

The  
**KASELEHLIE PRESS**

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# Peter Foster paroled in Australia after serving 16 months of a 54 month sentence

By Bill Jaynes  
 The Kaselehlie Press

**Queensland, Australia** – In December of 2007, Peter Foster, often described in the media as an “international man of mischief” pled guilty to charges that he imported to Australia, the proceeds of a crime committed in the Federated States of Micronesia. He was sentenced to four and one half years for that crime. He was granted a parole date of May 4, 2009 but since that day was a public holiday in the Gold Coast of Australia he was released from prison in the very early morning hours of Friday, May 1.

Foster took a loan from the Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia in order to develop a resort in Fiji, a resort that not only didn't exist but was likely never intended to be developed in the first place. According to reports Foster used some of the money borrowed from the Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia to pay personal credit card bills and to make payments on a Gold Coast home.

Bank of FSM Chief Executive Officer, Robert DeCourteney said that the original loan amount was in excess of \$320,000. The Bank of the FSM has successfully recovered in excess of \$100,000 to date. Foster's mother offered to voluntarily repay the money under the condition that the bank not press criminal charges against her son. The bank declined her condition and she withdrew the offer.

DeCourteney said that the net debt written off remains at \$209,000.

In earlier articles on the subject The Kaselehlie Press reported that Foster stood to face other charges upon release from prison in Australia including charges for fraud in the FSM. In order for Foster to face charges in the FSM he would need to be extradited from Australia to the FSM. According to an email sent by Jes-



sica Freeman, Legal Officer of the Mutual Assistance and Extradition Branch of the Australian Government Attorney General's Department there is no bilateral agreement between the FSM and Australia for

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# Marehalau convicted of theft and over-obligation of Government funds

By Bill Jaynes  
 The Kaselehlie Press

May 1, 2009, Palikir, Pohnpei—Former FSM Ambassador to the United States Jesse Marehalau was found guilty of two of eight charges filed against him by the Federated States of Micronesia for crimes committed while he served in Washington D.C.

For the crime of theft, Marehalau was sentenced to 36 months in prison, 18 months of which was suspended by the court. He must also pay restitution in the amount of \$3000 for that offence.

For the crime of over-obligation of government funds he was sentenced to 48 months in prison. He will actually have to serve 36 of those months.

He will be incarcerated at the Yap State jail under the Joint Law Enforcement agreement between the FSM and Yap State. The two prison terms will run concurrently.

From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Marehalau will be allowed to attend to community service matters relating to the ordination of two gentlemen that will take place in June of 2009. He will also be allowed to continue his assistance to the Council of Tamol. He must travel to and from the jail by the most direct route with no other stops.

He also will be allowed to attend church and to attend to church matters every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Once again he must travel to and from the jail by the most direct route with no other stops.

The court allowed that Marehalau, should he be offered a paying job in the future may also submit a request to the court for further release.

He will be allowed to seek local medical attention under the continued custody of Yap State or FSM public safety officers at any time the need arises while he is in jail.

See "Convicted" on page 3

# Speaker Figir calls an unprecedented last minute special session of Congress

By Bill Jaynes  
 The Kaselehlie Press

**May 8, 2009, Palikir, Pohnpei** - Speaker of the 15th Congress Isaac V. Figir called an unprecedented last minute special session of the 15th Congress. It was the eighth special session of the 15th Congress. The 16th Congress is scheduled to be sworn in on Monday, May 11. The special session was held on the Friday before, May 8, and was scheduled for only one day.

Though the agenda was not spelled out it was clear that no new bills could be considered by the 15th Congress in its unprecedented last day special session. By law, Congress needs at least two days to consider new bills.

Potentially Congress could have voted in its special session on Presidential nominations requiring Congressional advice or consent but committee work was not complete on the two nominations the President made near the end of the seventh special session. President Mori asked the Committee to Wait on the

President, chaired by Kosrae's Senator Claude Phillip, to consider the possibility of putting off a vote on those nominations so that he could submit them to the 16th Congress for their consideration. Congress, though it did not have to do so, as was made clear by the objections of outgoing Senator Moses Nelson, honored that request. President Mori will need to resubmit those nominations to the incoming Congress if he still wants the nominees to pass Congressional scrutiny.

In a one day session Congress could only consider resolutions that had already been through committee or they could override Presidential vetoes and that is what they did.

According to the Committee report of the Committee to Wait on the President President Mori said that he was unclear about the purpose for the special session but wished Congress well as they made their considerations during the session.

During a phone interview with The Kaselehlie Press on the previous day



President Mori said that same thing. It seemed to be a diplomatic way of expressing himself. He also agreed that Congress was likely meeting in order to overriding some, if not all of his vetoes.

He said of the situation, "I was hoping

See "Special Session" on page 2

# ...Special Session

*continued from page 1*

that we would have some discussion about my reasons (for the vetoes) but it seems like it's not happening."

