

FSM swimmers inspired by Olympic dreams and Pacific Unity at 14th Oceania Swimming Championships

The Reporters' Academy for Oceania Aquatics

May 15, 2026

Suva, Fiji — At the 14th Oceania Aquatic Championships in Suva, the Federated States of Micronesia swim team delivered a performance defined by personal progress, resilience, and team unity. Across a full program of events, the FSM swimmers recorded significant personal bests, reached finals, and gained valuable international experience. The team is a mix of emerging young talent and experienced athletes with siblings competing side by side and a clear pathway toward future international goals, the championships marked an encouraging step forward for Micronesian swimming.

FSM Swimming Association's Secretary General MaryAnn Eperiam



accompanied the team in Fiji and emphasizes both ambition and community as key drivers of the nation's swimming development.

"We're really trying to develop our swimmers so that they are able to compete at the global level

for LA 2028"

MaryAnn outlined that the federation's primary focus is building towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, with a strong emphasis on developing athletes

capable of competing on the global stage. Alongside this, she highlighted the importance of consistent exposure through

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Audit finds widespread financial control failures in Nett District Government

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 19, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — A newly released audit by the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor found major weaknesses in the Nett District Government's handling of public funds, including missing financial records, late bank deposits, unsupported disbursements, payroll deficiencies, and poor oversight of government projects.

The performance audit examined Nett District Government cash receipts and disbursements during fiscal years 2024 and 2025 and reviewed more than \$2 million in transactions. The audit concluded that the district government "has not implemented appropriate internal controls over cash receipts and

cash disbursements to ensure they are properly accounted for, maintained and safeguarded against loss."

Auditors said many of the same problems had already been identified in a previous audit covering fiscal years 2019 and 2020, but corrective actions were not fully implemented.

According to the report, Nett District Government received approximately \$2.29 million in revenues during the two fiscal years audited, including more than \$1.06 million from the state government revenue-sharing arrangement and about \$1.23 million from local revenue sources.

The audit found that nearly half of the collections reviewed were deposited

late. Of \$2 million in cash receipts tested, about \$937,583, or 47 percent, were deposited between two and 28 days late, contrary to Financial Management Regulations requiring daily deposits unless the amount is less than \$100.

Auditors also found missing receipts, lack of segregation of duties, and the absence of monthly bank reconciliations. The report noted that the district treasurer had custody of collections, prepared and made deposits, and also received and maintained bank statements, increasing the risk of mishandling or misuse of funds.

In reviewing disbursements, auditors examined 2,553 transactions totaling approximately \$1.47 million and identified what they described

as "numerous deficiencies" in documentation, authorization, and records management.

Among the findings were 77 transactions totaling more than \$204,000 that lacked required supporting documents such as invoices, receipts, purchase orders, or receiving reports. Auditors also reported that 598 disbursement records totaling approximately \$392,926 could not be reviewed because the district government was unable to locate the files.

The audit further identified irregularities involving fuel purchases and payments for sakau where purposes or justifications were not clearly documented.

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President Simina receives Committee to Wait following opening of 4th Regular Session



FSM Information Services

May 12, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei – Following the opening of the 4th Regular Session of the 24th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), His Excellency Wesley W. Simina received the Committee to Wait at the Office of the President to discuss

shared national priorities, legislative matters, and the ongoing emergency response efforts following Typhoon Sinlaku.

Joining President Simina during the meeting were the Honorable Vice President, Aren B. Palik, and members of the Cabinet.

The Committee to Wait was chaired by Senator Fabian Nimea and included Senator Andrew Yatilman, Senator Yoslyn G. Sigrah, and Senator Merlynn Abello-Alfonso.

Discussions focused on coordination between the Executive and Legislative branches in addressing immediate recovery and response

efforts related to Typhoon Sinlaku, including support for affected communities, ensuring continuity of essential government services, and extending the Presidential Declaration of Emergency to support ongoing response and recovery operations.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss priority measures submitted for consideration during the current session of Congress. These included the proposed extension of the Emergency Declaration; legislation related to the sovereign guarantee for FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC); supplemental funding measures and the repurposing or reprogramming of previously appropriated funds; and a bill to establish a revolving fund for the Convention Center. Additional matters discussed included pending presidential nominations to national boards and commissions, the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) Treaty, pending grant assistance matters, and priority legislation such as the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Cybersecurity legislation.

The Simina-Palik Administration expressed appreciation to the 24th FSM Congress for its continued cooperation and partnership and reaffirmed its commitment to working collaboratively to advance national priorities, strengthen coordinated disaster response efforts, uphold effective governance, and serve the best interests of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
June 3, 2026**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end
of working hours on:**

Monday, June 1, 2026

Chuuk State Supreme Court grants partial stay in Election Commission case

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 16, 2026

Weno, Chuuk—The Chuuk State Supreme Court has granted a partial stay of its March 23 judgment in the ongoing dispute over the status of members of the Chuuk Election Commission, temporarily suspending the reinstatement of holdover commissioners while an appeal moves forward.

In an order entered May 12, Special Trial Division Justice Larry Wentworth ruled that the court would stay the portion of its earlier judgment that reinstated holdover Election Commission members, with the stay

lasting for “a reasonable time, not to exceed six months.”

The court’s March 23 judgment had declared that respondents Maimichy Yos, Akampo Nakashima, Miaichy Assito, and Mayleen Dungawin were never deemed confirmed as Chuuk Election Commission members under Article VI, Section 3 of the Chuuk Constitution. The court also ruled that although they acted as de facto commissioners from Jan. 27 to March 14, 2025, they no longer had authority to act after the Chuuk Senate rejected their nominations on March 14, 2025.

The judgment further held that the four respondents could not be reappointed during the term of the current

governor and ordered that holdover commissioners previously serving on the Election Commission be reinstated.

According to the May 12 order, the respondents appealed the March judgment and filed a motion seeking to stay the ruling pending appeal, arguing that the case involves constitutional issues on which no appellate court has previously ruled and that they are likely to succeed on appeal.

The court said the Chuuk Legislature, identified in the case as the appellee, did not file an opposition to the motion within the seven days allowed under appellate rules.

While the court stayed the reinstatement

of the holdover commissioners, it specifically declined to stay the remainder of its March ruling. The May 12 order states that the findings that the four respondents were never deemed confirmed, acted only as de facto commissioners until March 14, 2025, lacked authority afterward, and could not be renominated remain in effect pending appeal.

The court also wrote that the partial stay does not prevent the governor from nominating new Election Commission members or the Senate from confirming replacements to fill the vacancies. The order added that filling fewer than all four vacancies would not make the appeal moot.

Postal Service implements some reforms as ONPA flags remaining weaknesses

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 16, 2026

FSM — The Office of the National Public Auditor has found that the FSM National Postal Services has made some progress in addressing long-standing operational weaknesses identified in a 2021 performance audit, but many recommendations remain only partially implemented or unresolved.

In a follow-up performance audit released as Report No. 2026-08, ONPA reviewed whether the Postal Services had acted on 25 recommendations issued in Audit Report No. 2021-03, which examined governance, internal controls, customer service, and operational management within the agency.

According to the report, 28 percent of the recommendations remain not implemented, 40 percent are partially implemented, 12 percent have been fully implemented, and 20 percent were deemed not applicable.

Despite the remaining deficiencies, ONPA commended the Postal Services for taking corrective actions under newly appointed Postmaster General Epel Ilon.

“The audit team noted that, with the

new PMG, corrective actions have been taken to implement our prior recommendations,” the report said.

One of the most significant concerns identified in the audit was the continued absence of a finalized strategic and operational plan for the Postal Services. ONPA said the lack of such plans limits management’s ability to direct operations, monitor performance, and align staff responsibilities with organizational goals.

The auditors found that all four recommendations related to strategic planning remain not implemented. Although management had previously committed to creating a three-year strategic plan covering fiscal years 2021 through 2023, auditors said no finalized plan has been formally adopted.

The report also found ongoing weaknesses in internal controls and procedures. Of 10 standard operating procedures identified by management, only two have been finalized and formally approved, while seven remain in draft form and one is still pending submission.

Approved procedures include daily postal collections and reconciliation procedures for incoming mail. Draft procedures still awaiting final approval

include outbound mail operations, mail screening, PO box management, stamp requests, and stamp disposal procedures.

ONPA said the delays stem partly from periods when customer complaints and staffing transitions diverted attention away from finalizing procedures.

The audit did find full implementation in one major area involving customer payment controls. Auditors confirmed that all FSM State post offices now use the FSMPS.NET financial system, which issues receipts, records transactions, and generates daily reports.

The system allows tracking of receipts by cashier, amount, payment type, date, and location, which auditors said improves accountability and reduces the risk of errors or fraud.

However, the audit found continuing problems with customer complaint handling and risk management.

While a customer complaint form has been finalized and distributed, ONPA said there are still no formal policies or procedures governing how complaints are resolved, and no documented staff training on handling complaints.

Auditors noted that complaints and suggestions submitted through

suggestion boxes are reviewed during weekly Friday management meetings.

The report also said the Postal Services has not developed a formal risk management framework, including policies, procedures, or a risk register to identify and manage operational risks.

“Unable to identify, manage, and reduce potential risks that can negatively impact the organization,” the report listed as one of the effects of the missing framework.

ONPA concluded that the Postal Services has not fully implemented all recommendations from the 2021 audit and urged management to fully address those still classified as partially or not implemented.

“The formal adopting of policies and procedures is essential to ensure consistency in staff roles and responsibilities, strengthen accountability, and enhance compliance and monitoring processes,” the report said.

The follow-up audit was conducted under ONPA’s fiscal year 2025 annual operational plan and covered the Postal Services’ responses and supporting documentation related to prior audit findings.

...Nett Audit

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One section of the report focused on a solar light project funded by the district legislature. Auditors said council members appropriated more than \$34,000 for the purchase of 270 solar lights and were directly involved in distributing the units, despite the executive branch normally being responsible for project implementation.

Field inspections found some solar lights missing, multiple units issued to the same individuals, and some units distributed to council members or their family members. Auditors also reported that no uniform procedures or acknowledgment records existed to document fair distribution.

The report also criticized the practice of issuing checks directly to employees instead of vendors for purchases and awards. Auditors identified six instances totaling \$59,354 in which payments were made in advance

to former or current employees for activities including Constitution Day and Impiokai awards. Much of the spending lacked sufficient documentation to verify how the funds were used.

Additional unsupported payments totaling \$2,905 were issued to employees for food, drinks, consumables, and utilities without adequate supporting records, the audit said.

Payroll practices also came under scrutiny. Auditors reported missing timesheets and payroll release forms, lack of an effective time-monitoring system, overtime payments without recorded regular work hours, and failures to withhold required taxes.

According to the report, personnel costs exceeded approved budgets by more than \$52,000 in fiscal year 2024 and more than \$51,000 in fiscal year 2025. Auditors estimated unpaid income taxes at approximately \$17,568.

The Office of the Public Auditor warned that the conditions expose Nett District Government to “higher possibility

and opportunities for abuse, misuse, theft and/or fraud to happen” and said immediate corrective action is needed.

In its written response included in the audit, Nett District Government generally concurred with the findings and said it would implement corrective measures, including stricter

enforcement of deposit requirements, improved procurement controls, stronger payroll oversight, and better recordkeeping practices.

The full audit report was issued May 7, 2026 by the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor.



...Swimming

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regional and international competitions, including Oceania events and the Pacific Games, as essential steps in that pathway.

Secretary General MaryAnn Eperiam also stressed the cultural importance of swimming in Micronesia, noting that as an island nation made up of hundreds of islands, swimming is not just a sport but a vital life skill. Ensuring that young people learn to swim properly, she explained, is critical both for safety and for nurturing future athletes.

The FSM team here at the Oceania Aquatic's Championships, Katerson, Kaylinn, Kestra, and Melinda, play an important part of inspiring the next generation.

Highlights for the team include multiple personal bests from 16-year-old Kaylinn Kihleng, a breaststroke final appearance from Kestra Kihleng, and major improvements from siblings Melinda and Katerson Moya, including Katerson's near 10-second drop in the 200m freestyle.

Kaylinn Kihleng

Sixteen-year-old Kaylinn Kihleng

delivered one of the team's standout performances, marking a major step forward in her international career. She recorded personal bests in four events, including 33.87 in the 50m butterfly, 2:39.13 in the 200m freestyle, and 1:09.43 in the 100m freestyle, while also adding a 29.90 swim in the 50m freestyle. Her 50m backstroke (34.86) also showed significant improvement.

Smiling she shares “I've PB'd in all of them, except the 50 breaststroke, but that's not my main event, so I'm just really happy about how far I've come.”

Having previously competed at the Oceania Championships, as well as the Junior Pan Pacific Championships and Pacific Mini Games, Kaylinn noted her growing confidence on the international stage.

“I feel pretty comfortable, I'm still learning so I've a lot to learn but so far I think I'm comfortable with everything.”

