



Immediate release
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PRESS RELEASE

Youth Leader attends United Nations global Youth Forum in New York

Program Manager of The Voice Inc. Barbara Thomas is attending the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum at the UN Headquarters in New York to discuss Papua New Guinea's youth development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations has invited 300 young people from around the world for a two-day event at the UN Headquarters in New York to brainstorm and discuss how youth can be included in shaping the economical and social development policies for Sustainable Development 2015 and onwards.

Barbra Thomas is attending the ECOSOC Youth Forum alongside Naomi Woyengu from PNG's Young Women's Christian Association.

As a representative of Papua New Guinea and The Voice Inc. Barbra Thomas said she will discuss Papua New Guinea's Sustainable Development Model and showcase Vision 2050 and the Strategy for Responsible and Sustainable Development.

"As a nation we have a Vision that sees that by the year 2050 we will have a society that is healthy, wealthy, happy, wise, fair and safe. In order to make this become a reality our country is prioritizing a sustainable development model and has come up with The Strategy for Responsible and Sustainable Development," she said.

Barbra Thomas will also raise youth development issues faced in Papua New Guinea and highlight the work of The Voice Inc. and other such organizations. Executive Director of The Voice Inc. Serena Sumanop said Barbra Thomas was chosen to attend this forum because she is an active leader in development in her community and can contribute effectively in the discussions.

"One of our major aims in The Voice Inc. is to increase opportunities for young people to contribute to policy discussions on issues affecting us nationally and globally. The Voice ensures that the young people who are selected to represent the organization are actively involved as leaders in their communities and have a solid understanding of what the issues are and can contribute meaningfully to the discussions," she said.

Apart from representing Papua New Guinea and The Voice Inc. through discussions Barbra Thomas aims to build youth networks for The Voice Inc's youth exchange program and also build global partnerships with likeminded organizations for the Clean Generation Campaign.

"I aim to build partnerships. The Voice Inc. is working towards creating and building its youth network and its youth exchange program so hopefully I will be able to connect with likeminded organizations and develop something special for our young people."

When Barbra Thomas returns from New York she will share her experience with different stakeholders and take to heart the words of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “Challenge your leaders. You have the prerogative as young people. The future is yours”.

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PHOTO 1:



Barbra Thomas checking in at the Jackson's International Airport in Port Moresby.

PHOTO 2:



Barbra Thomas at the Empire State Building in New York.