President Mori vetoed four bills that were sent to him from Congress during the 7th special session. Three of the vetoes were "re-passed" by Congress in the 8th special session; "niced up" verbage which had the same effect as an override of a Presidential veto.

Congressional Act 15-84 designated Polowak Harbor, Oroluk, Hauk, and Onoun atolls as official ports of entry into the FSM.

President Mori said that he vetoed the bill because of the practicality of it. He said that he has been trying to bring down the cost of running the National government and that he felt that the bill ran counter to that purpose. He said that the numbers of tourists don't yet justify the bill.

He is required by law to enforce the laws of the FSM. In his opinion he would need enforcement officers in the new ports of entry in order to enforce the bill. Opening new ports of entry without officers to enforce FSM law, he said, could open the FSM to a number of problems.

Congress overrode that veto.

Senator Moses Nelson, Senator from the Northwest Chuuk islands said during discussion that at one time there was some flexibility regarding the port of entry designations. He said that during his tenure he discovered that five of Chuuk's northwest islands were in need of food and that there was a ship traveling from Guam to Pohnpei. He asked then if it would be possible to load food on the ship to be dropped in the northwest as the ship passed. He said that Attorney General Maketo Robert issued a legal opinion that said that it was not possible

for the ship to make the drop because the islands were not designated points of entry. The food was not delivered.

Nelson said that previously, under other administrations, ports of entry could be opened temporarily for a few days, especially in situations like the one he described.

Congress overrode the presidential veto on the matter and the four Northwest Chuuk islands are now by law official ports of entry into the FSM

President Mori also vetoed CA 15-87, the Congressional Act that appropriated nearly \$1.3 million to cover the expenses of the Presidential emergency declaration that occurred after FSM atoll islands were flooded in tidal surges in December 2008.

President Mori vetoed the bill on the basis of Constitutionality regarding the disposition of the \$150,000 received from foreign governments as aid and designated specifically for that purpose. He said that money that is not earmarked for special purposes is not subject to division amongst the states and is to be deposited into a Foreign Assistance Fund not subject to Congressional Appropriation. He gave as an example the money donated by the Japanese Government for the ongoing expansion of Pohnpei International Airport. Congress did not appropriate that money and it was not divided amongst the states.

When asked if he could have line-item vetoed the \$150,000 from the Foreign Assistance Funds account President Mori said that the amount was included as part of the title of the bill. As a result he couldn't veto just that amount. He had to veto the entire bill.

Congress overrode his veto.

Congress also overrode the President's veto on CA 15-88. CA 15-88 reduced the minimum premium contribution for health insurance of participating agencies or participating businesses from

52% to 50% of the premium payment for their eligible employees.

Congress did not override the President's veto of CA-15-89 that would have established a law on public official financial disclosures and on political campaign financing and financial reporting.

The President, in vetoing the Act said that this type of legislation is long overdue but that the law has flaws which might be deemed to be in conflict with the FSM Constitution.

President Mori said that much has been made of the conflict between the Legislative and Executive branches of government. "We have equal power," he said. "There are going to be conflicts but we are all doing our jobs. I just hope that when we do our jobs people win. I don't care if I 'win' or 'lose' but the people should never lose...If Congress passes good laws I will sign them."

He added that he is committed to working with the 16th Congress for the good of the people.

President Mori cited issues of Constitutionality for each of the bills that he vetoed. Those issues can only be resolved by the third branch of government, the Judicial Branch. Though President Mori seems to prefer to negotiate directly with Congress in order to avoid Constitutional conflicts, he may find it necessary to request a judicial opinion on the laws that were re-passed by Congress during the 8th special session.

Additional business during the 8th special session of the 15th Congress included a resolution submitted by the Justice and Governmental Operations Committee (J&GO) chaired by Senator Peter Sitan that would amend the rules of Congress to divide the Health, Education, and Social Affairs Committee into two standing committees.

Congress currently has six standing committees: Ways and Means; External Affairs; Resources and Development; Justice and Governmental Operations;

Health, Education, and Social Affairs; and Transportation and Communications.

Conversation regarding the J&GO resolution centered on two points as arguments against the bill.

Yap and Kosrae have two senators each. Each Senator from those two states must serve on three committees under the previous structure. Adding another committee would increase the work load especially for the two states with the smallest population.

The other argument regarded the expense of the measure.

Though Speaker Figir did not come to the session with a break down of costs for each committee he pointed out that a new committee would mean a whole new set of expenses including staff support, travel funds, and representation funds among other expenses

Chairman Sitan argued positively that dividing the HESA committee into two separate committees might help the two departments to more clearly focus on their work and would also aid in establishing a sense of legitimacy to each of their separate functions.

It is entirely possible that Senator Nelson was kidding when he suggested that the resolution would be in line with Speaker Figir's bill that would create four seats in Congress specifically for women. His argument was that women would probably be best suited for the work of the proposed new committee.

