7, Friday 11 July 2008

UNFPA celebrates Population Day



More than 140 countries worldwide are observing World Population Day today under the theme, "Family Planning: It's a Right; Let's Make it Real",

The Day provides a chance to raise awareness of the many benefits of family planning, including its vital role in enhancing maternal health, gender equality and poverty reduction.

In her World Population Day message, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA, said, "family planning is essential to women's empowerment and gender equality. When a woman can plan her family, she can plan the rest of her life".

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

- That AIDS will remain a system-wide priority for the UN;
- That the UN will deliver as one on AIDS, and the already pioneering coordinating efforts of UNAIDS and its co-sponsors will be strengthened further through system-wide coherence.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon—21 May 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

15 July

**Launch of the UNGASS Report
at 3:00pm– 5.00pm Crowne
Plaza Hotel**



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 —
Neal Gilmore, Human Rights Advisor, UN Human Rights (OHCHR)

PNG to be a party to Human Rights Treaties soon

OHCHR has been working in PNG since January 2008 on: (1) strengthening national human rights protection systems, including the establishment of a human rights institution, (2) increasing attention and action by UNCT to human rights and use of human rights based approach to programming (3) increasing Government and civil society engagement and cooperation with the UN treaty bodies and special procedures, including encouraging the Government to ratify additional human rights treaties and (4) undertaking human rights education and training.

On 27 and 28 June 2008 the Ombudsman Commission in conjunction with the Human Rights Advisor conducted human rights training for lawyers and journalists. The trainings were done under the auspices of the Media Council and the Law Society utilizing UNDP/Action 2 funds. The training for lawyers was attended by fifty lawyers at the request of the Public Solicitor's Office and the Law Society. Other trainings conducted include training on the Universal Periodic Review and UN Special Procedures for Government officials and an Orientation session arranged in conjunction with UNICEF to assist the Government in preparing its next report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

There are also encouraging developments in PNG in that the Government will soon be a party to two most important human rights Treaties, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights and has stated it will invite the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit PNG.

Special Missions:

Professor Sachs to visit PNG

Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on MDGs, Professor Jeffrey Sachs will visit PNG from 16 - 20 July 2008. The objective of his visit is to gain a better understanding of the development challenges in PNG, assess the country's progress towards MDGs and to offer advice and support to PNG.

Global Fund Executive Director to visit PNG

The Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Dr Michel Kazatchkine, will visit PNG from 15-17 July. He will meet with the Minister of Health and HIV/AIDS, and Chair of the Papua New Guinea Country Coordinating Mechanism.

Dr Kazatchkine will also meet with implementation partners to discuss progress of national disease programs funded by the Global Fund. The Global Fund is currently supporting programs fighting malaria, HIV and tuberculosis in the country worth a total commitment of more than US\$ 42. million.

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