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DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Press Release

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PNG Women's Forum: Wok Bung Wantaim lo Kirapim Senis

The U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby and the Government of Papua New Guinea's Department for Community Development will co-host a PNG Women's Forum to advance gender justice and opportunity in Papua New Guinea. The PNG Women's Forum will take place March 6-7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Moresby, and will be free for participants. At this historic event, women's groups and leaders will work with government, international, and private sector representatives to articulate and advance a bold agenda to meet the needs of today's women.

The Department and the Embassy are working with women leaders and women-oriented civil society groups to foster communication and collaboration that translates into jobs and justice. Stakeholders have identified priority opportunities for deeper wins for women. Stronger engagement between the groups, government, international partners, and the private sector can:

- Empower the next generation of women leaders;
- Demonstrate how women's groups can be agents of change for peace and security;
- Enhance educational opportunities for women;
- Help women lead healthier lives;
- Encourage men and youth to combat gender based violence;
- Get more women into business; and
- Harness the power of technology to empower women.

The PNG Women's Forum will include discussion panels on these issues. It will feature several international experts in these fields who have demonstrated success. The agenda for the event is available at <http://portmoresby.usembassy.gov/women.html>. Panelists are still being firmed up, so stay tuned for updates. The Embassy and the Department thank the Australian High Commission, ExxonMobil PNG, UN Women, UNDP, Blue 7 Team, Crowne Plaza, the World Bank, and Tropic Tours for their generous support for the Forum, and welcome additional collaboration from other international partners and corporations.

Women serving in leadership roles within community and civil society groups, individual women leaders and women's empowerment advocates, female business owners, emerging young leaders, up and coming public servants, and other leading women in Papua New Guinea are invited to nominate themselves or others to participate in this historic event. Men with a strong interest in women's empowerment and/or gender equality may also be nominated. Nomination forms are due by February 12, and can be found at <http://portmoresby.usembassy.gov/women.html> or picked up at the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby and the American Corner inside the National Library. If you need the form faxed to you, or for more information on the forum, contact the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby by phone (+675-321-1455, x2128); fax (+675-321-1593); or e-mail (pdportmoresby@state.gov).

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