



NEWSLETTER

Monthly News Digest
No.1/February 2025

Main Story: Special Olympics Papua New Guinea (SOPNG) trained new volunteers

Forty-four volunteers received training

A total of forty-four youths, both with and without intellectual disabilities (ID), successfully completed a four-day volunteer training program.

The training, which took place on February 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 2025, aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills to contribute meaningfully to the Special Olympics (SO) mission of fostering inclusion and empowering individuals with ID.

Held at the John Guise Stadium in Port Moresby, the training was facilitated by a dedicated team of volunteer staff, coaches, physicians, youths, and athlete leaders.

Topics covered during the training included the roles of volunteers, an understanding of ID, the importance of inclusion, and more.

The group of participants was diverse, with youths from four special schools in the National Capital District, joining their peers who were successful applicants from the general public's Call for Volunteers.



President Takale Tuna (in purple) and the participants holding their certificates.

Participants received certificates that enable them to engage as volunteers in a range of SOPNG activities throughout the year.

This initiative is part of SOPNG's Youth Activation program, a youth-led project designed to build a network of young volunteers who can help drive the organization's goals forward.

This training program is the second of its kind, following the inaugural event in March 2024, which saw 21 youths trained.

This year's training saw a significant increase in participation, further strengthening the impact of the program.

The event was made possible through the generous sponsorship of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the Arab Emirates, and the support of key partners, including the PNG Sports Foundation Venue Management Team, Port Moresby General Hospital, Special Olympics Asia Pacific, Cheshire Disability Services, Red Cross Society, Callan Inclusive Education Resources Center, and the Academy of Inclusive Learning. The training emphasized the importance of inclusion, a core value for SO, and demonstrated the powerful impact of volunteerism in creating an inclusive society for all. Read more insights about the training sessions on Day 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this publication.

Day 1: SOPNG kicks off its 2025 volunteers training

SOPNG kicked off its second volunteers training with 26 youths without intellectual disability (ID) participated on 8 February, 2025.

The training was officially opened by SOPNG President, Takale Tuna, who warmly welcomed the participants to SO community.

He encouraged the youths to immerse themselves in the program, gain new skills, and expand their knowledge to better advocate for an inclusive environment for people with ID.

A key feature of the training was a special session on basic sign language, facilitated by a Senior Inclusive Teacher at the Red Cross Society, Jenny Sike.



Trainees participating in a discussion on the topic; Inclusion.

This session is particularly important, as some SO athletes have multiple disabilities, including deafness.

SOPNG aims to ensure that volunteers can communicate effectively with all athletes, ensuring a positive and inclusive experience during events throughout the year.

Facilitators Sylvester Nandawo, Jenny Luff, and Eunice Wanjumoe shared their experiences as volunteers, highlighting the significant impact of the first volunteer training held in 2024.

As participants in the inaugural training, the trio has since been involved in a variety of SOPNG activities.

Their continued engagement underscores the success of the training program, which is part of the active Youth Activation program.

Through their contributions, they exemplify the positive influence of the training program on both individuals and the wider community.



Coach Jenny Sike introducing basic sign language to the participants.



Volunteer Sylvester Nandawo facilitating the session on the SO various programs.

Main Story: Special Olympics Papua New Guinea (SOPNG) trained new volunteers

Day 2: Eighteen athletes joined the 26 youths in the volunteers training

Eighteen athletes joined 26 youths without intellectual disabilities (ID) on 15 February, 2025.

The athletes were from Cheshire Disability Services PNG, PNG Red Cross Society, Callan Inclusive Education Resource Centre, and the Academy of Inclusive Learning. The session focused on the themes of fitness and health, aiming to promote physical well-being for all individuals.

A highlight of the day was an inspiring presentation by Dr. Craig Jimmy from Port Moresby General Hospital.

Dr. Jimmy covered key topics such as nutrition, hydration, and fitness, encouraging participants to make healthy choices for their overall well-being.