She credited her team and family for their support during a recent move to the United States

Kestra Kihleng,

Twenty two years old, Kestra brought experience and depth, competing across a wide program. She posted 30.63 in the 50m butterfly, 1:04.51 in the 100m freestyle, 5:27.60 in the 400m freestyle, and 29.35 in the 50m freestyle, while also swimming 3:11.67 in the 200m breaststroke. She

reached the final of the 100m breaststroke, finishing in 1:24.61, and placed in the 200m freestyle final with 2:28.97.

Reflecting candidly on her performance, she acknowledged the difficulty of the competition:

“It's been a tough season...I just had a competition last month, which was pretty okay, but I think I'm a bit fatigued from that competition.”

Despite the challenges, her focus remains on building consistency and carrying forward experience from recent meets: “I'm just trying to carry the momentum from past competitions.”

Kestra has her eyes on the future. “I've been training since the past Olympics, I'm really excited for the next Olympics, I hope I can go.”

She closed with a heartfelt message to those supporting her from home:

“To all our family and friends back home, I just want to say thank you so much for all your support. It really means a lot to me, especially during these past two years. I love you all. Thank you.”

Another sibling pairing, Melinda Moya, 14, and Katerson Moya, 19, added both youth and versatility to the team.

Melinda Moya

Melinda impressed with multiple personal bests, including 34.88 in the 50m butterfly, 46.54 in the 50m breaststroke, and 32.07 in the 50m freestyle, alongside solid swims in the 100m freestyle (1:13.31), 100m butterfly (1:35.57), and 50m backstroke (37.92). She spoke positively about her experience, enjoying her races, the atmosphere in Fiji, and especially the local food, while expressing gratitude to her supporters at home.

Katerson Moya

Katerson showed some of the team's biggest improvements, highlighted by a 9.98-second drop in the 200m freestyle (2:15.40). He also recorded a 50m backstroke personal best of 30.09 and added times of 27.47 in the 50m butterfly, 1:03.53 in the 100m butterfly, 33.51 in the 50m breaststroke, 57.45 in the 100m freestyle, and 25.70 in the 50m freestyle.

Reflecting on the championships as a whole, the team praised the welcoming environment in Suva and the wider Oceania, where competition in the pool is matched by camaraderie outside it.

MaryAnn remarks how, “despite being spread across the Pacific, the ocean does separate us, but it also connects us”, with athletes supporting one another beyond the races. This shared culture and connection continue to unite the region, reinforcing a strong sense of one Pacific family.

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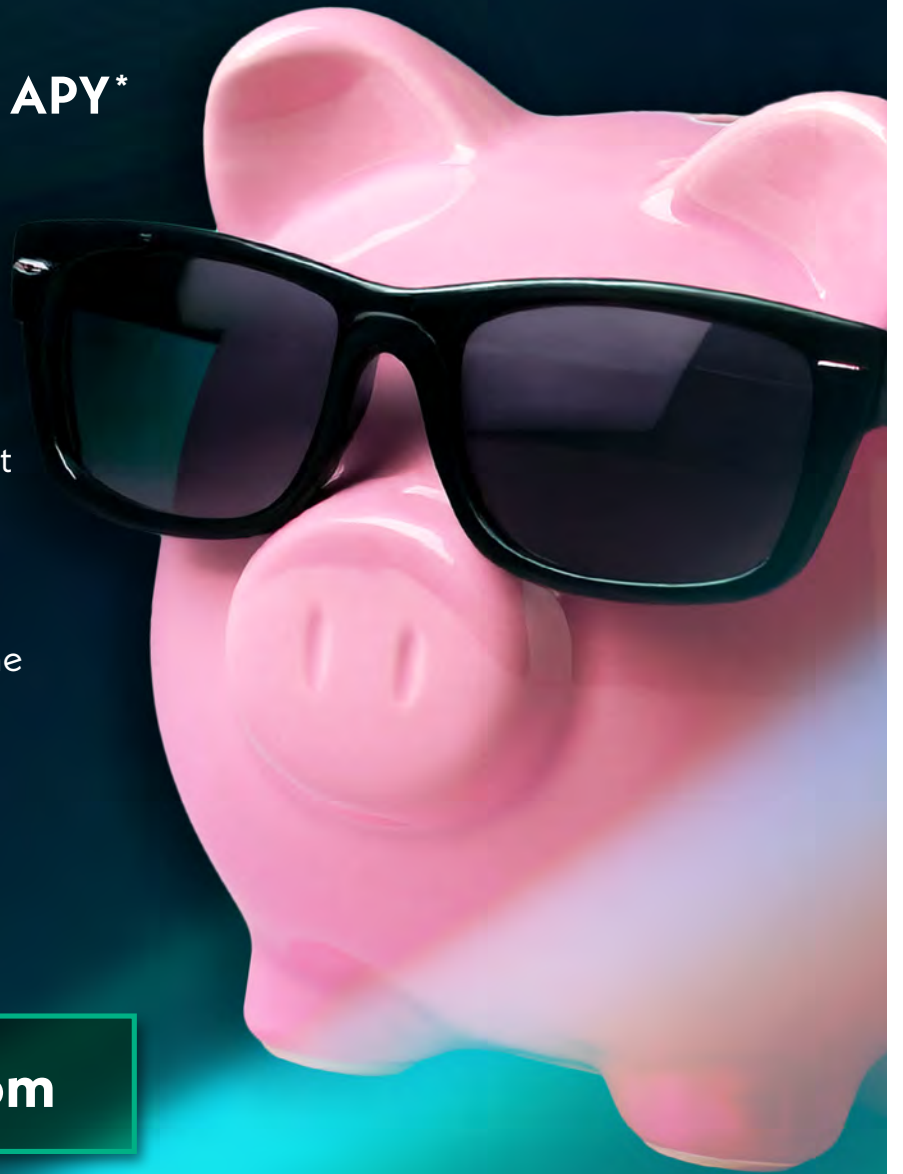
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U.S. Navy Seabees complete construction project at College of Micronesia-FSM

By U.S. Embassy to the FSM

Kolonia, May 18, 2026 — On May 14, the U.S. Navy Seabees successfully completed the installation of a new electrical protective cover at the College of Micronesia's (COM) national campus in Palikir, replacing a structure that had deteriorated due to weather damage.

The project involved designing and constructing a new protective cover to shield the college's electrical distribution panels from rain, wind, and sun. The previous cover had suffered significant damage from rust and corrosion caused by long-term exposure to harsh weather conditions.

"We are extremely proud of the Seabees' work," said U.S. Ambassador Jennifer Johnson. "Their outstanding efforts will help ensure students can continue their studies in a safe and comfortable environment, even during challenging weather conditions. This project builds on our commitment to supporting education in the FSM. In March, we were pleased to see the



newly constructed, U.S.-funded COM student center open. The Seabees' work demonstrates our ongoing commitment to ensuring that local students have access to quality education," she added. The Seabees crew consisting of UTC Jedediah Jones (Assistant Officer in Charge), CE1 Arthur Bernal (Leading Petty Officer/Safety/Quality Control), BU3 Keisey Ramirez (Builder), BU3 Audrey Pluska (Builder), UT2

Lane Wells (Utilitiesman), and SW3 Grady Farris (Steelworker) worked closely with the COM Maintenance Department throughout the two-week project.

The upgraded protective cover is built to withstand the country's severe weather conditions and will help ensure uninterrupted electrical service for the college.

U.S. education specialist visits Pohnpei Public Library

Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library

May 18, 2026

Pohnpei — On May 6, 2026, we were honored to welcome a special visit to the library from Mr. Charlie Kniseley, Education Specialist with the U.S. Department of Education, along with associates from the U.S. Embassy. Their visit brought encouragement, warm conversations, and support for the work we continue to do for our community.

It is worth noting that Mr. David Knisely, a follower of our Library's Facebook page, first came to know about the Pohnpei Public Library through our online presence. His engagement with our page reflects the importance of social media in connecting friends of the library near and far, and in strengthening awareness of our programs and milestones.

As part of their visit, the library staff received a thoughtful gift package, as a symbol of friendship and appreciation. The gift included children's reading materials and educational items that will help inspire learning and joy among our young readers.



We sincerely thank Mr. Kniseley and the associates from the U.S. Embassy for taking the time to visit our library and for their generous support. Visits like these strengthen partnerships and remind us of the importance of working together to promote education, literacy, and community growth.

We look forward to continuing these meaningful connections and creating more opportunities that benefit our library and the people we serve

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Unitalen Attorneys at Law
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Guo Men Wai Ave.
Beijing 100004, P.R. China
Tel: (8610)85115588 (86 10) 5920
5085
Fax: (8610) 85110965 85110966
Email: utm@unitalen.com



Hawaii Rotarians provide medical equipment health screenings and training in Pohnpei as part of ROOTS mission



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 10, 2026

Pohnpei—Representatives of Rotary International District 5000 including an international team of physicians arrived in Pohnpei in early May to conduct a community health outreach under the ROOTS (Regional Outreach Opportunity in Training and Sustainability Project). The Rotary International District 5000 includes all of the individual Rotary International clubs in Hawaii, nearly 50 of them.

Current Rotary 5000 District Governor Nancy Cabral said that the project had been in planning stages for one and a half years. Plans had been to also visit Chuuk but they were counseled not to make the visit at this time because of a large number off island personnel involved in Typhoon Sinlaku recovery. She said that they hope to still be able to go to Chuuk at some point in the future.

Meanwhile, in Pohnpei the mission donated medical equipment to Pohnpei State Hospital. The equipment included video laryngoscopes, portable

ultrasound devices, an automated external defibrillator (AED), and vital signs monitors—tools that will enhance the hospital's diagnostic and emergency care capabilities. They also provided training to local hospital staff members on the use of the machines.

Cabral said that the grant for the mission was for \$130,000. The Rotary clubs raised the funds for the travel and lodging for the team members. The donated equipment came from the grant amount and is divided between Pohnpei and Chuuk. Though the team couldn't visit Chuuk this time, they still will receive the equipment donations.

While in Pohnpei, the team also conducted community health outreaches with health fairs at the College of Micronesia and in the Pohnpei Governor's conference room. They provided essential screenings for hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and vision during those fairs. Nursing students from the College assisted the team members.

Cabral was unable to contain her emotions when she said that during screenings two people were identified

with very high glucose levels who hadn't know that they were likely diabetic. During medical consultations the advising team physician recommended that those people go immediately to the Pohnpei State Hospital for treatment. "We may have saved at least two lives," Cabral said with tears in her eyes.

The team also visited at least one elementary school to train staff members on critical first aid techniques, techniques that could be used to save the life of a student in their care. Cabral said that the participation from the staff members was enthusiastic and hands on rather than just boring speeches. Those staff members now know how to handle situations of choking, basic CPR, and first aid for wounds.

While we were at the medical screening at the Governor's office, one participant was found to have extremely high blood pressure that could be life threatening. Part of the team was Dr. Peter W. Gregor, a cardiologist from Saipan. He provided consultation with the patient and made treatment recommendations for her.

While in Pohnpei, the Rotarians from

Hawaii and from Pohnpei joined together to erect a "Peace Pole" on the Dekehtik Causeway. They say that the Peace Pole which bears the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" translated into each of the four main FSM languages is a permanent reminder of our shared hope for peace.

The Peace Pole Project was started in Japan by Masahisa Goi (1916–1980), whose message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" was born out of the devastation of World War II and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

