

Medical services get a shot in the arm

China has sent 90 specialists since 2002 to PNG, helping to train staff and save patients

By MO JINGXI

For patients in Port Moresby General Hospital in Papua New Guinea (PNG), it is not strange to see doctors from China. They have been on call over the past 16 years.

Since 2002, China has sent nine medical teams, with a total of 90 specialists, to the Pacific island nation to help improve its medical services under an agreement between the two countries.

Liu Rui, a 34-year-old oncologist from Chongqing in Southwest China, is a member of the ninth medical team, which arrived in Port Moresby in June to start a one-year stint.

"I'm so proud that I can do something on behalf of my motherland and set a good example for my 5-year-old daughter," Liu said.

At first she was concerned over possible difficulties like public security and her uncertainty over how local people view outsiders.

However, all anxiety vanished as soon as she felt the local people's great enthusiasm and friendliness toward Chinese.

PNG is a country with a high incidence of malignant tumors, especially breast and oral cancer. Besides routine work, Liu spends a lot of time running cancer prevention programs and sharing treatment knowledge with local medical workers, as well as employees of government departments.

"Knowledge knows no borders. I found that as long as you are willing to sincerely help, they will give you great warmth and encouragement in return," Liu said.



Members of Chinese medical teams welcome the arrival of the *Peace Ark*, a hospital ship of the Chinese Navy, at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in July.

JIANG SHAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Every time Liu provides outpatient services, Noga Ove, a nurse in the cancer clinic, will stand by her side to help her communicate with patients who cannot speak English.

Due to a lack of computers in the hospital, sometimes Ove has to go to the laboratory and copy the report results by hand so that patients can be properly diagnosed.

"Ove never complains about the

heat or hard work, and is always dedicated, enthusiastic and full of patience and concentration," Liu said.

Ove said: "Doctor Liu is a very humble and hardworking person, and is always willing to share her specialist knowledge with the nursing staff of the cancer clinic, and we are pleased to have her here. The continuous volunteer work and contribution of the Chinese medical

teams is of great assistance to the people of PNG."

Over the past few years, the Chinese medical teams together with local medical staff have provided services for nearly 100,000 patients and saved numerous patients. They have also trained thousands of local medical workers in PNG.

Liu Linlin, economic and commercial counselor of the Chinese

embassy in PNG, said the Chinese medical teams have "passed on Chinese people's affection to the PNG people through their hard work, and serve as the bridge of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries".

"Undoubtedly, the medical team members are China's unofficial ambassadors in the country," the diplomat said.

Job training lets PNG workers excel

Chinese teacher helps locals to learn valued skills, earn a better living

By MO JINGXI

In Western Highlands, a province of Papua New Guinea (PNG), a handful of local workers have a Chinese teacher, Yang Xuwu from Northeast China's Jilin province.

Starting out as an ordinary contract worker and moving up to become vice-general manager of China Harbor Engineering Company's branch company in PNG, 42-year-old Yang has been working in the Pacific island country since 2012.

Over the past few years, Yang has trained more than 20 villagers for various occupations, including infrastructure construction, truck driving, carpentry and steel working.

"There was a lack of technical workers then and local laborers earned very little. They don't have the habit of saving money and sometimes even spend a month's salary in two or three days," Yang said.

So he decided to persuade locals to make a better living by learning valued skills.

"I told them that you can only earn 2 kinas (60 cents) an hour as a laborer, but if you become a technical worker, it will be 5 kinas," he said.

Daniel Ogu, 37, is one of Yang's students. Before working as a steel fixer in the branch company, the father of three wandered around aimlessly without a job.

Now he owns land in the suburbs of Port Moresby, the capital of PNG, and lives with his family members in his own house.

"It is (China Harbor Engineering Company) that gave me the opportunity to have Yang as my teacher. I will not leave as long as the company is here," Ogu said.

Yang is also happy for those who have moved on. One of his students left for an Australian company because of his newly learned skills, and now earns 25 kinas an hour.

"I'm here to help them. It is a good thing for them to earn more money," he said.

Yang's sincerity has won him respect and appreciation from local



Workers receive training from Yang Xuwu (third from right), vice-general manager of China Harbor Engineering Company's branch company in Papua New Guinea, in July. CUI WENQUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

villagers. He has even received small gifts like handmade bags.

According to Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Zheng Zeguang, since

China established diplomatic ties with Pacific island countries including PNG, China has trained more than 6,000 specialists.