When it came time for the vote on the issue Speaker Figir was unsure about the results of a voice vote. He asked for a show of hands. 13 Senators were in the chamber that day and the resolution passed by a scant simple majority of seven to six. There are now seven Congressional standing committees.

The sixteenth Congress will be sworn in during the opening session on May 11 which begins at 10:00 in the morning.

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**Bill Jaynes**  
*Managing Editor*

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## FSM Executive Branch Responds to Congress Resolution on Social Security Issues

*FSM Information Services*

April 30, 2009—During the last session of the 15th FSM Congress in March of 2009, Congressional Resolution No. 15-206 was passed which tasked the Executive Branch to engage in a study of the Social Security law, system, and options for improving the system. This Resolution was made in response to the new Social Security amendments that Congress passed in the January 2009 session that has created a lot of discussion and talk among the states and businesses in the private sector. Many people are opposed to the amendments. In fact, President Manny Mori allowed the bill to become law without his signature.

In response to this Resolution, the Social Security Administrator, Mr. Alex Naruhn, has started working on an Evaluation Report of the Social Security System that will include data through 2008.

This report will show all the statistics on employment contributions and emphasize the Actuarial Valuation, which will determine the actual unfunded accrued liability up to December 2008 with consideration of the new law. They are also currently working on a 10 Year Liability Study Test to look at the next ten years of liability that the Social Security Administration predicts they will have. Together, these two reports will give a clearer picture of where the Social Security System is today and where it will be in ten years using the current law and tax rates. This information will be presented to Congress as soon as the reports are completed.

Reviewing Public Law No. 15-73 on Social Security will be a priority area of discussion at the next State-National Leadership Conference (SNLC), set for May 12th-15th, 2009, so the viewpoints of the state governors and legislators can

be shared in one forum and direction can be set on what amendments may need to be made to the law as it stands. In the meantime, President Mori is advocating for a cash infusion to the Social Security System be made by the FSM Government to handle the short term crisis that it faces, which will also, in effect, supplement the 2% increase in employee/employer contribution that the new law requires until the private sector is ready to handle this increase when the economy recovers from the recession that it is currently in.

The Resolution also asks the Executive Branch to look at other Social Security Programs in the Pacific region. The plan is to compare our system and the problems it is facing with other similar defined benefit systems in RMI and Palau. The President has tasked the FSMSSA to look into these differences and report on them during the SNLC in May.

## ...Convicted

*Continued from front page*

Enrico Calderon was also named in the criminal action but officials were unable to locate him. Calderon officially served as the driver for the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C. though he also handled other duties at the embassy. Calderon was convicted of United States charges related to the sale of FSM Passports. He served time in a federal prison for those crimes and was due to be deported to his home in the Philippines upon his release.

The FSM Department of Justice was not able to prove that Marehalau was complicit in the sale of the FSM passports and was found innocent of that charge.

He is to surrender himself to the Yap State jail before noon on May 5, 2009.

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# Coconut palms - the timber of the future

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

We see them along our beachfronts and in many streets and gardens, but the iconic palm tree may soon have a new place in the Queensland lifestyle as a high-quality building product.

Research conducted by Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF) has found that cocowood, produced from coconut palm tree trunks, is suitable for use as high-value flooring, bench tops, kitchen cabinets and furniture.

QPIF senior technician Gary Hopewell said the latest findings from the three-year \$520,000 cocowood project showed that processed coconut palm wood was actually superior to many other commercially available timbers. "A number of Australian flooring product manufacturers are evaluating the material for their domestic manufacturing operations," he said. "Timber industry representatives from Australia, Fiji and Samoa, including flooring market and production specialists and potential suppliers and processors, are studying drying and processing technologies to ensure strict quality control of the product.

"Even medium-density palm logs can be processed to make attractive veneers and plywood.

"The positive results achieved to date support development of palm stem processing

in Pacific island countries of origin, with value-added flooring and other products produced in Australia."

Many Pacific island nations including Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu have large but ageing coconut palm plantations, where there is declining coconut and copra crop production.

Mr Hopewell said the project was looking at opportunities to use these plantations to generate new timber industries, and create new Australian export and consumer markets, while providing a new source of income for Pacific island peoples from a locally available resource.

"With strong demand for flooring products in Asia, America and Europe, cocowood products could be very lucrative for Queensland and our Pacific neighbours," he said.

"By developing a cocowood industry to provide a range of timber products, we could help reduce the demand for timber from old-growth forests in Pacific island nations."

This year the project enters a new stage with the further refinement of cocowood processing for commercialisation and entry to domestic and international markets.



The cocowood project is co-funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural research (ACIAR). QPIF is a partner agency with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Fiji Coconut Industry Development Authority, (CIDA), Fiji Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Samoan Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment and Strickland Brothers, Samoa.

## Assessing potential oil spills from WWII wrecks in FSM

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Oil, chemicals and unexploded ordnance from an estimated 800 World War II wrecks throughout the exclusive economic zones of Pacific Island countries and territories pose imminent danger to people, environment and fisheries of the region.