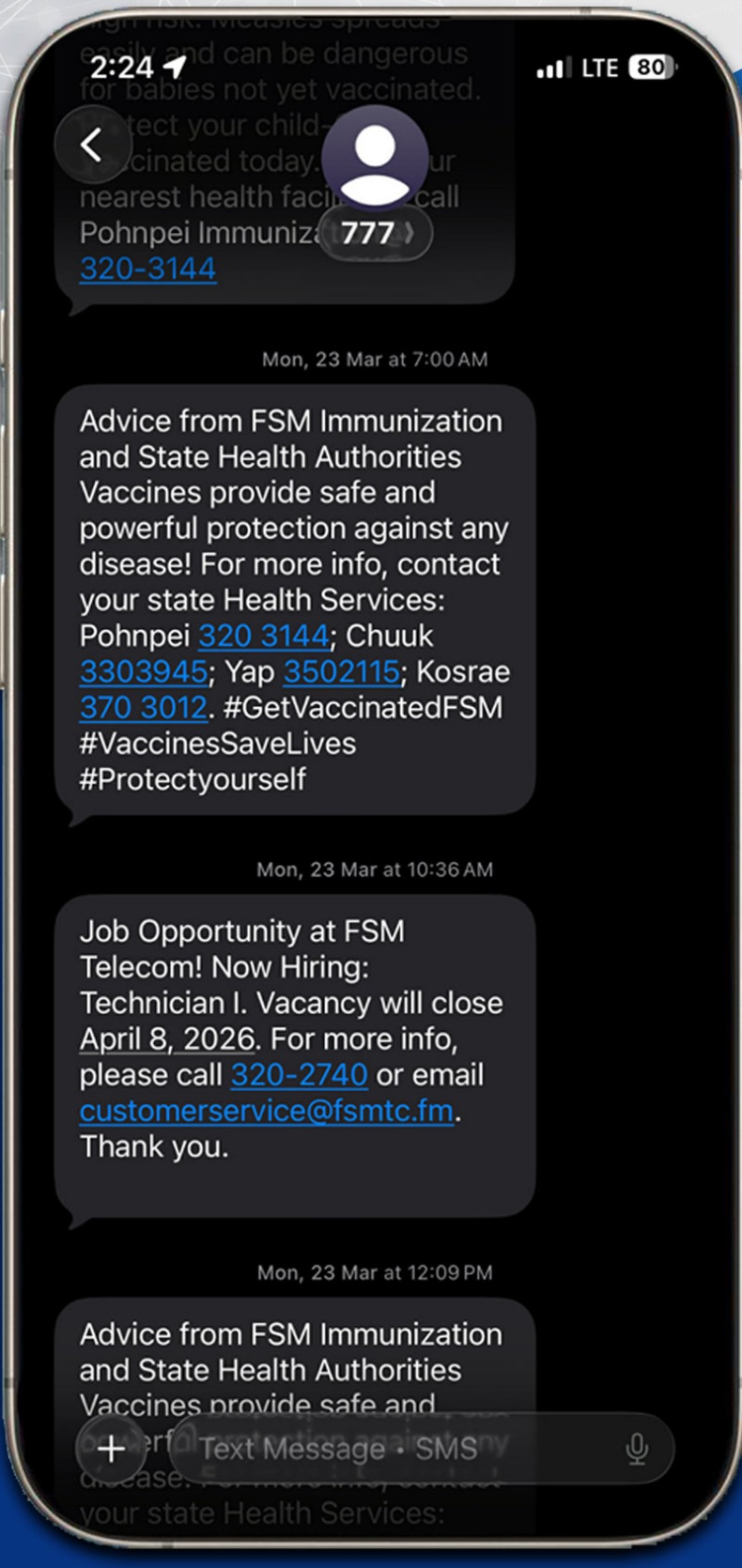
Today, over 200,000 Peace Poles stand in nearly 200 countries, each bearing that message in multiple languages. Rotary International has made Peace and Conflict Resolution one of its seven areas of focus, and this pole reflects that commitment, erected here in Pohnpei by two districts united in service.

The ROOTS mission was conducted in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Pohnpei and was conducted from May 5 – 9.

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Ambassador Kagomiya participates in waste management survey event by JAA

Embassy of Japan to the FSM

May 5, 2026

Pohnpei - On April 25, Ambassador Kagomiya participated in a waste management survey event organized by the JICA Alumni Association (JAA).

The event was attended by many participants, including high school students from Pohnpei and members of the JAA. Participants were divided into five groups and conducted a clean-up activity along the 1.6 km (1 mi) road known as the "Dekehtik Causeway," gaining a deeper understanding of the

serious waste management challenges faced by Pohnpei State. In addition, a workshop was conducted by Mr. Norton Dimitry Santos of the Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where participants learned about proper waste segregation as well as the importance of the 3Rs: recycling, reusing, and reducing waste.

Ambassador Kagomiya expressed his sincere appreciation to the JAA for organizing the event. He also addressed the participating high school students, encouraging them to further deepen their understanding of waste management and expressing

his expectation that they will continue to contribute to the protection of Micronesia's beautiful and rich natural environment.



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COM-FSM CELEBRATES 83RD COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) celebrated a monumental milestone on May 15, 2026, hosting its 83rd commencement exercises and graduation ceremony for the Spring 2026 class at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center.

Following a thorough degree audit, the college proudly conferred degrees and certificates upon 124 graduates across 23 academic programs, representing an impressive 88 percent success rate of potential program completers from the participating campuses.

In her welcome remarks, COM-FSM President Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono highlighted the diverse achievements of the graduating class, which drew students from across the region:

- National Campus: 86 graduates
- Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC): 30 graduates
- Kosrae Campus: 8 graduates

The Spring 2026 cohort demonstrated exceptional academic standards, with 37 graduates recognized for outstanding scholastic achievement.

Leading the class are five Valedictorians—associate program graduates who achieved a perfect 4.00 cumulative GPA—and one Salutatorian, representing the second-highest cumulative GPA in the associate program.



The honors breakdown includes:

- 1 Summa Cum Laude (4.00 Cumulative GPA)
- 2 Cum Laude (3.50 to 3.69 Cumulative GPA)
- 16 students named to the President's List
- 8 students named to the Dean's List
- 3 students named to the Honor Roll

The ceremony also highlighted the success of specialized, collaborative educational pathways. Ten graduates were awarded the Penn Foster Career Diploma in the Dental Assistant Program. This initiative is a joint effort between the college's Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow (DDFT) Program and the Hawai'i Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center. Notably, these 10 graduates completed this technical diploma while concurrently enrolled in COM-FSM's Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts/Health Careers Opportunity Program and the Associate of Science in Nursing.

The high-profile event drew an esteemed crowd to celebrate the graduates' achievements, attended by international dignitaries, national and state government officials, and revered traditional leaders. They were joined by a vibrant audience of more than 500 people, including proud family members, friends, and community supporters who gathered to witness the momentous occasion.

National Campus
P.O. Box 159
Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691)320-2480
Fax: (691)320-2479
E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
P.O. Box 879
Chuuk, FM 96942
Phone: (691)330-2689
Fax: (691)330-2740
E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

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Kosrae Campus
P.O. Box 37
Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944
Phone: (691)370-3191
Fax: (691)370-3193
E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm

CTEC Campus
P.O. Box 614
Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691)320-3795
Fax: (691)320-3799
E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm

Yap Campus
P.O. Box 286
Colonia Yap, FM 96943
Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
Fax: (691)350-5150
E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm

CPUC says farewell to PUC linemen who assisted in Sinlaku power restoration

Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation

May 9, 2026

Chuuk - CPUC extends its deepest gratitude to linemen Melfred Helgenberger, Mike Hirens, Jayran Primo, and Mike Paulus from the Pohnpei Utility Corporation as we bid them farewell following their departure from Chuuk today, May 9, 2026.

The four linemen arrived in Chuuk on April 14, 2026, aboard the FSM Patrol Boat after Typhoon Sinlaku devastated Chuuk and commercial flights into the state were unavailable. From the moment they arrived, they worked tirelessly in the field seven days a week for more than three weeks, playing a major role in restoring power to our communities.

Their sacrifice, professionalism, and dedication greatly assisted Chuuk during one of its most difficult times.

Chuuk's restoration progress would not be where it is today without their contributions.

CPUC also extends its sincere appreciation to Pohnpei Utility Corporation for allowing the linemen to come to Chuuk and support CPUC and the people of Chuuk during this emergency.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to their families for allowing them to leave home and support the people of Chuuk during this difficult time.

CPUC also sincerely thanks Island Mart for generously contributing 34 gift bags for all of our linemen in appreciation of their hard work and sacrifice during the restoration efforts.

These men became part of the CPUC family, and they will truly be missed.

Kinisou chapur, kalahngan, and thank standing with Chuuk in our time of you to our Pohnpeian brothers for need.



Call for Independent Directors for the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF)

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

- **Strengthening Pacific-led governance and institutional leadership**
- **Delivering accountable, sustainable resilience outcomes**

Our client, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified candidates for consideration to be **Directors in the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF)** inaugural Board of Directors (**Board**).

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Further information, including the full EOI documentation, is available via the application link or QR code below.

Apply online at: <https://au.smrtr.io/h3DN> (or scan the QR code).

Applications close: 11:59pm (FJT) on Sunday, 31 May 2026.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

For any queries, please email fj-fmrecruitment@kpmg.com.au, with the subject line "**EOI - PRF Directors**". Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



PASAI helping North Pacific auditors to prepare for important performance audits

PASAI

May 11, 2026

Hagåtña, Guam- The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is helping 20 North Pacific government auditors to prepare for upcoming performance audits by running a workshop this week.

The participants (14 female and 6 male) have gathered for an in-person workshop in Guam from the government audit offices of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM); the FSM states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap; Guam; the Marshall Islands and Palau.

PASAI Program Director, Meegan Reinhard, is co-facilitating the 5-day workshop covering the fundamentals of undertaking impactful performance audits with the Manager, Performance Audit Practice and Methodology from The Audit Office of New Zealand, Karen Wong, at a training venue at the Guam Office of Public Accountability.

Ms Reinhard explained, "The workshop is very practical and covers how to undertake a performance audit from planning to reporting, with opportunities for participants to apply what they are learning throughout.

"By the end of the week we will have supported each participant to apply the training content to their current audit work," she said.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Congratulations!

FSM Development Bank Recipients



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Chaminade University

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Berny Araceley
Chaminade University

MBA in Accounting Program



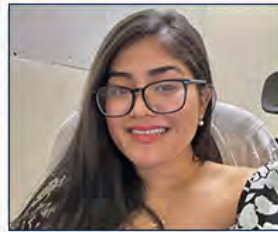
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University of Guam

Master of Business Administration



Kiofi Weia Ceasar
University of Guam

Master of Business Administration



Rita Mae Keller
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Master of Economics Program



Simplicia Aiseam
California Coast University

Master of Business Administration



Letisha Apaisam
University of Guam

Master of Business Administration

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Eastern Oregon University

Bachelor of General Business Program



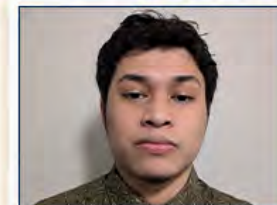
Sanjay William
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Bachelor of Business Management Program



K'Con Andon
University of Guam

Bachelor of Criminal Justice Program



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The FSM Development Bank wishes to congratulate the recipients of the **SPRING 2026 FSMDB** scholarships. We take great pride in supporting the **FSM's brightest scholars** in their pursuit of academic excellence, as we anticipate their respective entries into their roles in leading our nation forward!

FSM Presidential Special Envoy Khandi A. Elieisar leads FSM delegation to the 2026 Melanesian Ocean Summit in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

FSM Embassy to Fiji

May 15, 2026

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

—From May 11-14, 2026, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) participated in the 2026 Melanesian Ocean Summit held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, under the theme “Ensuring Ocean Protection with Sustainable Ocean Economies”. The Summit brought together

leaders, ministers, senior officials, development partners and regional stakeholders to advance dialogue and cooperation in key ocean sectors, including ocean governance, marine conservation, climate resilience, sustainable fisheries and Blue Economy development.

Representing FSM at the Summit was Mr. Khandi A. Elieisar, Presidential Special Envoy and Special Advisor



to the President on Foreign Affairs Matters, who led the FSM delegation comprising Mr. John Perman Taman Jr., Special Assistant to the President on Micronesian Affairs and Mr. Rophino Roby, First Secretary of the FSM Mission in Suva.

In his opening remarks, Presidential Special Envoy Elieisar conveyed the appreciation of H.E. President Wesley W. Simina to the Government and

people of Papua New Guinea for hosting the Summit and reaffirmed FSM’s steadfast commitment to Pacific regional solidarity and Pacific-led action in safeguarding the regions shared ocean resources.

On the margins of the Summit, FSM reaffirmed its longstanding friendship and enduring bilateral partnership with Papua New Guinea, meeting with Hon. James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. FSM acknowledged PNG’s leadership within the Pacific region and both countries

reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening areas of mutual interest, including maritime security, fisheries management and development, ongoing trilateral cooperation with the Solomon Islands on the joint continental shelf submission relating to the Ontong Java Plateau, and the enhancing the tuna value chain through the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi) Treaty.

Over the course of the Summit, Presidential Special Envoy Elieisar highlighted FSM’s national leadership in ocean stewardship, including the Micronesia Challenge 2030, ongoing efforts to finalize and safeguard FSM’s maritime boundaries, its role as a core partner in the ENBi, and early ratification of the BBNJ Agreement. These national efforts reflect FSM’s broader commitment to collective Pacific action in strengthening the region’s voice in global ocean governance processes, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, and the Agreement on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.

The 2026 Melanesian Ocean Summit concluded with renewed commitment among participants to deepen regional cooperation, promote sustainable ocean stewardship, and advance practical solutions for the Pacific in safeguarding our Pacific Ocean for present and future generations.

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Review: Michael Kew's *Xanatollu* Is engaging travel writing that demands a critical eye

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 15, 2026

Michael Kew's new book, *Xanatollu* – Surfing the Island Hopper, is ostensibly about surfing the islands served by the United Airlines Island Hopper route across the North Pacific. The route begins in Honolulu and travels westward through Majuro, Kwajalein, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and. In reality, the 196-page book is less about surfing than about travel, history, personalities, and the author's impressions of the islands and people he encounters along the way.

"Xanatollu" is an invented word combining "Xanadu" and "atoll," and Kew structures the book around each stop on the route. Surfing itself occupies surprisingly little of the narrative. Instead, Kew mixes observations about island life with history, politics, and social commentary.

The result is often compelling while also sometimes being a bit irritating.

Kew is an excellent writer with a strong narrative style. The book moves quickly and smoothly, and even a non-surfer like me found it difficult to put down. His descriptions of travel on the Island Hopper are particularly effective for those of us familiar with the route and the peculiar culture surrounding it. The recurring pre-landing announcements from United flight attendants before each stop become a kind of narrative device tying the journey together.

