

MEDIA RELEASE

DEVELOPMENT CADETSHIP PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY

An innovative cadetship program aimed at encouraging young Papua New Guinean graduates to take up careers in development has attracted close to 600 applicants.

The program is aimed at providing quality work experience and relevant training so that more Papua New Guineans can be involved in the delivery of international development programs.

AusAID, NZAID, UN agencies, and International NGOs such as World Vision, Care International, Childfund and Save the Children have said they will host placements, together with other development partners including other International NGOs and Managing Contractors have committed to participate in the program.

The head of Australia's aid program in PNG, Bill Costello, said that in the next few years AusAID would be increasing its support to PNG and having more Papua New Guineans on board, who have specialised training in development work, is very important.

“The PNG-Australia Development Partnership is about helping PNG to reach its potential, so it makes sense that we want more Papua New Guineans to be involved in the delivery of our program, and I'm pleased to note that the Cadetship Program has attracted such a large number of applicants,” he said.

Tessa Te Mata, NZAID's Country Manager, also applauded the new cadetship programme. "Human Resource development has always been a key part of New Zealand's support to Papua New Guinea. Ms Te Mata said "A scheme such as this will help the development partners and international NGOs improve the quality of the assistance we provide. But the benefits go deeper than that" Ms Te Mata said. "In the long run, as the cadets begin to move throughout the workforce, that will help Papua New Guineans make sure that international aid and the PNG Government's development money is working as hard as it should for the benefit of this country."

During the 20-month program, cadets will gain on-the-job experience by working in the agencies or with contractors managing large projects, mentored by Papua New Guineans already working in the development field. Cadets will also attend targeted workshops dealing with aid delivery.

Ms Jacqui Badcock, UN Resident Coordinator in PNG commented that Capacity Development is central to all assistance by the United Nations Agencies and this unique programme will provide an opportunity for highly qualified cadets to gain hands-on experience imbedded in the organisations.

“What is also very exciting about this programme is that has been developed collectively by all Development Partners and International NGOs to tackle the chronic shortage of capable professionals across the development field.” she commented.

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The cadetship is part of a larger program known as Careers in Development. The program will work with PNG universities to increase under-graduate subjects and post graduate qualifications in development. Another component involves the production of career information materials and information sessions for schools and universities, to increase the awareness of career opportunities available in the development sector.

More information about the cadetship program is available from Jennifer Maroroa at the Papua New Guinea Australia Targeted Training Facility, T: 3250 188