Of this total, more than 50 World War II shipwrecks can be found in Chuuk lagoon alone. Chuuk, formerly Truk, is one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia requesting assistance from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to assess the environmental risk posed by these wrecks.

In April, SPREP's Marine Pollution Adviser Anthony Talouli visited Chuuk after an Earthwatch Report assessed the leaking wrecks in Chuuk, one of the World's best dive spots, and found a number of areas of concern.

Talouli worked with members of the Chuuk Environment Protection Agency and other Government agencies to survey the coastal area and determine the extent of the present impact of the wrecks and determine the

potential for from future oil spills and the resulting environmental damage.

"Part of the assistance SPREP provided was to assess what would happen to nearby coastal resources if the wrecks were to fail and the oil was to spill out catastrophically at once," Talouli explained.

In 2001 a State of Emergency was declared in Yap, another of the FSM states, after oil began leaking from the USS Mississinewa, a sunken World War II-era US military oil tanker. SPREP conducted an independent study on the wreck and the estimated impacts of the oil spill found that somewhere between 18,000 gallons to 24,000 gallons of oil had been released into the lagoon over a two-month period, but that some 5,000,000 gallons of oil remained in the wreck. The US Navy was tasked with off-loading the remaining oil cargo in 2003.

Eight of the wrecks in Chuuk are confirmed to be slowly leaking however the duration of the leaks is not known. Anecdotal evidence indicates the leaks may be slowing down.

Talouli also looked at the economic impact a dangerous oil spill could have upon the

Chuukse economy. As a popular international dive destination, Chuuk's main industry is tourism.

"We had four days of site surveys using the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) where we visited wrecks, looked at currents and then determined the trajectory of a potential oil spillage. You could see oil slowly leaking and visible on the water. At this stage it is not dangerous however a typhoon could easily change that. Right now, I'd say it is a tier 1-2 oil spill, on a small scale," Talouli said.

While in Chuuk, Talouli carried out a refresher course with the local oil spill response team using equipment purchased in 2006.

"They did very well and proved to be experienced with handling the equipment. They are capable to cope with a Tier 1 or Tier 2 oil spill."

Talouli is now preparing an assessment report to present to the Chuuk State Government to assist them in developing a comprehensive strategy to deal with the wrecks.



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## FSM Receives EPA Award for Work on Montreal Protocol

*FSM Information Services*

*April 21, 2009, Washington, D.C. -*

Mauritius and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) were honored with a Climate Protection Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their outstanding contribution to climate protection under the Montreal Protocol ozone treaty. Last year, representatives from both countries were instrumental in advocating and building support for collection and destruction of "banks" of ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) that reside in old equipment, and that would otherwise leak out and contribute to the ozone hole and climate change.

Ambassador Masao Nakayama, Permanent Representative of FSM to the United Nations and Sateaved Seebaluck, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Mauritius, collaborated on a joint proposal addressing these ODS "banks" which would result in up to 6 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. by 2015 in avoided emissions — a significant amount compared with the 5 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. in reductions that the Kyoto Protocol seeks from 2008-2012. Both Parties worked hard to promote their proposals and Antonio Oposa Jr.'s work as a special advisor for FSM was crucial in moving the discussions forward. In November 2008, the 193 Parties agreed on the urgent need to address ODS banks and included funding for pilot projects in the US \$490 million agreed upon by developed countries to finance projects under the Protocol for the next three years.

"The Federated States of Micronesia is honored to be receiving such a prestigious award from the US EPA," said Amb. Nakayama. "The Montreal Protocol is one of few international treaties to have enjoyed such success and we would do well to continue to strengthening it to protect the ozone layer and reduce greenhouse gas emissions." For small island countries with limited funds and limited contributions to global emissions, putting forth these formal proposals was an innovative strategy that helped catalyze the rest of the world to stretch its climate goals.

"Promoting climate protection under the Montreal Protocol makes a lot of sense and, although it required hard work, was a relatively easy decision for us," said Sateaved Seebaluck. "Climate change is such a serious threat to small island countries that every effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is not a choice, it is a MUST, particularly when you know your efforts are sure to bring results, as the Montreal Protocol has done for over 20 years." Because many of the ozone-depleting gases regulated under the Montreal Protocol are also powerful greenhouse gases, it is the most successful climate treaty to date, having delayed the effects of climate change by 7 to 12 years.

"If we had not taken action to get the

ball rolling last year to begin collecting and destroying these potent substances from old equipment, we would have lost a unique opportunity to avoid a significant amount of climate emissions," said Antonio Oposa Jr. "If we want to save the world from climate change, we need to start now, with actions that will bring quick results. Using the Montreal Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is one such strategy."