Most times, Kew is also a very good researcher. Much of the historical material centers on the military history of the islands, particularly World War II and later Cold War-era strategic importance. But he also explores some of the traditional histories and legendary origins associated with various islands and landmarks. Those sections often add depth to the travel narrative and help explain why these remote islands continue to hold fascination for outsiders.

The strongest parts of the book are often the simplest: descriptions of difficult travel, conversations with locals, fishing trips, missed surf opportunities, and the peculiar experience of moving across the North Pacific on the Island Hopper itself. Even when surfing fails to materialize, Kew generally succeeds in keeping the reader interested.

But the book occasionally suffers from a problem common to travel writing: impressions presented with an air of authority that the islands may not entirely deserve.

Years ago, Kew famously wrote lengthy surf magazine articles condemning the establishment of the Pohnpei Surf Club by Allois Malfitani, predicting it would damage both surfing and Pohnpei itself. I was particularly interested to read what he would say about PSC in *Xanatollu*. To his credit, Kew acknowledges he was happy to have been wrong. In reality, the surf camp has proven beneficial for tourism and for Pohnpei generally.

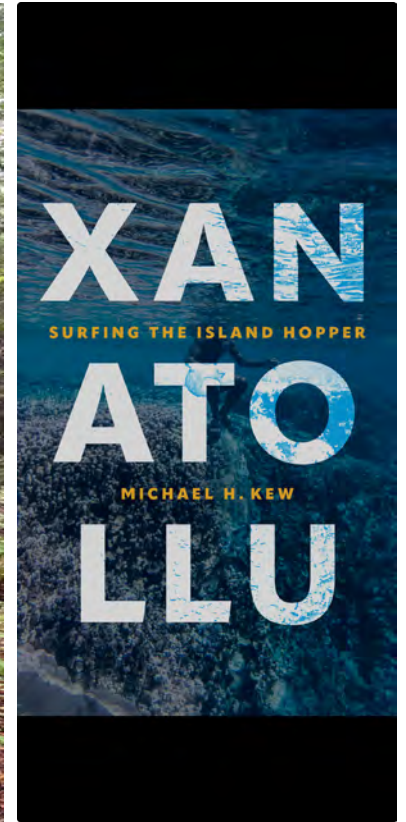
Kew clearly enjoyed his stay in Pohnpei, and some of the book's best writing comes from that section. I was also one of the people he interviewed while on island. Quotes attributed to me in the book, while not entirely inaccurate, were paraphrased despite being presented within quotation marks and lacked some context. That experience left me wondering how literally readers should take some of the book's other quoted material.

The book's political commentary also occasionally overreaches. Discussing FSM-China relations, Kew writes, "But wait. Isn't the FSM loudly pro-Taiwan independence/anti-China homogeneity?"

That statement is simply incorrect. Federated States of Micronesia has had diplomatic relations with the



*Michael H. Kew is an Oregon-based author, poet, and travel writer whose work has appeared in magazines, newspapers, films, and books. His latest work, *Xanatollu: Surfing the Island Hopper*, follows the United Airlines Island Hopper route across Micronesia.*



People's Republic of China since September 11, 1989, and has never maintained diplomatic relations with Taiwan, unlike some other Pacific Island nations including the two other COFA nations, RMI and Palau. FSM's Compact relationship with the United States has never precluded relations with China.

Still, the section that nearly derailed the book for me came later during Kew's visit to Chuuk. Much of the Chuuk discussion leans heavily into the territory's negative reputation, with relatively little balancing perspective from Chuukese voices themselves.

Kew writes that, "In Guam stats show that most of the crime there is committed by Chuukese immigrants."

I searched for substantiation of that claim to see if he had documentation I didn't know about. I could find none. Guam certainly has longstanding tensions and stereotypes involving Chuukese migrants, but presenting such a sweeping accusation as

statistical fact without evidence is irresponsible. It was the one moment in the book where I nearly stopped reading altogether.

Those moments frustrated me because they contrast sharply with the strengths of the book. *Xanatollu* is often engaging, insightful, funny, and vividly written. Kew has a strong eye for atmosphere and detail, and his affection for the North Pacific is apparent even when his opinions become provocative or overgeneralized.

Ultimately, readers should approach the book as a travel memoir built around one man's impressions rather than as a definitive work on Micronesia or the Island Hopper itself. Read critically, it is still a worthwhile and entertaining journey.

Michael Kew's *Xanatollu* – Surfing the Island Hopper is published by Spruce Coast Press and is available through Amazon in paperback and digital formats.

FAO and Samoa harness satellite technology to strengthen agricultural data and food security

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

May 8, 2026

Apia, Samoa – The Government of Samoa and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are integrating Earth Observation and geospatial technologies into national agricultural data systems to improve resilience and support evidence-based policymaking.

Samoa’s agricultural landscape is highly mixed and diverse, yet it has not previously been mapped or monitored at high spatial resolution. National agricultural data has historically relied on household surveys, which, while valuable, do not capture the spatial patterns of crop cultivation, the extent of national cropland, or the year-to-year changes required for modern agricultural planning.

To address these gaps, FAO is supporting the integration of field-based-crop-type and yield observations with high resolution satellite and drone imagery, combined with machine-learning algorithms. This enables Samoa to generate its first agricultural land-use and crop-type maps, produce crop yield estimates and track land-use changes over time. These innovations form part of FAO’s Earth Observation for Statistics (EOSTAT) initiative, which helps countries integrate satellite data into official statistics and enhance the monitoring of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

“Reliable, timely agricultural data is the foundation of resilient food systems. Through this partnership, Samoa is showing how Pacific nations can harness Earth Observation and geospatial technologies to make better-informed decisions for their farmers, communities and economies. FAO is proud to support this transformation and stands ready to scale these innovations across the region.”
- Mr Guangzhou Qu, FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands and FAO Representative for Samoa.

Building national capacity and skills for the future

In October 2025 and as part of the initiative, FAO trained 20 officers from the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) in digital field data collection, remote-sensing fundamentals, and the use of the QField mobile application. This training enables the national staff to independently collect the foundational data required for large-scale cropland mapping. For

many participants, it was their first hands-on engagement and experience with advanced geospatial tools.

Following the training, four field teams travelled across the islands of Upolu and Savai’i, collecting more than 4 500 GPS-tagged points and 300 crop-boundary polygons using mobile tablets and high-resolution satellite imagery. These data are essential for training machine-learning models that distinguish between crop and non-crop land cover and will underpin Samoa’s national crop maps.

In December 2025, FAO and Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) delivered a four-day technical workshop to deepen national expertise in agricultural mapping and monitoring. The training equipped national technical staff with practical skills in using Earth Observation data for land-use and crop mapping, yield estimation, and geospatial analysis.

Most recently, from 28 to 30 April 2026, six technical officers from SBS, MAF and FAO further strengthened their expertise through specialized training on the senseFly eBee X drone system, delivered by Falcon UAV. These activities form part of the Samoa Agricultural Data Project, which aims to enhance national capacity through the integration of Earth Observation and geospatial technologies into official statistics.

A foundation for stronger food-security planning

By combining high-resolution drone imagery with satellite data, Samoa will be able to produce detailed agricultural land-use and crop-type maps, improve the accuracy of surveys and yield forecasting, and strengthen resilience to climate variability and change. Crucially, this investment in technical capacity ensures that the tools can be sustainably managed by the Government of Samoa, supporting long-term agricultural planning and food security.

The resulting crop-cultivation data will feed directly into Samoa’s agricultural statistics and support national priorities under the Samoa Agriculture Sector Plan and the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS 2021–2026). It will also contribute to regional efforts under the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS).



“This collaboration marks a turning point for Samoa’s agricultural data systems. Through the integration of satellite imagery, drone technology, and field data, we are strengthening our ability to produce timely, reliable, and spatially detailed agricultural statistics. This will significantly enhance evidence-based policymaking and improve our understanding of agricultural performance across the country. These advancements will directly support better outcomes for our farmers and communities” - Mr. Leota Aliielua Salani, Government Statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

By the end of 2026, the project will deliver baseline agricultural maps and crop-yield estimates validated with field data, a georeferenced farm-registry database, and a national training package on Earth-Observation-based agricultural monitoring for SBS and MAF. The initiative reinforces the Government of Samoa’s commitment to sustainable and resilient food systems.

About FAO in the Pacific Islands: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the specialized UN agency that has been leading international efforts to defeat hunger and malnutrition for 80 years. Since 1996, Samoa has been hosting the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands in its capital, Apia. This office is responsible for developing, overseeing, and implementing programmes and projects to address food security, nutrition, agriculture, and rural development priorities in the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, as well as the territory of Tokelau, an Associate Member.

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Email: utm@unitalen.com



Vital FSMPC advises of fuel price adjustment to maintain continued supply

Vital FSMPC

May 7, 2026

FSM - Vital FSMPC confirms that fuel supply chains serving all Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) remain secure. Current national inventory levels are stable, and there is no immediate fuel shortage anticipated. Reliable fuel supply remains critical to electricity generation, transportation, healthcare, telecommunications, food distribution, and broader economic continuity across the FSM.

However, sustained increases in international refined fuel prices, freight costs, insurance premiums, and broader supply chain disruptions continue to place significant upward

pressure on fuel supply costs across the Pacific region, including the FSM.

Over the past two months, Vital FSMPC has absorbed a substantial portion of recent international fuel cost increases in support of national fuel stability and energy security. However, the sustained price increase means that maintaining current prices without adjustment would place increasing pressure on the Corporation's financial position and its ability to secure future fuel cargoes on commercially sustainable terms and maintain continuity of national supply.

Following review through the Corporation's governance and financial oversight processes, the

Board of Directors has approved the implementation of a fuel price adjustment effective May 11, 2026. The adjustment is intended to support the continued financial sustainability of national fuel supply operations and maintain reliable fuel availability across all FSM States. The adjustment will see wholesale price increases of around \$0.38/gallon for gasoline and up to \$0.87/gallon for diesel. This reflects a reduction in the temporary fuel price stabilization support move from full cost absorption of recent increases, to approximately 70% absorption.

"We recognize that fuel prices affect households, businesses, utilities, and transportation operators across the

FSM. This decision was not taken lightly. However, maintaining reliable national fuel supply remains essential to the country's economic stability, continuity of essential services, and long-term energy security," said Mr. Jared Morris, Chief Executive Officer of Vital FSMPC.

Vital FSMPC will continue to monitor international markets closely and adjust operational activities where possible to reduce cost pressures. The Corporation will also continue pursuing prudent procurement and inventory management practices while engaging with Government stakeholders to identify opportunities to further reduce the impact of future price increases.

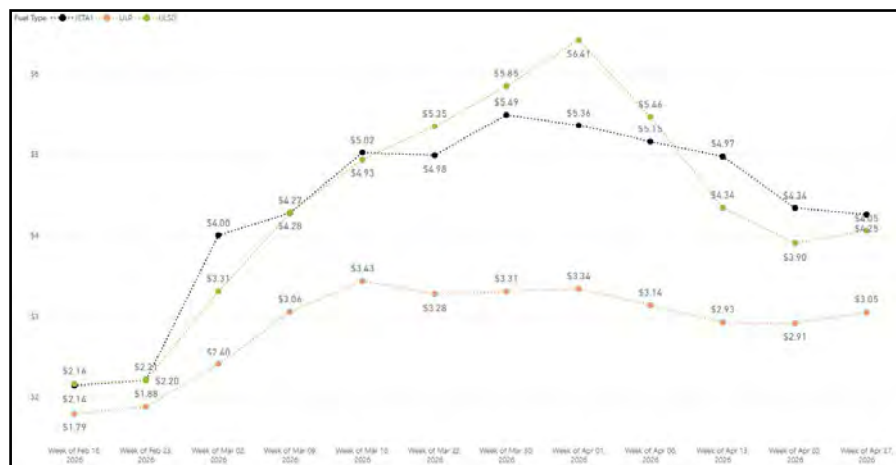


Figure 1 illustrating the variability and peak of Singapore international prices (\$/Gallons) between February 16th to April 27th, 2026, for ULSD, ULP and DPK with a sustained price of up to \$2.00/gallon compared against pre-Conflict.



Figure 2 demonstrating that against regional benchmarks as of 1st of May 2026, the FSM continues

Restored Non-Domiciled CDL access for FAS citizens in the United States

FSM Information Services

May 14, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei -- The Office of the President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) welcomes a significant development regarding access to non-domiciled Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) and Commercial Learner's Permits (CLPs) for FSM citizens residing in the United States.

In February 2026, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued a rule limiting access to non-domiciled CDLs to certain visa holders and noting that FAS citizen

eligibility would be addressed through an exemption process. This had an effect of restricting access to CDLs and CLPs by FSM citizens in the United States.

Restoring access has been a key priority of President Simina and his Administration. The President recently held bilateral meetings on the topic with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, as well as correspondence with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy.

Today, the FMCSA has issued a national exemption allowing FSM and other FAS citizens who are lawfully present

in the United States to obtain non-domiciled CDLs and CLPs without the need for a visa. This action establishes a pathway for FAS citizen access to non-domiciled CDLs in states that issue non-domiciled CDLs and comply with FMCSA regulations.