He emphasized the importance of eating nutritious foods, staying hydrated, and participating in regular physical activity to improve health and fitness.

SOPNG's Assistant Sports Coordinator, Daniel Wesley, also led a session showcasing the various sports offered by SOPNG.

He highlighted badminton as a particularly inclusive sport, accessible to people of all abilities.

Participants had the opportunity to not only learn the rules of the game, but also engage in a practical sessions, experiencing the enjoyment and fitness benefits of the sports firsthand.

This event served as a valuable opportunity for participants to learn, engage, and have fun, promoting inclusivity and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

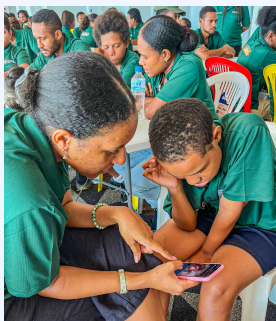


Coach Wesley training an athlete in badminton.



Dr Jimmy coconducted the healthy lifestyle session with the participants.

Day 3: Volunteers trained to promote Special Olympics movement through Public Speaking and Technology



A youth teaching an athlete about the social media platforms using a mobile phones.

Participants were equipped with essential skills to advocate for SOPNG movement on 22 February, 2025. The day's sessions focused on public speaking and the effective use of technology applications, both crucial tools for supporting the organization and raising awareness.

The first session, led by Shonaye Leslie, the reigning Miss Hannah's Beauty Box Papua New Guinea, delved into the art of public speaking.

Leslie's engaging and informative presentation provided volunteers with practical techniques for delivering effective speeches.

Public speaking is an important skill for volunteers, allowing them to communicate the

mission of SO, share the inspiring stories of athletes, and encourage community support. The second session was focused on using technology platforms such as Gmail, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Facebook, and WhatsApp.

Volunteers Eunice Wanjumoe and Antonette Auharai led this session, offering valuable insights into how these tools can be used to further the cause. From engaging with supporters to organizing events, understanding how to navigate these digital platforms is essential for expanding the reach and impact of SOPNG.

With these training sessions, volunteers are now better prepared to be advocates for the cause, fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowerment for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

By honing their communication skills and mastering digital tools, they are poised to play a key role in spreading the mission of SO and advocating for greater support.



Ms Leslie conducted a session on Public Speaking with the participants.

Day 4: Youth Innovation Project Session Concludes Volunteers Training with Certificate Ceremony



Athlete writing his group's project idea on a chart.

The final day of the training saw an exciting session on the Youth Innovation Project, aimed at empowering young participants to contribute to the SOPNG's movement.

The session was led by volunteers Eunice Wanjumoe and Ectopia Ame, who guided the participants through an engaging experience of group discussions and project brainstorming.

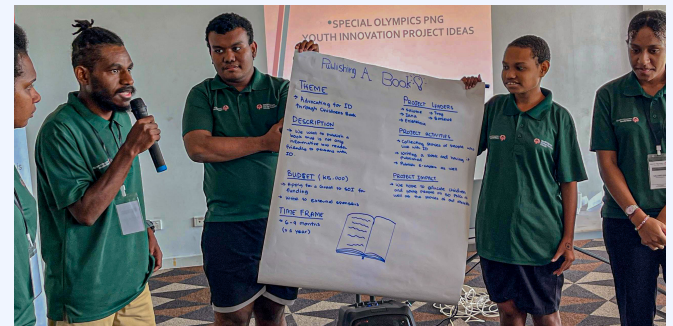
Throughout the session, participants had the opportunity to share ideas and collaborate on innovative projects that could further the mission of SOPNG.

The session emphasized creativity, teamwork, and practical solutions, allowing participants to think

critically about how they could make a tangible impact through volunteering.

At the conclusion of the session, all 44 participants were presented with certificates, recognizing their completion of the training program.

The certificates marked not only their dedication but also their readiness to become active volunteers in supporting and promoting the values of SOPNG.



A group of participants, both with and without ID presenting their project idea on book publication.