FSM and Mauritius have been part of a group of developing country Parties leading the discussions on climate under the Montreal Protocol for the second year in a row. Other countries taking action include Argentina and Mexico, both of which have negotiators Laura Berón and Agustín Sánchez, respectively, receiving U.S. EPA awards today for promoting climate protection under the Montreal Protocol. Former environment minister of Argentina Romina Picolotti and her colleague in charge of international environmental issues, Ana Maria Kleymeyer, were recognized last year for their dedicated work in garnering support for the agreement to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs which would result in up to 16 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. of avoided greenhouse gas emissions through 2040.

However, in order to achieve this level of avoided emissions, another group of greenhouse gases must be targeted: hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with high global warming potentials. HFCs were introduced under the Montreal Protocol as a substitute for HCFCs because they do not harm the ozone layer. Unfortunately, HFCs can be up to 11,000 times more powerful at warming the atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub>. Low-GWP alternatives exist, and the next step is to start phasing down high-GWP HFCs. Discussions have already begun between the Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC (where HFCs are currently controlled) to address the issue.

"HFCs are serious contributors to climate change," said Durwood Zaelke, President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development. "We need to realize that CO<sub>2</sub> is only half the problem and that we need to step up efforts to reduce emissions of HFCs and other non-CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcers."

Zaelke continued, "The Montreal Protocol has over two decades of experience in successfully phasing down almost 100 chemicals by 97%, and is an ideal treaty to bring the HFC problem under control."

Representatives from the UNFCCC and the Montreal Protocol will meet this summer to discuss possible collaboration on mitigation of HFCs and steps for moving forward. Congressmen Waxman and Markey recently requested that the White House propose an amendment to move HFCs to the Montreal Protocol to phase down those with high-GWP.

## Pacific islands urged to take action on renewable energy sources

### sources

*FSM Information Services*

*24 April 2009 Nuku'alofa (Pacnews)*

- FSM Secretary of Resources and Development, Hon. Peter Christian recently attended the Pacific Island Forum Energy meeting in Tonga. At the meeting, Pacific Islands Forum member countries were told they need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and make renewable, sustainable and clean energy our ultimate goal.

In a keynote address to the Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting April 23-24, the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Tuiloma Neroni Slade, spoke of the precarious position of island communities with regards to both climate change and a heavy reliance on the import of fossil fuels.

"Energy is and will remain high among the region's key priorities, and certainly this is the clear direction from Forum Leaders" he said, speaking on a theme Strengthening the Fragile Pacific Islands Energy Sector - addressing energy, environment in a period of rapid change.

"The question of energy, like no other, gives full exposure to the vulnerability of Pacific Island countries," he said. "[it] clearly demonstrates the precarious position of small island communities and their inability to ensure any condition of security.

"Equitable access to reliable and affordable energy is a fundamental requirement for achieving national development.

"Predictable energy supply is critical in supporting economic growth and delivery of basic services."

He said the correlation between energy and national wealth "suggests that no country has substantially reduced poverty, increased human health conditions or improved access to education in modern times without massively increasing their use of energy."

Tuiloma Neroni said it was commonplace in all Forum countries that the fluctuation in the price of oil had a direct bearing on the price of food, and had consequential impacts on the costs of transporting goods and services; the costs of maintaining infrastructure to manage generation, and the supply and distribution of energy was high and ongoing.

High risk

He also pointed out that geographic isolation and heavy reliance on imports, includ-

ing fossil fuel imports, meant that many small island developing states carried high levels of risk with little ability to pursue policies of domestic import substitution.

"These have been matters of concern for Forum Leaders before, and they certainly were in the Forum Meeting in Niue last year, and without question will remain concerns for the future."

He emphasized that, "efficiency must remain our immediate goal, improving national action to better support efforts in reducing heavy reliance on fossil fuel and wasteful energy should be a clear and central objective."

Pacific plan

Forum leaders had decided on the need to continue the implementation of the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and the actions mandated under the Pacific Energy Ministers 2007 communiqué.

He said there was a strong and demonstrated case for integrating energy and economic development in national strategic development plans and policies, and suggested that appropriate regulatory, pricing policies and programs are essential and would be appropriate incentives for more efficient energy supply and consumption.

"Our response must be collective, as must our view of what energy means, for this reason."

"We need clear articulation of the roles and responsibilities of regional agencies," he added.

Focus areas

The Pacific Energy Ministers meeting was deliberating on the focus areas of: Implementative of National Energy Policies; Pacific Petroleum Project and National Petroleum Import policies; Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Conservation.

Ministers will adopt Recommendation and Communique at a retreat at the end of the meeting.

In attendance are 14 Pacific Energy Ministers from New Zealand, Cook Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Niue, Nauru, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Palau, Samoa and Tonga with representatives from Australia, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea.

Prior to this meeting, a Regional Energy Officials Meeting was held in Nuku'alofa on 20 - 22 April.