The FSM Government recognizes and appreciates the collaborative efforts that led to this outcome. The FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Interior, all played central roles in advancing this matter. Their sustained engagement, together with support from key members of the U.S. Congress, ensured that the rights

of FSM citizens under the Compact of Free Association were appropriately recognized and addressed.

The exemption, effective May 14, 2026, will remain in place through May 14, 2031, and allows eligible FSM citizens to obtain and renew non-domiciled CDLs, subject to annual renewal requirements. To obtain the non-domiciled CDL, applicants must present a valid, unexpired FSM passport and Form I 94 documentation.

Further information about this exemption will be published in a fact sheet by the FSM Embassy.

Vice President Palik receives delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco

FSM Information Services

May 5, 2026

Palikir, Pohnpei – On April 24, 2026 the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received a high-level delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco as part of ongoing efforts to advance bilateral cooperation under the roadmap agreement concluded in New York in September 2025. The visit reflects a shared commitment to deepen engagement and expand collaboration across key development sectors.

The delegation was led by Ms. Amal Zaidi, Head of the Bilateral Technical Cooperation Department (DCT-B) at the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI), accompanied by senior officials and technical experts. Discussions focused on priority areas of mutual interest, including fisheries, agriculture, renewable energy, vocational training, and investment, with an emphasis on knowledge sharing, capacity building, and technical cooperation.

Both sides underscored the importance of strengthening institutional capacity, promoting sustainable resource management, enhancing food and energy security, and advancing workforce development. Opportunities for collaboration in skills development, technical

training, and investment facilitation were also explored, alongside mechanisms to encourage private sector engagement and long-term economic partnerships.

The visit forms part of ongoing dialogue and engagement between the two countries. Follow-up technical consultations and exchanges are expected to further refine priority areas and identify concrete avenues for cooperation. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to advancing mutually beneficial partnerships through continued collaboration, including study visits, expert missions, and knowledge exchange initiatives.

Vice President Palik expressed appreciation for the visit and reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to strengthening relations with the Kingdom of Morocco in pursuit of shared development priorities and continued cooperation.



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GAO report says Compact Funds focused on health and education amid delays and population decline

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 6, 2026

Washington D.C. — A new report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) says the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and Palau continue to rely heavily on Compact of Free Association funding for health care, education, and infrastructure, but implementation and oversight efforts are facing delays and growing challenges.

The report, released in May 2026, examines the first years of implementation under the amended 2023 Compact agreements, which provide more than \$6 billion in U.S. assistance to the three Freely Associated States through 2043.

According to the report, FSM and RMI are experiencing significant population loss caused largely by migration to the United States and its territories. GAO said FSM's population fell by 26 percent between the 2010 and 2023 censuses, while RMI lost 20 percent of its population between 2011 and 2021.

Officials from both countries told GAO that the migration trend has worsened shortages of skilled workers, particularly in construction, education,

and health care. The report said many workers leave for higher-paying jobs and better access to health services overseas.

The GAO found that smaller populations are also making it more expensive for governments to provide public services. In outer island communities, some schools now have very few students, while governments still face the fixed costs of operating facilities and maintaining teachers and staff.

Palau's population has remained relatively stable, according to the report, although its economy suffered a sharp downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic because of its dependence on tourism.

The report said all three governments plan to devote most Compact sector funding to education and health programs. FSM proposed allocating more than \$52 million for education and nearly \$34 million for health in fiscal year 2025.

RMI proposed more than \$21 million for education and over \$7.5 million for health, while Palau planned to direct all of its annual grant assistance toward those two sectors.

GAO said infrastructure spending

under the amended compacts includes projects such as schools, hospitals, medical dispensaries, seawalls, docks, and airport upgrades. Among the projects highlighted were construction at the College of Micronesia-FSM, repairs and improvements in Ebeye, and school and hospital upgrades in Palau.

However, officials in the three countries told investigators that implementation has been slowed by delayed disbursement of Compact funds, labor shortages, rising construction costs, and procurement problems.

The report also raised concerns about oversight and accountability requirements under the amended compacts. GAO said many required reports from FSM, RMI, and Palau were submitted late or remain overdue, including annual single audit reports that are considered critical for U.S. oversight.

According to the report, all three countries' required single audits have been late since fiscal year 2019. Officials told GAO they are trying to improve financial accounting capacity and reporting systems.

GAO also said some U.S. oversight efforts have been delayed. Joint oversight committees for FSM and

RMI only met in August 2025 because of delayed U.S. appointments, and a required annual report from the Interagency Group on the Freely Associated States was submitted to Congress 10 months late.

The report noted that plans by the U.S. State Department to establish a dedicated office for Compact implementation and Freely Associated States relations have been paused because of a federal hiring freeze and operational constraints.

GAO described the Compact relationships as strategically important to the United States because they provide the U.S. military with exclusive defense access across a large portion of the Pacific.

The report also discussed increasing Chinese influence in the region. It noted that China provides development assistance and infrastructure support in FSM and maintains economic influence in Palau and RMI through tourism, private investment, and business activities.

The GAO report is the first in a planned series of congressional oversight reviews examining implementation of the amended Compact agreements.

FSM President calls for unity, restraint on Constitution Day

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 11, 2026

FSM - FSM President Wesley Simina used his Constitution Day message to urge Micronesians to protect national unity and resist political division as the country faces growing internal and external pressures.

In a speech reflecting on the origins of the Federated States of Micronesia, President Simina said the nation's founders chose federation "over separation" despite the vast distances, distinct cultures, and different languages that existed among the four states.

"Fragmentation would leave us

vulnerable," Simina said. "Unity would give us standing, stability, and a future worthy of our people."

The President described the Constitution as the product of leaders who understood that cooperation among Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae was essential to building a stable and sovereign nation. He said the achievement of forming the FSM deserved "deeper reflection" at a time when the country is experiencing political strain and increasing division in public discourse.

"Our institutions are being tested," he said. "Our national discourse drifts further away from goodwill. And the language of division grows louder when patience grows thin."

While acknowledging that disagreement is natural in a democracy, Simina warned against allowing political conflicts to weaken the nation's foundation. He said citizens must continue to see one another as members of the same national family rather than permanent adversaries.

The President said the Constitution entrusted citizens not only with rights and institutions, but also with stewardship of the nation itself. He called on leaders and citizens alike to exercise wisdom, restraint, and discipline in order to preserve stability and self-governance.

Simina also pointed to challenges

facing the FSM and the wider Pacific region, including geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and climate change. In that environment, he said, national cohesion was "not sentimental" but essential to the country's survival.

"Future generations will judge us not by headlines or how viral our political disputes, but by whether we preserved the unity and sovereignty entrusted to us," he said.

Concluding his message, President Simina called on Micronesians to remember the "extraordinary inheritance" created through dialogue, compromise, and cooperation among the islands.

Governor declares period of mourning for Nahnken of U, Joseph M. Edgar

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 6, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph

has issued an executive proclamation declaring a period of mourning in honor of the late Honorable Joseph M. Edgar, Nahnken of U, recognizing his lifetime of public service, traditional leadership, judicial service, and faith-based contributions to the people of Pohnpei.



titles, saying his position reflected his important place within the island’s customary system and his strong connection to the cultural heritage of the people of Pohnpei.

In Proclamation No. 26-06, signed May 5, 2026, Governor Joseph said it was “with deep sadness” that the state formally announced Edgar’s passing, describing him as “a devoted public servant, respected leader, and cherished son of Pohnpei.”

The proclamation also remembered Edgar as a devoted man of faith and a respected Wahu en Wahupoaron elder in the Protestant Nan U Church. Governor Joseph said Edgar exemplified “spiritual leadership, humility, and service to his congregation and community.”

The proclamation said Edgar served with distinction in the Pohnpei State Legislature, where he dedicated his “time, wisdom, and energy” to advancing the welfare, development, and unity of the state. It also recognized his service as Chief Justice of the U Municipal Court, where he was praised for upholding the rule of law “with integrity, fairness, and a deep commitment to justice for his community.”

According to the proclamation, Edgar demonstrated throughout his years of public service, traditional leadership, judicial duty, and faith-based service “unwavering commitment to the principles of good governance, justice, and the betterment of all citizens of Pohnpei.”

Governor Joseph further recognized Edgar’s role as Nahnken of U, one of Pohnpei’s traditional leadership

Governor Joseph said Edgar’s passing is “a profound loss not only to his family and loved ones, but also to the Government, traditional institutions, and the faith community whose lives he touched through his service and



example.”

The proclamation declares a period of mourning in Pohnpei and orders that the state flag be flown at half-staff at all government buildings and public grounds for three consecutive days, effective immediately.

Governor Joseph also called upon the citizens of Pohnpei to honor Edgar’s memory by upholding “the values he embodied” and reflecting on his lasting contributions to the state, its traditions, justice system, and faith community.

Nukuoro patient medivaced to Pohnpei main island

Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services

May 14, 2026

Pohnpei – The Department of Health and Social Services and the staff of Pohnpei State Hospital would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Bale Kurabui for his extraordinary commitment and compassion in responding to an urgent medevac request from Nukuoro Island.

Last week, Pohnpei State Hospital received an emergency medevac request from Nukuoro. Unfortunately, due to

the absence of ships in Pohnpei waters at the time, we were unable to respond immediately. Understanding the urgency of the situation, Dr. Bale Kurabui, who is currently working for FSM Department of Health Services under the supervision of the Director of Chuuk State Health Services, voluntarily boarded the ship and traveled to Nukuoro to assist the patient.

With the support and approval of Dr. Bosco and the leadership FSM Health Services, Dr. Bale successfully reached Nukuoro and safely escorted the patient all the way to Pohnpei State Hospital.

The patient has arrived safely and is now receiving the treatment and care needed.

This act of sacrifice, teamwork, and compassion truly reflects the spirit of healthcare service in Micronesia — where we work together beyond borders for the wellbeing of our people.

Kalahngan lap to National Government, Dr. Bale Kurabui, Dr. Bosco, the ship crew, and all parties involved for making this lifesaving mission possible. Your dedication and humanity



are deeply appreciated by the people of Pohnpei.

SPC and IOM sign MoU to strengthen cooperation on human mobility and development through scientific and technical assistance

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

May 18, 2026

Suva — The Pacific Community (SPC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 14 May to better coordinate how they support Pacific countries responding to climate-driven disasters, displacement and human mobility.

Pacific island states are managing overlapping challenges from extreme weather, coastal erosion and growing mobility. At least 50,000 Pacific Islanders are being displaced every year by disasters, and the impacts of climate change each year, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

The Director-General of SPC, Dr Paula Vivili and IOM's Chief of Mission and Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Pacific, Mr Solomon Kantha, signed the MoU, which links SPC's technical work with IOM's mandate on climate change-related mobility, to address jointly human mobility, risk knowledge, and joint capacity-building.

"Pacific leaders set out a clear direction in 2023 when they endorsed the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility. This signing gives us a practical basis to work with IOM on what that framework asks of us: rights-based, people-centred support for countries managing both the right to stay in place and the realities of displacement and migration," said DG Vivili.

He added, "Pacific countries would benefit from a more coordinated and

integrated support on issues like climate displacement. In practical terms, this should mean joint training, shared analysis, and programmes designed together rather than running in parallel."

Mr. Kantha said closer alignment between regional and global actors was increasingly important as Pacific countries faced overlapping pressures from climate-induced migration.

"Pacific mobility has always been adaptive, but climate change is changing both its scale and its urgency," said Mr. Kantha. "This MoU brings together migration and displacement into the same regional response, rather than running it as a separate track, while also creating opportunities to align efforts on migration statistics for development, including the use of data to better inform migration related policy, planning, and resource allocation."

Pacific governments continue to call for faster and more coordinated delivery from their partners. This MoU is one of several SPC has signed with UN agencies and regional partners in recent years, and similarly, IOM has signed a number of MoUs with Pacific regional organizations in recent years.

Pacific Leaders endorsed the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility in 2023, the world's first regional framework on climate change-driven movement, which calls for increased investment to match greater adaptation needs, and closer collaboration between governments and regional and international organisations on planned relocation, migration and displacement.



Australia strengthening regional justice through dialogue

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

May 6, 2026

Canberra - Delegates from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) participating in the Canberra Fellowships Program recently met with Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Australia's Attorney General, as part of the program's engagement activities in Canberra.

The meeting provided an opportunity for open dialogue on justice, legal systems, and regional cooperation, reflecting the importance of continued exchanges between Australia and FSM.

Among the FSM delegation was Hon Leonito Bacalando Jr, Attorney General of the Federated States of Micronesia, who highlighted the value of the engagement, noting:

"Opportunities such as this allow us to share experiences, strengthen our legal institutions, and deepen the long standing partnership between FSM and Australia."

Australia supports constructive people to people and institutional links through initiatives such as the Canberra Fellowships Program, which help strengthen regional partnerships and mutual understanding.



Australia strengthening energy partnerships in the FSM

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

May 14, 2026

Ambassador Grant held a productive dialogue with Vital Energy CEO Jared Morris to discuss energy security in FSM and the region.

