

DEVELOPMENT CADETSHIP PROGRAM TO KICKSTART IN 2009

Papua New Guinea is embarking on an innovative cadetship program aimed at encouraging young Papua New Guinean graduates to take up careers in development.

The program aims to provide quality work experience and relevant training in development practice, and increase the number of Papua New Guineans involved in managing and implementing development programs.

Moves are already underway for the 12-month program to start in March next year.

Head of Australia's aid program in PNG, Bill Costello, said the initiative came about because development partners like AusAID, NZAID, and UN agencies had a difficulty in finding people with the skills and experience needed to support their expanding development programmes.

"It's very important that Papua New Guineans be involved in the delivery of the aid program, and in roles which will impact on PNG's development," he said.

AusAID, UN agencies, and other International NGOs such as World Vision, Care International, and Save the Children have already said they will host placements, and discussions are underway to secure more places with other development partners.

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, and they will also attend targeted workshops dealing with aid delivery.

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.

Tessa Te Mata, NZAID's Country Manager, has been involved in planning for Careers in Development and said the innovative program is expected to be rewarding for all parties.

"As far as we know it hasn't been tried quite like this before anywhere else in the world and it's been creating a lot of interest," she said.

Ms Te Mata commented, "Millions of kina are spent annually on development and more will be spent as the PNG Government, aid agencies and international NGOs all increase their commitments. We are all under pressure to prove that development funds are really having an impact. More well-trained, energetic and dedicated people are vital to ensure Papua New Guineans get the social services and economic development they deserve."

More information about the cadetship program is available from Jennifer Maroroa at the Papua New Guinea Australia Targeted Training Facility, T: 325 0188.