# Clarifications and Updates on Swine Flu from WHO

FSM Information Services

**01 MAY 2009 GENEVA (Pacnews)**  
--- The World Health Organization (WHO) has said it will stop using the term "swine flu" to avoid confusion over the danger posed by pigs. The policy shift came a day after Egypt began slaughtering thousands of pigs in a misguided effort to prevent swine flu.

WHO spokesman Dick Thompson said the agriculture industry and the UN food agency had expressed concerns that the term "swine flu" was misleading consumers and needlessly causing countries to ban pork products and order the slaughter of pigs.

"Rather than calling this swine flu ... we're going to stick with the technical scientific name H1N1 influenza A," Thompson said.

Egypt began slaughtering its roughly 300,000 pigs this week even though experts said swine flu is not linked to pigs and not spread by eating pork. Angry farmers had protected the government degree.

In Paris, the World Organization for Animal Health said overnight "there is no evidence of infection in pigs, nor of humans acquiring infection directly from pigs."

Killing pigs "will not help to guard against public or animal health risks" presented by the virus and "is inappropriate," the group said in a statement.

China, Russia, Ukraine and other nations have banned pork exports from Mexico and parts of the United States, blaming swine flu fears.

Most in the Muslim world consider pigs unclean animals and do not eat pork because of religious restrictions. The farmers in Egypt raise the pigs for consumption by the country's Christian minority.

WHO also reported the number of confirmed swine flu cases rose to 257 worldwide Thursday. It said Mexico had reported 97 confirmed cases seven deaths. The WHO confirmed tally from the United States now stands at 109, with one death.

Other confirmed cases include 19 in

Canada, 13 in Spain, eight in Britain, three each in Germany and New Zealand, two in Israel and one each in Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Thompson told reporters in Geneva that at least one of the Spanish cases involved a person who had not travelled to Mexico. Spanish officials said that was a man who apparently got the virus from his girlfriend, who recently returned from Mexico.

WHO raised the pandemic flu alert to phase 5 on Wednesday, one step away from the highest level indicating a global outbreak. WHO flu chief Keiji Fukuda said Thursday there were no indications in the past day that would prompt the UN body to raise the alert further.

To move from pandemic alert level 5 to level 6 means that WHO believes there is evidence of big outbreaks in at least two world regions and a pandemic is under way.

Fukuda said the jump in confirmed cases from Mexico was probably the result of scientists working their way through a backlog of untested samples from suspected cases.

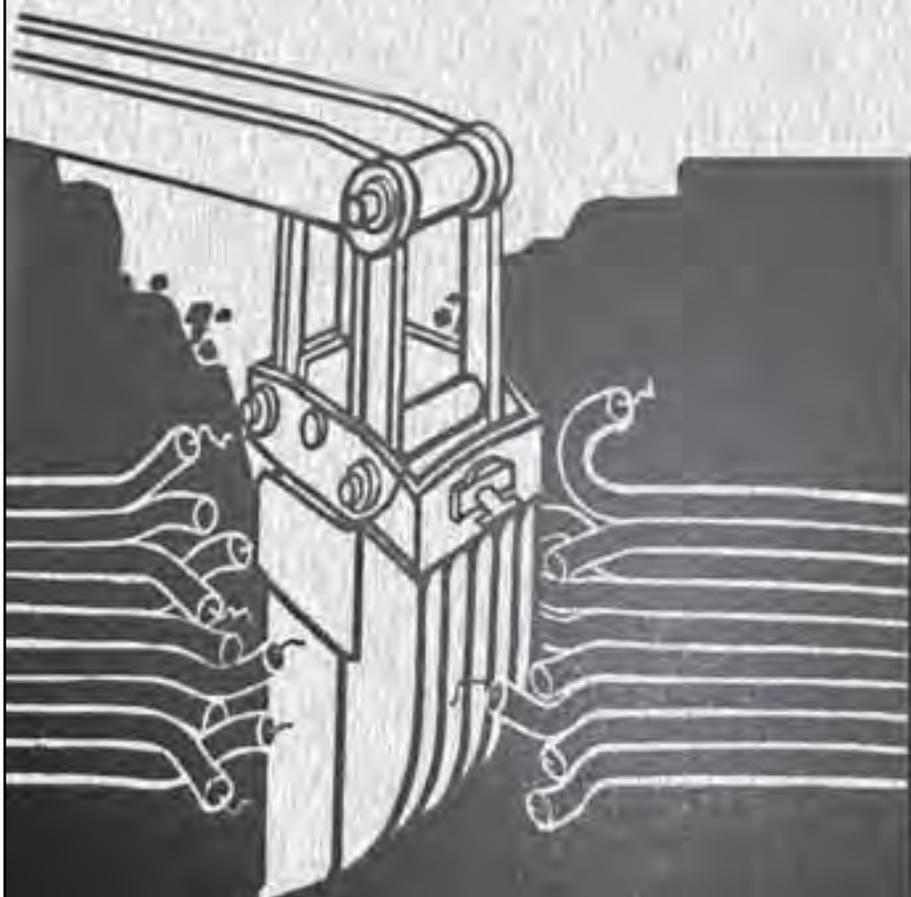
"They are going through several thousands of laboratory specimens right now," he said.