"Strong partnerships in the Pacific are key to ensuring sustainable progress through the challenge of this fuel crisis," said Ambassador Grant.

Mr. Johnny Adolph, Chief Risk and Management Officer, and Mrs. Cherish Mendiola, Chief Financial Officer, also joined the conversation.

As long-standing partner of the FSM, including in outer island renewable energy, Australia values the opportunity to exchange perspectives on the energy sector.



Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of the Philippines strengthen fisheries partnership through signing of memorandum of cooperation

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

May 14, 2026

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea — On 11 May 2026, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), through the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), and the Republic of the Philippines, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), formalized a new partnership on fisheries cooperation with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) at APEC Haus in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The signing ceremony took place on the margins of the 1st Inaugural Melanesian Ocean Summit and was attended by senior government officials and representatives from both countries. The opening prayer was delivered by H.E. Junior Aini, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Republic of Fiji and Pacific Islands Countries.

The ceremony was led by Special Envoy Anthony M. Muller, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce and Chairman of the Board of MIMRA, and Hon. Francisco "Kiko" P. Tiu Laurel Jr., Secretary of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines.

The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation in key areas including sustainable fisheries management, aquaculture and mariculture development, trade and market access, capacity building, technical

cooperation, and combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Memorandum of Cooperation also represents an important step toward strengthening regional collaboration between two ocean nations that share a deep reliance on marine resources for economic development, food security, and the livelihoods of their people.

A key highlight of the partnership is the long-anticipated advancement of cooperation in seaweed farming and harvesting, an area both countries have been exploring since initial discussions began in 2018. The agreement is expected to help pave the way for technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and future opportunities in aquaculture development, particularly in seaweed cultivation, which holds strong potential for sustainable livelihoods, food security, economic diversification, private sector growth, and greater innovation within the fisheries sector of the Marshall Islands, while also enhancing technical expertise and strengthening sustainable ocean governance between both countries.

In his remarks, Minister Muller described the signing as, "an important milestone in strengthening the partnership between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of the Philippines through this Memorandum of Cooperation on fisheries." He noted



that the agreement reflects a shared vision for, "sustainable fisheries development, grounded in mutual respect and mutual benefit."

Minister Muller also acknowledged that the agreement was the result of nearly two years of engagement and collaboration between both sides and highlighted the importance of translating the partnership into practical outcomes for both countries. "Through this cooperation, we look forward to translating our shared priorities into tangible outcomes, strengthening our fisheries sectors while ensuring the sustainability of our ocean resources for future generations," he stated.

Secretary Laurel emphasized that the Memorandum demonstrates the two nations' "shared commitment to sustainable fisheries development, responsible ocean governance, and stronger economic and social ties." He further noted that the partnership builds

on discussions dating back to 2018 on seaweed farming and aquaculture cooperation.

"The Philippines values promoting mutually beneficial economic opportunities between our countries," Secretary Laurel said. "Through this cooperation, we aim to explore responsible access arrangements for fishing and joint commercial fishing ventures, consistent with the domestic laws, regulations, and international obligations of both parties."

Secretary Laurel also underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation on fisheries trade standards, traceability systems, and regional conservation efforts, noting that the MOC reflects "trust, shared aspirations, and our collective vision for a sustainable blue economy that benefits our peoples and supports regional stability and prosperity."

As ocean nations, both the Marshall Islands and the Philippines recognized the importance of regional cooperation and responsible stewardship of marine resources to ensure long-term sustainability, food security, and economic resilience.

The signing ceremony concluded with the formal exchange of the Memorandum of Cooperation, presentation of gifts, and a commemorative photo opportunity.

Together, supporting women's leadership and education for a stronger future

Embassy of Australia to the FSM

May 5, 2026

Melbourne - Australia was honored to welcome FSM Secretary for Education Gardenia Aisek to attend this year's Women Deliver Conference in Melbourne.

The conference brought together global leaders to advance gender equality, women's leadership, and inclusive development. Secretary Aisek's participation underscored FSM's strong commitment to empowering women and girls through education and policy

leadership.

"Today, then, is the moment to reaffirm our commitment to a world where gender equality is achieved. A world where women and girls live with security and prosperity," said Minister

Anne Aly.

Australia remains committed to partnering with FSM to support quality education, gender equality, and opportunities for women and youth across the region.



Australia and Fiji ratify Pacific Resilience Facility Treaty, triggering entry into force

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

May 6, 2026

Suva, Fiji — In a historic milestone for Pacific regional climate action and resilience, the Agreement to Establish the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF Treaty) officially entered into force today following the joint presentation of instruments of ratification by Australia and Fiji in Suva.

The instruments were deposited with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretary General, Baron Divavesi Waqa, by Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, alongside Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade.

"Today marks a defining milestone and decisive step forward in our region's collective journey in securing a resilient future for our Blue Pacific region," said Secretary General Waqa.

Amidst a global energy crisis, the Secretary General underlined Members' unique position to underscore the

importance of the PRF as a mechanism to invest in energy security, clean energy transition, and climate adaptation at community level.

The Secretary General acknowledged the contribution and support of partners, investors and the international community to the PRF, and emphasized that the region will "act with urgency, unity, and purpose to capitalize the PRF, and to protect the integrity of our Forum Leaders' vision for a secure and resilient future for our Blue Pacific region".

The PRF was first endorsed by Forum

Leaders in 2023 under the Declaration on its establishment during their meeting in the Cook Islands. In 2024, Leaders agreed to designate Tonga as the PRF host country, reinforcing regional ownership and solidarity. The PRF Treaty enters into force just eight months after it was signed by 15 Forum Leaders during their meeting in Solomon Islands in 2025, demonstrating strong political resolve.

The PRF marks a significant achievement for Pacific regionalism, uniting countries behind a practical and visionary mechanism grounded in the realities of Pacific communities.

Forum Members have underscored the need for continued urgency and collective effort to fully capitalize the Facility and ensure it delivers lasting resilience for future generations. Total pledges to capitalize the PRF have now reached US\$172 million of the initial capitalization target of US\$500 million by December 2026, with a longer-term goal of USD\$1.5 billion in capitalization for a 1.5° world.

The entering into force of the PRF Treaty is both significant and timely, particularly as Fiji and Tuvalu are preparing to host the COP31 pre-COP climate events later this year, and Australia leading as the President of Negotiations. It also triggers the convening of the inaugural PRF Council meeting, which is scheduled to be held immediately following the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in June 2026, to be hosted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

In addition to Australia and Fiji, Tonga, Nauru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, and New Zealand have also ratified the Treaty and are now PRF Members.



Governor Stevenson A. Joseph welcomes U.S. Department of Education delegation for Special Education monitoring visit

Pohnpei Public Information

May 4, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph officially opened a high-level monitoring workshop today, welcoming officials from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The visit marks a critical juncture in the state’s efforts to enhance educational services for children with diverse learning abilities.

In his welcoming remarks, Governor Joseph reaffirmed Pohnpei’s commitment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandate, which provides services for citizens from birth to age 21. Addressing a delegation led by Ms. Christine Pilgrim, Associate Division Director, and Mr. Charlie Kniseley, Education Specialist, the Governor characterized the onsite exercise as a partnership focused on systemic improvement rather than mere compliance.

“This onsite monitoring exercise is more than a requirement; it is a partnership,” Governor Joseph stated. “It is an opportunity to work hand-in-hand to strengthen services for our children.”

The Governor highlighted the significance of the annual federal award of \$4,663,286, noting that the increased funding serves as a vital resource for the state. He specifically pointed to the allocation of 20% of these funds toward early intervention for infants and toddlers as a key investment in the nation’s youngest citizens.

Despite progress—including the passage of the Pohnpei State Autism Public Law and increased community engagement—Governor Joseph provided a candid assessment of the state’s current landscape. With over 1,300 children identified

as having different learning abilities in the past year, Pohnpei’s infrastructure is facing mounting pressure.

“Pohnpei is a growing state. As our population increases, so does the demand for specialized care,” the Governor noted. “While we are committed to building our internal strength, we recognize that to truly meet the potential of every child, our special education services require further assistance.”

Governor Joseph urged the visiting team and technical assistance providers from the National Center for Systemic Improvement and the University of Guam to view Pohnpei through a “lens of potential.” He emphasized the need for enhanced technical support to ensure local capacity keeps pace with the state’s growing demographic needs.

The OSEP monitoring visit will continue throughout the week, involving engagement with stakeholders, parents, and partners in education to ensure the Federated States of Micronesia continues to deliver



Public cooperation requested concerning Dekehtik dump site Dunday closures

Pohnpei Public Information

May 13, 2026

Pohnpei -- The Government is asking the public for assistance with waste disposal at the Dekehtik dump site. The facility is strictly closed on Sundays, yet unauthorized dumping continues to occur during these off-hours.

Unauthorized Sunday dumping directly interferes with the government’s ongoing maintenance and operational work at the Dekehtik site. These efforts are critical for maintaining proper sanitation and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Sunday closures allow for essential maintenance so that the facility can effectively serve the public during the week.

Operating hours are clearly posted at the facility entrance. Please follow this schedule and keep all waste until the site officially opens during the week. Unauthorized dumping at the gates or surrounding areas during closed hours interferes with vital maintenance and is a violation of State Law.

The public is to be advised of the following:

Under 27 PC 2-102 (4) of the Pohnpei Code, a dump is any area where garbage or debris is deposited other than in legal receptacles or authorized disposal sites. If the site is closed on Sundays, the area outside the gates is not an authorized disposal site.

It is unlawful to throw, discard, or abandon waste materials upon any public road, street, easement, or land pursuant to 27 PC 2-106 of the Pohnpei Code. Abandoning waste at the facility entrance while it is closed constitutes illegal littering.

Fines for littering or unauthorized

dumping range from \$25 to \$500 for a first offense and increase to between \$50 and \$1,000 for repeat offenses.

Residents are encouraged to share this information within their local communities to help ensure compliance. Public cooperation is essential to maintaining a clean, safe, and effective waste management system for all of our people.

For further information or to review the official operating hours, please contact the Office of Transportation & Infrastructure or the Pohnpei Transportation Authority.

Governor Joseph welcomes re-launch of FBI collaboration to strengthen law enforcement and prosecution

Pohnpei Public Information

May 14, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Joseph met with representatives from the U.S. Embassy Kolonia and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to mark the re-launch of a critical program, Pacific Islands Law Enforcement Capacity Program (PILEC), designed to enhance law enforcement and prosecutorial capabilities within the state.

The program, which returns to Micronesia after a period of absence, was introduced with the support of U.S. Embassy Charge' d'affaires Vincent Mut-Tracy. Joining him were Assistant Legal Attaché Matthew Olson and Special Agent Christopher Hoffman, both based out of Australia. Special Agent Hoffman will be embedded locally through September to provide specialized training and expertise to the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General's Office.

Enhancing Case Quality and Legal Outcome

The initiative focuses on practical, foundational

improvements to the justice system. Governor Joseph looked forward to the partnership addressing critical gaps in case preparation, ensuring that police reports and evidence documentation meet the rigorous standards required for successful prosecution.

"Our goal is to ensure a seamless transition from investigation to the courtroom," stated Governor Joseph. "By improving the quality of our documentation and tracking, we can reduce case backlogs and strengthen the rule of law for our citizens."

Focus on Specialized Training and Financial Oversight

Special Agent Hoffman, who brings over two decades of law enforcement

experience, will assist local officers in developing expertise in complex areas, including:

- **Financial Crimes:** Building capacity for forensic audits and white-collar criminal investigations.
- **Case Management:** Streamlining the flow of information between investigators and prosecutors.
- **Leadership Development:** Identifying high-performing local officers for advanced training opportunities, including the FBI National Academy.

A Partnership for Long-Term Growth

The U.S. delegation emphasized that the FBI's role is to serve as a consulting

resource and partner to local authorities. This re-established presence is intended to build sustainable systems that allow local institutions to operate with increased efficiency and independence over time.

Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation to the U.S. Embassy and the FBI for their renewed commitment to the safety and security of Pohnpei, noting that this collaboration is a vital step in modernizing the state's investigative and legal infrastructure.

Also present during the meeting were Assistant Attorney General Tyson Elias, Prosecutor Vincent Kallop, Chief of Police Kehper Joel, and Chief of Detectives JD Hallens.



Governor honors late Chief Clerk Charles Johnson with mourning proclamation

By Bill Jaynes

The Kaselehlie Press

May 7, 2026

Pohnpei - Pohnpei Governor Stevenson A. Joseph has issued an executive proclamation declaring a three-day period of mourning in honor of the late Charles Johnson, Nahnmadau en Idehd Madolenihmw, recognizing his more than four decades of public service to the Pohnpei State Legislature.

Executive Proclamation No. 26-07 formally announced Johnson's passing and described him as "a distinguished public servant and a cornerstone of our legislative institution." The proclamation said Johnson dedicated over 40 years of service to the Pohnpei State Legislature after beginning his career in May 1983

as an Assistant Clerk before steadily rising through the ranks.

