



Immediate release  
04/2/15

## PRESS RELEASE

### The Voice Inc. and Oaktree Foundation to establish International Youth Exchange Partnership

**The Voice Inc. PNG and Oaktree Foundation Australia will establish an International Youth Exchange partnership between their organizations during the Oaktree National Conference in Melbourne Australia.**

Australia's largest youth driven aid and development organization Oaktree Foundation will hold its National Conference from the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of February 2015. This conference will see Oaktree volunteers from across Australia gather in Melbourne.

"All Oaktree volunteers from around the country will gather in Victoria to learn from each other, hear from some incredible external experts and leaders and broaden our skills and knowledge to make an impact throughout 2015," said Maddi Ginnivan – Director of Youth Exchange Oaktree.

The Voice Inc, a youth development organization in Papua New Guinea, is sending 3 participants to this conference, one staff and two students. The students Sebangaz Siming and Jerome Sesega are currently part of The Voice Inc's Leadership Developmental Program at the University of Papua New Guinea. Sebangaz and Jerome will be running a session on leadership and also focusing on how young people are leading social change in PNG and some of the issues that they face with the Australian participants at this conference.

#### SEBANGAZ SIMING'S BIOGRAPHY

20 year old Sebangaz Siming a final year student studying Banking and Finance at the University of Papua New Guinea has actively participated in The Voice Inc's various programs and campaigns for the last three years and is currently the Coordinator for its Centre for Leadership at the University of Papua New Guinea. She is passionate about volunteering, reading and art and hopes through her travel to The Oaktree National Conference in Victoria to learn various strategies of campaign from her peers.

"I hope to learn from the young people who are part of Oaktree throughout Australia on how they run their organization, campaigns and their strategies of leading social change. The challenges they face and how they push through and achieve their goals" she said.

#### JEROME SESEGA'S BIOGRAPHY

Also attending this conference is 21 year old Jerome Sesega a third year Law student at the University of Papua new Guinea who is a student leader in the Leadership Development Program run by The Voice Inc. Jerome also serves as a program facilitator for Rugby League Against Violence (RLAV). Through his involvement in these organizations, Jerome believes he can contribute meaningfully to nation building. When he returns from the Oaktree National Conference, Jerome hopes to gain specialized skill sets to assist The Voice Inc. in their Clean Generation Campaign.

“Sebangaz and I will be shadowing different volunteers at Oaktree to gain specific skills on things like Monitoring and Evaluation, Facilitation, Marketing and Communication. I plan to gain a specialist skill set and bring that back to assist The Voice Inc. in the Clean Generation Campaign and other campaigns” he said.

The Voice Inc. aims to contribute meaningfully to this new partnership with Oaktree Foundation. Serena Sumanop Executive Director of the Voice Inc. had this to say about this partnership:

“We are excited about Oaktree and The Voice Inc’s partnership because we believe it models a new style of relationships between youth organizations in PNG and Australia. Though Oaktree is a donor organization they do not fund The Voice Inc's projects. Over the years, we have run leadership trainings with hundreds of their young people and they have done the same with hundreds of our young people. It is great to see this 7 year friendship between our organizations formalized through the signing of the MoU. We know young Australians can learn a lot from the students that undergo our Leadership Development Program”, she said.

The Voice Inc and Oaktree Foundation look forward to a great partnership for 2015 and beyond.

For more information contact The Voice Inc. on 7203 2055 or [info@thevoicepng.org](mailto:info@thevoicepng.org).

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Photo 1:



From L-R: Jerome Sesega and Sebangaz Simingi at Port Moresby Jackson’s International airport ready to travel to Australia.

Photo 2:



From L-R: Jerome Sesega and Sebangaz Simingi at Port Moresby Jackson's International airport ready to travel to Australia.

Photo 3:



From L-R: Jerome Sesega, Ruby Possier staff of Oktree Foundation & Sebangas Siming at the Oaktree Foundation National conference in Melbourne University Australia.