WHO has started distributing its stockpile of 2 million courses of the antiviral drug Tamiflu to regional offices, which will decide where to send them next.

Many of those drugs will go to developing countries that don't have stockpiles of their own and some will be sent to Mexico, Fukuda said, without providing figures.



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## President Mori encourages citizens abroad to be good ambassadors for FSM

### FSM Information Services

As a focus during his administration, President Manny Mori has set out to help FSM citizens living abroad be recognized for the positive achievements they are making in their new communities overseas. Last year, during trips to Guam and Honolulu, President Mori was able to recognize citizens chosen by their peers who had made significant achievements by awarding certificates of recognition called Outstanding Citizens Awards and monetary gifts during ceremonies arranged by our consulate offices. On Guam, Governor Camacho, FSM Senator Peter Sitan, and Senator Moses Nelson participated in the award ceremony, which was considered a success, given the fact that it was the first one. In Honolulu, Senator Kalani English, a friend of the islands, and other officials attended the ceremony which was also successful.

President Mori has been concerned with the past

actions of a few citizens abroad that have created a bad image in some parts of the U.S. and its territories. In a letter to Mr. Rodney Mori, the Vice President of the FSM/Spokane, WA Association, President Mori stated that "this (bad image) is not good for our people and country, and that he is hopeful that through the positive efforts of many like the group in Spokane, that we can slowly improve our collective image throughout the USA as a people. Unless we can make positive contributions to the communities we call homes, we will not be well received by the host's residents."

As a reminder, there are Citizens Outreach and Advocacy Programs through the FSM's overseas missions. With a funding source of \$10,000 appropriated by Congress, the FSM Government is doing its part to encourage citizens to be good ambassadors for the FSM and good citizens of the host communities they live in.

## Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship For 2010

**The MONBUKAGAKUSHO (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology) offers scholarship to foreign students who wish to study in Japan under the Japanese Government Scholarship Program for 2010.**

The Embassy of Japan announces to the public the availability of the Japanese Government Scholarship and the Japanese Language Program.

The Examination date is aimed for the last week of July, 2009.

Those who are interested in the scholarship and the language program can get guidelines at the Embassy. Please contact the Embassy of Japan at Tel#: (691)320-5465 "Application for Scholarship Team" or at e-mail: japanemb\_acct@mail.fm

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# Fiji: From big smoke to big smokescreen

By *Barbara Dreaver*  
ONE News Pacific Correspondent  
TV New Zealand

When I was a kid growing up in Kiribati, Fiji was the big smoke. I'd cling to my mother's hand taking in the tantalising smells of curry and spices, crazy taxi drivers weaving across roads and what seemed to be a sea of people the changing faces of Fijians and Indo Fijians and lots of them. To a child it was the Disneyland of the Pacific, Fiji was huge.

As a young journalist working in the Cook Islands, Fiji was still the big smoke. I'd go for media workshops and argue politics over a beer in Traps bar, go shopping for salwar kameez in hidden treasure troves down Suva's winding back alleys and formed lasting friendships with the Fijian journalists I admired so much.

As my career has evolved, that admiration has stayed constant. Fiji is like an onion, you peel it and there is another layer underneath. It's a complex weave of politics, relationships and history.

Any foreign journalist - or foreign anything for that matter - who thinks they truly know Fiji is kidding themselves. It's changeable, fluid and I learnt early on that making predictions was dicey - things are seldom what

they seem and whenever it appear something is going a certain way, the opposite will happen. It's just how Fiji is - and its a strength not a weakness.

As Fiji has catapulted through turbulent times and information has become harder to get, it has been the local journalists who have dug it out under incredibly stressful conditions. Details of intimidation the Fijian media face are not publicly known. But despite the threats they've faced, the Fiji media keep doing their job day after day trying to uncover information about how their country is being run - the good and the bad - for the people who live there.

The concept of media freedom is really very simple. The public has a right to know.

In the last two weeks I've watched good journalists struggling to deal with no freedom of speech . It's finally come to this - if they report what's going on they face prison, or worse.

Advertisement

Just last week military leader and self imposed Prime Minister Voreque Bainimarama indignantly told a reporter:

"I allow free expression that's why they publish the paper every day, the television is on, the radio everything is broadcast - it's irresponsible reporting I don't like".

The truth is what the Commander doesn't

like is anything that deviates from or challenges his own inflated opinion. And that's why he's slammed media censors in every newsroom.

Free expression? What a joke.

For all his rhetoric, what Fiji has is a typical military dictatorship.

There would be few who do not believe Fiji's electoral system is in dire need of a hefty revamp. But to use this as an excuse to sack judges, censor media, threaten and lock up anyone who has a different opinion is criminal and arrogance of the highest order.

