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## **Sydney celebrates in style with a Fairtrade Fiesta**

The Sydney launch of Fairtrade Fortnight was officially celebrated tonight with a 'Fairtrade Fiesta' at the Paddington Town Hall. The event brought together Sydney chef Kylie Kwong, Fairtrade cocoa farmers from Ghana, and a host of leading Fairtrade producers and supporters from around Australia.

"Fairtrade is a celebration of fine food that really makes a difference for families in the Third World." Says Kylie Kwong. "Seeing you all here at the Fairtrade Fiesta tonight proves how much support there is for Fairtrade, and how easy it is to get involved. I am delighted that you have all taken the time to join me in launching Fairtrade into Australia"

The Fiesta saw quality Fairtrade produce delivered in a wide variety of ways, from Kylie Kwong's rice dishes, to chocolate fountains, to coffee cocktails. With entertainment from Ghanaian drummers to musician Elena Kats-Chemin, the Fiesta was a vibrant celebration of fine foods, crafts and Fairtrade supporters.

"This Ghanaian speaker tour is a unique way for our supporters to see the faces, and hear the real-life stories of the everyday impact behind the Fairtrade Label" says Natasha Lewis, Chair of FTAANZ (the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand) "Tonight, Sydney-siders can see the difference that buying Fairtrade can make to Third World families."

Ghanian cocoa farmer from Kuapa Koko co-operative, Agnes Abrafi explains "many farmers have to walk miles to collect fresh water, thanks to Fairtrade we have invested in bore holes so we have the benefit of a safe and reliable water supply".

Erica Kye, the Ghanaian research & development officer explains, "thanks to Fairtrade, my father is a farmer who could afford to give me a university education, and has given me opportunities to help my community and to travel to meet you here today".

"It is so easy to make a Fairtrade difference everyday" says Natasha Lewis. "Whether it's your morning tea-break, a chocolate treat, or an afternoon coffee, Fairtrade is your guarantee that you're helping producers in the Third World."

"With over 15 companies taking-part in the Fairtrade Fiesta, it shows what a growing and vibrant market we have in Sydney for Fairtrade" says Caroline Thomas of FTAANZ. "And it's easier than ever to find Fairtrade goods, with products available from the corner store, speciality gourmet stores and now from major supermarkets. Just look for the Fairtrade label."