According to the proclamation, Johnson served as Chief Clerk of the Pohnpei State Legislature beginning in May 1999, a position he held for 27 years until his passing on May 3, 2026. Governor Joseph said Johnson's "profound institutional knowledge and unwavering integrity guided the legislative process" throughout his years of service.

The proclamation also recognized Johnson's traditional title of Nahnmadau en Idehd Madolenihmw and said he "embodied the harmony between our modern governance and our rich cultural heritage."

Governor Joseph extended condolences on behalf of the people of Pohnpei to Johnson's family, friends, and colleagues, saying he would be remembered for his commitment to the rule of law and his tireless service to the leadership and people of the state.

Under the proclamation, the flag of the State of Pohnpei will be flown at half-staff at all government buildings and public grounds for three consecutive days, effective immediately.

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Pohnpei State Government hosts Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission for strategic briefing

Pohnpei Public Information

April 28, 2026

Pohnpei — Governor Stevenson A. Joseph and his Cabinet recently received a comprehensive public awareness presentation from Rhea Moss-Christian, Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and her technical team.

The briefing focused on the WCPFC’s essential role in managing regional tuna fisheries, with a heavy emphasis on the necessity of data collection, consistent monitoring, and effective coordination with other international management bodies.

The Commission team detailed the status of the five primary tuna species under their management, noting that none are currently classified as

overfished and highlighting ongoing efforts to strengthen and rebuild these populations. During the session, the following areas were addressed:

- **Environmental Stewardship:** The Commission is actively managing the impacts of fishing on marine ecosystems, including initiatives to mitigate bycatch and address the consequences of various harvesting practices.
- **Climate and Economic Pressures:** The presentation covered the significant challenges posed by

climate change and the recurring fuel crises, both of which are currently shifting global fishing patterns.

- **Industry Standards:** Future priorities for the Commission include implementing labor standards and managing evolving environmental concerns within the industry.

Governor Joseph recognized the success of the Commission in ensuring that small island nations maintain a powerful voice in the management of global resources. He noted that the WCPFC's work is

vital for maintaining sustainable tuna stocks and protecting the economic interests of the region. The Governor also acknowledged the Commission's ability to balance commercial interests with the pressing need for marine conservation and climate adaptation.

The Pohnpei State Government continues to value its partnership with the WCPFC to ensure the long-term health and security of the region’s most valuable natural resource.



Strengthening correspondent banking relationships across the region

Pacific Islands Forum

18 May 2026

NADI, FIJI — Pacific Island countries, regional institutions and international partners will convene in Nadi, Fiji this week for the Pacific Risk Based Supervision Workshop as part of the Strengthening Correspondent Banking Relationships in the Pacific Project.

The three-day regional workshop held from 19-21 May will be co-hosted by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat, World Bank and the Reserve Bank of Fiji bringing together financial regulators, technical experts and development partners to strengthen and advance practical solutions that support Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBRs) across the Pacific and Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism.

Correspondent Banking Relationships are essential to the Pacific region’s economic connectivity, enabling international payments, trade, remittances, tourism transactions and access to the global financial system.

As Pacific economies remain heavily reliant on these services, strengthening and sustaining CBR access continues to be a critical regional priority.

The workshop forms part of ongoing efforts under the Pacific Regional CBR Roadmap to strengthen institutional capacity, improve risk-based supervision frameworks and enhance long-term financial resilience among Forum member countries.

Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Baron Divavesi Waqa, said the workshop reflects the region’s commitment to collective action in addressing shared economic and financial challenges.

“Correspondent banking relationships are essential to the economic stability and connectivity of Pacific Island countries. This workshop demonstrates the Pacific’s commitment to working together with regional and international partners to strengthen financial systems, build supervisory capacity and safeguard access to the global economy,” said Secretary General Waqa.

Discussions throughout the workshop will focus on practical technical assistance, supervisory tools, regional coordination mechanisms and strategies that support sustainable access to correspondent banking services.

The initiative aligns with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and reinforces regional priorities to strengthen economic resilience, financial inclusion and sustainable development outcomes across the Pacific.

PACIFIC RISK BASED SUPERVISION WORKSHOP
NADI, FIJI, MAY 19-21, 2026

Correspondent Banking Relationships are essential to the economic stability and connectivity of Pacific Island countries. This workshop demonstrates the Pacific's commitment to working together with regional and international partners to strengthen financial systems, build supervisory capacity and safeguard access to the global economy.

Baron Divavesi waqa
Secretary General,
Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

Ambassador WU Wei presents \$600,000 assistance for Sinlaku relief and recovery

Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the FSM

May 13, 2026

Pohnpei - On May 13, Ambassador Wu Wei, on behalf of the Chinese government, handed over USD 600,000 of emergency humanitarian cash assistance to the FSM government to support relief and recovery efforts after Typhoon Sinlaku in the Department of Foreign Affairs of the FSM.

T.H. Rose Nakanaga, Secretary of Finance and Administration of the FSM, T.H. Ricky Cantero, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the FSM, T.H. Cynthia Ehmes, Acting Secretary of FSM DECEM, H.E. Vincent Sivas, FSM Ambassador to China, attended the handover ceremony. Ambassador Wu Wei signed the Handover Certificate with T.H. Ricky Cantero and handed over the cash payment voucher to T.H. Rose Nakanaga.

Ambassador Wu once again conveyed the deep solicitude of the Chinese people to the people affected by Typhoon Sinlaku in the FSM.

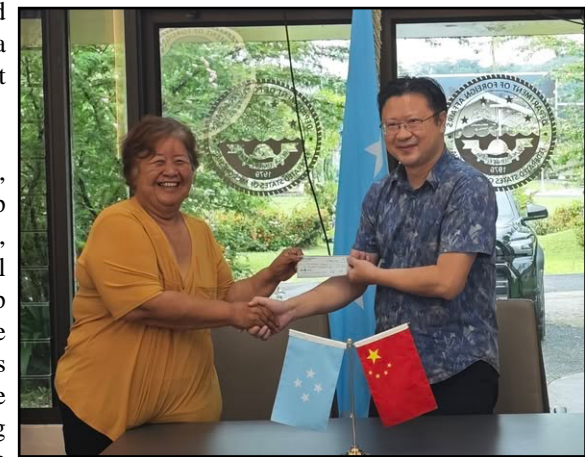
Wu said that China and Pacific Island countries are all developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region which have a time-honored history of exchanges, profound friendship and common development needs. As Chinese President Xi Jinping has emphasized, China will always be Pacific Island countries' good friend cherishing the same ideals and following the same path, good brother sharing weal and woe, and good partner forging ahead shoulder to shoulder. China's assistance to Pacific Island countries falls within the domain of South-South cooperation, and is open, genuine and selfless with no political strings attached. China does not seek any exclusive privileges, nor does China impose its will on Pacific

Island countries or pay lip service to its commitments. China fully respects the wishes and needs of Pacific Island countries.

Wu believed that under the strong leadership of President Simina and Vice President Palik, the people of the disaster-stricken areas in the FSM will surely overcome the difficulties and rebuild a better home at an early date. On FSM's journey toward sustainable development, China will always be the true friend that stands firm in times of adversity.

On behalf of the FSM government, Ambassador Sivas expressed deep gratitude to China's assistance, which stands as a powerful testimony of the friendship between the FSM and China. The FSM government reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the one-China policy, recognizing that there is but one China in

the world, that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. This principled position forms a solid political foundation of the FSM-China relationship and will continue to guide bilateral cooperation into the future.



Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James Guam named to Forbes' list of best-in-state wealth management teams

Raymond James Group Guam

May 14, 2026

Maite, Guam - Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James, located in Maite, Guam, was among the Raymond James-affiliated advisors named to the 2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams list. The ranking, developed by SHOOK Research and released online Jan. 7, 2026, recognized the team as the No. 1 wealth management team in U.S. Territories.

This marks the first time Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James has been considered for the prestigious national ranking, representing a significant milestone not only for the firm, but also for Guam and the greater Micronesia region. The recognition places a Guam-based team on a national platform, highlighting the island's growing presence and capability in the financial services industry and showcasing Guam's ability to compete and excel alongside firms across the United States.



Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James Guam - (From Left) Jaestine Ucol, Client Service Associate; Amanda Gima, Financial Advisor; Jason Miyashita, Managing Director, Senior Institutional Consultant; Daniel Roland, Managing Director, Senior Institutional Consultant; Michael Min, AMP Financial Advisor; Ty Placides, Registered Client Service Associate.

The 2026 Forbes ranking of America's Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams, developed by SHOOK Research, is based on an algorithm of qualitative criteria obtained through telephone and in-person due diligence interviews, as well as quantitative data. The ranking is based upon the period from March 31, 2024 to March 31, 2025 and was released on Jan. 7, 2026.

Advisor teams considered for the ranking were required to have at least five team members, one advisor with a minimum of seven years of experience, have existed as a team for at least one year, and be nominated by their firm. The algorithm weighs factors including revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience, and best practices in client service and operations.

Portfolio performance is not a criterion due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Out of approximately 12,787 team nominations, 6,149 advisor teams received the award based on thresholds. This ranking is not indicative of future performance, is not an endorsement, and may not be representative of any individual client's experience. Compensation was provided for use of the rating.

Asia Pacific Group's recognition reflects its continued commitment to delivering personalized, client-focused financial guidance while connecting clients in Guam and across Micronesia with global investment resources. Since establishing its presence on Guam, the team has worked closely with local families, business owners, retirees, and institutions to provide tailored financial strategies

rooted in long-term relationships and trust.

"This recognition is a meaningful achievement for our team and a reflection of the trust our clients place in us," said Jason Miyashita, CIMA®, CPWA®, CPFA®, CRPS®, ABFP®, AIFA®, Managing Director. "We are proud to represent Guam and Micronesia on a national stage and remain committed to providing financial guidance and long-term strategies tailored to the communities we serve."

The recognition of a Guam-based team at the national level reflects the continued evolution of the island's financial services sector and reinforces Guam's growing role as a regional hub for professional and financial expertise in the Pacific.

Neither Raymond James nor any of its financial advisors or RIA firms pay a fee in exchange for this award/rating. Raymond James is not affiliated with Forbes or SHOOK Research, LLC. More information regarding the ranking can be found at <https://www.forbes.com/lists/wealth-management-teams-best-in-state>.

U.S. Embassy hosts Freedom 250 Fun Run and Walk



By U.S. Mission Micronesia

May 12, 2026

Kolonia, Pohnpei — The U.S. Embassy hosted the Freedom 250 Fun Run and Walk on May 9 to celebrate America’s upcoming 250th Anniversary. Approximately 350 participants joined the 5-kilometer event, which started and ended at Palm Terrace, bringing together community members of all ages for this historic milestone.

The Bank of Guam, College of Micronesia, FSM National Olympic Committee, Palm Terrace, U.S. Navy Seabees, U.S. Veterans of Pohnpei Association, and Pohnpei States’ Departments of Public Safety and Health and Human Services worked together to make a safe and successful event for the community.

“On behalf of the U.S. Embassy, we are thrilled to see so many people show up,” said Ambassador Jennifer Johnson. “This Freedom 250 Fun Run and Walk not only celebrates America’s 250th Anniversary, but it is also a celebration of community, health, friendship, and the enduring partnership between our two nations. We truly appreciate the community’s enthusiasm and thank our partners, volunteers, and all who participated.”



The U.S. Embassy will host additional quinquennial events in the coming months, including monthly movie nights for all ages, FIFA World Cup live streams, and an Independence Day celebration.

United States provides R-11 Refueler to enhance Yap Airport Operations and Infrastructure

Embassy of the United States to the FSM

May 5, 2026

Yap - Ambassador Johnson and Governor Itimai, along with the Deputy Director of Public Works, Yap State Attorney General, Airport Manager, National Department of Finance, and Defense colleagues attended the handover of an R-11 Refueler, provided by the United States to Yap State.

The truck improves Yap International Airport’s refueling capabilities and boosts safety and efficiency. Along with the fuel truck, the United States was pleased to provide Yap with various equipment including floodlights, sustainment packs, cargo pallets, a weighing system, and various other chains and devices.



Ambassador visits Yap advancing close U.S. ties

Embassy of the United States to the FSM

May 5, 2026

Yap - Ambassador Johnson had a remarkable visit to Yap State from April 26–29, reaffirming the strong and enduring partnership between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia under the Compact of Free Association.

During her visit, the Ambassador engaged in productive meetings and held meaningful discussions with Governor Itimai and his Cabinet, Speaker Figirlaarwon and members

of the Yap State Legislature, and esteemed members of the Council of Pilung and the Council of Tamol. She was also warmly received by Senator Yatilman and Senator Choor.

Ambassador Johnson participated in joint U.S.-FSM

meetings on ongoing port and airport infrastructure projects, including the Environmental Impact Statement. She was grateful for the opportunity



members of the community. She joined the Governor, Speaker, and Director of Health for the opening ceremony of the Pacific Angels' medical visit.

Most of all, Ambassador Johnson enjoyed spending time with dear friends in Yap and continuing to strengthen the bonds that unite us. Thank you to the people and leadership of Yap for your warm hospitality and friendship over the past three years — we look forward to continuing this important work together.



Yap Resilience Hub project launches to support and strengthen coral reef resilience

The Nature Conservancy

May 6, 2026

Yap--The Nature Conservancy (TNC), in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), officially launched the Yap Resilience Hub project, marking a significant milestone in strengthening community and ecosystem resilience across the State of Yap.

Yap holds a deep and enduring cultural connection to the land and sea. The region's coral reefs are not only a source of sustenance, but also a foundation of its traditions and identity. However, climate change, rising seas and growing pressures on the region's marine resources pose significant threats to Yap's coral reefs and the communities that depend on them. These challenges demand a united and innovative response.

The Yap Resilience Hub is part of the Resilient Reefs Pasifika initiative,

funded by the GBRF. This three-year initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of Yap's coral reefs through locally led and collaborative action. Led by TNC Micronesia and Polynesia, the Yap Resilience Hub will combine scientific knowledge, traditional practices and community leadership to chart a course to a more sustainable, resilient and biodiverse future.

"The Yap Resilience Hub is not just a project – it is a promise to safeguard the coral reefs that are the lifblood of Yap," said Dr. Yimnang Golbuu, TNC's conservation director in Micronesia and Polynesia. "Protecting our reefs is not only a conservation endeavor, but a moral responsibility to our communities and to generations yet to come. We know the challenges before us. Yet, we also know the enduring strength of the people of Yap, their traditions



and the power of partnership. The Yap Resilience Hub demonstrates how innovation and heritage can walk hand in hand to protect what we cherish most."

The launch event, held at the Yap Small Business Development Center Conference Room, brought together government leaders, community representatives, technical experts and

partners. The program included opening remarks from Yap State leadership and partner organizations, an overview of the project's goals and timeline and technical presentations on reef selection and community engagement processes.

The Yap Resilience Hub emphasizes community ownership and culturally appropriate approaches, ensuring that local knowledge and priorities guide project design and implementation. Capacity

building for communities and delivery partners will be central to achieving long-term, sustainable outcomes.

Following the launch, the project will move into its next phase, including steering committee engagement, reef selection activities and continued stakeholder consultations. The Yap Resilience Hub is expected to support resilience efforts in Yap through 2028.

New partnership between the World Bank Group and Pacific Island Countries prioritizes jobs and resilience

World Bank Group

May 5, 2026

Suva — A new six-year partnership between the World Bank Group and nine Pacific Island countries will support country-led priorities to create more and better jobs, strengthen public services, and build resilience to climate and economic shocks. The partnership comes as global volatility, including disruptions affecting energy markets, continues to place pressure on small island economies.

The World Bank Group today released a new Regional Partnership Framework (RPF) for nine Pacific Island countries — Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Developed in close partnership with governments across the region, the framework will guide World Bank Group support from FY2026 to FY2031, aligned with national priorities for jobs, resilience, and economic growth.

“This partnership is about delivering real impacts for people across the Pacific,” said Stephen N. Ndegwa, World Bank Director for the North and South Pacific. “By focusing on jobs, skills, and resilience, and by using regional solutions where they add scale, we are supporting practical reforms and investments that help communities thrive, enable businesses to grow, and strengthen the foundations for long-term growth.”

Across the region, small and remote economies, including several with fast-

growing young populations, and high exposure to climate risks make job creation both urgent and challenging. Turning growth into employment, particularly for young people and women, is central to sustaining long-term prosperity and stability.

The new partnership focuses on strengthening economic and fiscal management, improving physical and digital connectivity, investing in health and education, and building resilience to future shocks including external shocks, climate change, and disasters. These are critical foundations for sustained, private sector led job creation.

Investments in transport, energy, and digital infrastructure will support employment while connecting people and

businesses to markets. Stronger health and education systems will help build the skills needed for productive work at home and abroad, while sound macroeconomic management will help countries manage shocks and create a more stable environment for investment and jobs.

The framework supports this approach through regional platforms and shared solutions that help overcome the constraints of distance and small scale. This reflects the World Bank Group’s Small States Strategy, which tailors support to the unique challenges of small and remote economies. It also includes crisis preparedness and response tools designed to help countries respond quickly to shocks while protecting development gains.

Water, jobs, and youth at center of new World Bank Pacific report

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 17, 2026

Pacific — A new World Bank report warns that the Federated States of Micronesia and other Pacific Island countries face slowing growth, rising global uncertainty, and a widening jobs gap unless governments move quickly to create more opportunities for young people and strengthen basic infrastructure such as water, energy, and transportation systems.

The 110-page “Pacific Economic Update: Pacific Jobs Pathway – Special Focus: Water as an Essential Foundation for Jobs,” released in May 2026, examines economic conditions across 11 Pacific Island countries, including FSM, and argues that the region’s future depends on turning its growing youth population into a productive workforce.

For FSM, the report projects economic growth of 1.4 percent in 2025, slowing further to 0.9 percent in 2026 before a modest recovery to 1.2 percent in 2027. The World Bank said FSM’s economy continues to rely heavily on Compact funding, donor support, and public-sector spending, while implementation delays continue to slow infrastructure and development projects.

The report said the FSM and other “sovereign rent-led economies” in the Pacific remain heavily dependent on external funding sources such as fishing revenues, trust funds, and Compact assistance. While those inflows provide stability, they have not generated enough

private-sector activity or employment opportunities for younger generations entering the workforce.

The World Bank warned that the current Pacific economic model — driven largely by public spending, aid inflows, tourism rebounds, and remittances — is no longer enough to meet the region’s growing demand for jobs. According to the report, only around half of working-age adults in Pacific Island countries are employed, while nearly 20 percent of youth are not in education, employment, or training.

The report said the Pacific’s relatively young population could become one of the region’s greatest advantages at a time when much of East Asia and the Pacific is aging rapidly. However, the Bank cautioned that this “youth wave of opportunity” could become a source of instability if governments fail to create pathways into productive employment.

Across the broader Pacific region, economic growth slowed sharply from 6.5 percent in 2023 to 3.2 percent in 2024-25, with the World Bank blaming global instability, weaker tourism growth, higher freight costs, and continued exposure to external shocks. The report pointed specifically to the conflict in the Middle East, which has pushed up fuel prices, shipping costs, and insurance rates, increasing pressure on Pacific economies that depend heavily on imports.

The World Bank said Pacific countries are especially vulnerable because fuel imports account for roughly 15 to 25

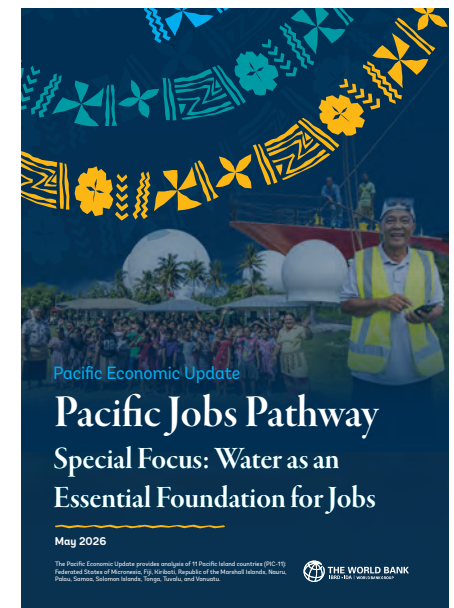
percent of merchandise imports across the region. Rising transportation and logistics costs are expected to place additional strain on governments already facing limited fiscal space and growing demands for public services.

Inflation in FSM is forecast at 3.5 percent in 2025 and 3.7 percent in 2026. The report noted that FSM and the Marshall Islands continue to face persistent vulnerability because of their heavy reliance on imported food and fuel and limited ability to shield consumers from global price increases.

One of the report’s central recommendations is a shift toward a “jobs-first” development strategy focused on three main areas: stronger infrastructure and public services, better conditions for private-sector investment, and expanded access to finance.

The World Bank argued that Pacific governments need to invest in reliable water systems, energy, transportation, digital connectivity, education, and job training in order to support private-sector growth and create employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth.

Water infrastructure received special attention throughout the report. The World Bank described water and sanitation systems as “macro-critical enablers” of economic development, saying unreliable water services weaken tourism, fisheries, construction, public health, and other sectors that are expected to generate future jobs.



According to the report, Pacific water utilities lose an average of about 42 percent of treated water through leakage and system inefficiencies, while some atoll communities receive water service only a few hours every second day. The report said these weaknesses increase costs, reduce productivity, and discourage private investment.

The World Bank said the Pacific’s long-term resilience will depend not only on weathering external shocks, but also on creating stronger domestic economies capable of providing stable employment and rising incomes.

“Resilience today requires not only managing shocks, but also enabling young people to participate productively and build income over time,” the report said.

Yap State launches Water Security and Resilience Project with support from the Pacific Community (SPC)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

May 11, 2026

The Government of Yap State, in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), has launched the Yap State Water Security and Resilience Project, marking a key step toward strengthening climate resilience and sustainable water management.

At the launch, the Director of the SPC Micronesia Regional Office, William Kostka, commended Governor Francis Itimai and stakeholders for their leadership and commitment to improving water security.

The project is funded through a USD

671,211 grant secured by Yap State under the FSM Enhancing Direct Access (EDA) Programme, supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) - highlighting Yap's growing capacity to access climate finance. The Project will be implemented until January 2028.

"This milestone demonstrates Yap State's commitment to long-term resilience and sustainable water management," Director Kostka said, acknowledging the Office of Planning and Budget's leadership in securing the funding.

Aligned with the Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2022–2031, the project will strengthen access to safe, reliable water while addressing climate-related

challenges, such as drought and changing weather patterns. Activities will include groundwater assessments, capacity building, and development of a Water Security and Resilience Plan for Yap State.

Director Kostka further elaborated that "aside from benefitting Yap State, the development of this plan has the potential to contribute to the compilation of a national water security strategy."

SPC will continue to provide technical support throughout the implementation.

While the launch marks important progress, it also signals the start of ongoing collaboration to protect water



resources and build resilience for communities across Yap.

The Enhancing Direct Access Programme is executed by the SPC Micronesia Regional Office in partnership with national government of Federated States of Micronesia.

Forum leaders invoke Biketawa Declaration

May 8, 2026

Suva, Fiji —Pacific Islands Forum Leaders have invoked the Biketawa Declaration to support a coordinated regional response to the emerging energy crisis affecting the Pacific region.

Reaffirming Leaders commitment to act decisively and collectively in anticipation of worsening global conditions as the crisis in the Middle-East continues to disrupt fuel supply chains, Leaders have recognized the value in early-positioning and preparing the region to respond in a coordinated and effective manner to the emerging energy crisis. A coordinated

member-led regional response mechanism will strengthen regional coordination, support timely decision-making, and help safeguard economic stability and essential services across the Pacific.

As part of this coordinated regional response, Heads of Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) have established a dedicated CROP Taskforce on the Middle-East Crisis to support ongoing monitoring, align technical advice across sectors, and provide timely, consolidated analysis to inform decision-making.

In invoking the Biketawa Declaration, a special session of the Forum Officials Committee will be convened this month, to be followed by a Special Session of Forum Foreign Ministers, to consider the structure, governance arrangements and technical support required to operationalize the regional response mechanism.

The invocation of the Biketawa Declaration underscores the Pacific's commitment to acting early, collectively, and decisively to address shared challenges. It reinforces regional solidarity and positions the Forum to

respond effectively to evolving risks, while protecting vulnerable economies and communities across the Blue Pacific.

Since its establishment, the Biketawa Declaration has been triggered to support coordinated regional responses to major regional challenges, including RAMSI and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a time of heightened global tensions, the Pacific Islands Forum remains committed to upholding peace, stability, and collective resilience in our Blue Pacific region.

Municipal and State Governments in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) reach milestone in accessing climate finance

FSM Department of Finance and Administration

May 11, 2026

FSM — Locally-led climate actions, as underpinned by ensuring that Municipal and State governments have direct access to climate finance remains a priority for the Government of the FSM.

Through a partnership between the Government of the FSM, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Pacific Community (SPC), the Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Local Authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia Program, has established a dedicated grants facility specifically for Municipal and State Governments

to directly access funding to implement their climate change priorities. A total of twenty applications has been received across the four States.

The Program Board, Chaired by the Honorable, Rose N. Nakanaga, Secretary for the Department of Finance and Administration and the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the GCF, recently approved the first three of the climate adaptation grants worth USD 1,624,552. The grants will support long term water security and resilience initiatives in Yap State, Lelu Municipality in Kosrae State and coastal protection measures in Sokehs Municipality, Pohnpei State.

This marks a milestone achievement

for the FSM because the local authorities i.e. the Municipal and State Governments, were able, for the first time, to demonstrate strong ownership in leading the development of their proposals to successfully access climate funds. Importantly, a key component of this Program ensures continuity in building their capacity building throughout the proposal development phase through to implementation.

The Program itself is the first for the Pacific and aligns with the sustainable development principles for safe and resilient communities outlined in the FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024 -2043 as well as the FSM-GCF Country Program.

The FSM sincerely thanks the GCF for its funding commitment and the SPC for its continued technical and implementation support.