And so we come to World Press Freedom Day - a day where we defend media from attacks on their independence. It's a time when we think of our Fiji media friends whose

words are monitored even when they travel overseas to conferences. It's a time when we think of our Fiji media friends who are under threat for simply doing their job. And it's a time when we applaud our Fiji media friends for their silent protest. They may not be publishing anything politically negative, but the positive stories are absent too.

Does Fiji deserve to get thrown out of the Pacific Forum ? Yes it does. Do the Fijian people deserve to be isolated from the region? No they don't. They deserve a media that's free and fair and they deserve to have a say in their country's future.

Fiji is no longer the big smoke. It is a smoke-screen for power hungry men who will do anything to get what they want.

# Pohnpei Dive into Earth Day 2009

Although at the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) everyday is Earth Day, on Saturday, April 25, 2009, CSP held a 2009 Dive into Earth Day event with partners and friends on Lenger Island. Participants of all ages came out to pick up trash from this popular picnic site.

Since the 30th anniversary of Earth Day in 2000, PADI's Project AWARE has helped divers focus attention on aquatic environments for this annual event. Thousands of diver volunteers in more than 115 countries have helped protect underwater environments and educate local communities for Project AWARE's Dive for Earth Day.

In 2005 CSP held its first Dive into Earth Day Event, but had not organized one since then. This year John Ranahan, PADI Open Water Dive Instructor and teacher at COM, approached CSP with the idea of holding a similar event. John and CSP invited divers and non divers alike to join together to pick up trash and draw attention to the fact that trash can be found both on land and underwater.

Armed with onion bags donated from Palm Terrace and Ace Commercial some

participants scoured the shore picking up trash while others donned SCUBA or snorkel gear and picked up the trash surrounding the sea plane ramp and nearby reef. The most common type of trash picked up was soda cans, which, we would like to remind you, should be separated from your other trash for recycling.

CSP would like to thank all of those who came out and participated. If you want to help keep Pohnpei and its ocean clean you can do the following:

- Buy in bulk, re-use as often as possible and always recycle
- Bring reusable bags with you when shopping.
- Avoid buying plastic or Styro-foam products whenever possible.
- Be aware of everything you buy and avoid products with excessive packaging.
- Properly dispose of all pieces of fishing line, nets, and batteries for underwater flashlights.
- Keep plastics and other litter off the ground and the ocean floor.
- Keep storm drains and shorelines free of plastic and other debris.
- Remove debris you see during every recreational dive or shoreline visit.
- Get involved. Participate in local shoreline and underwater cleanups and support recycling in Pohnpei.

## Astronomical Tide Prediction May 13 through May 26, 2009

	Pohnpei		Chuuk	
Wednesday	05/13 04:52AM 4.2 11:57AM 1.2 05:18PM 2.4 10:18PM 1.4	05/20 12:27AM 3.3 06:36AM 1.8 12:09PM 3.0 06:19PM 1.3	05/13 03:34AM 2.3 07:03PM 0.1	05/20 01:13AM 1.5 07:44AM 0.9 11:30AM 1.0 05:23PM 0.5
	Thursday	05/14 05:21AM 4.0 12:37PM 1.4 05:57PM 2.3 10:39PM 1.7	05/21 12:59AM 3.7 07:26AM 1.4 01:04PM 3.0 06:55PM 1.2	05/14 03:58AM 2.2 07:11PM 0.1
Friday		05/15 05:53AM 3.8 01:27PM 1.5 06:58PM 2.2 11:03PM 1.9	05/22 01:33AM 4.1 08:10AM 1.1 01:52PM 3.0 07:31PM 1.0	05/15 04:23AM 2.1 07:16PM 0.2
	Saturday	05/16 06:33AM 3.5 02:33PM 1.6 09:07PM 2.3 11:44PM 2.2	05/23 2:08AM 4.4 08:53AM 0.8 02:36PM 2.9 08:06PM 1.0	05/16 04:46AM 1.9 07:06PM 0.3
Sunday		05/17 07:35AM 3.2 03:49PM 1.6 11:16PM 2.5	05/24 02:45AM 4.6 09:36AM 0.6 03:19PM 2.8 08:41PM 0.9	05/17 05:03AM 1.7 06:25PM 0.4
	Monday	05/18 02:58AM 2.4 09:17AM 3.0 04:52PM 1.5 11:55PM 2.9	05/25 03:24AM 4.7 10:20AM 0.5 04:02PM 2.7 09:17PM 1.0	05/18 04:46AM 1.5 05:35PM 0.5
Tuesday		05/19 05:28AM 2.2 10:58AM 3.0 05:39PM 1.4	05/26 04:03AM 4.7 11:05AM 0.5 04:46PM 2.6 09:55PM 1.1	05/19 02:28AM 1.3 05:20PM 0.5



## ...Paroled

*Continued from front page*

extradition of either country's citizens.

FSM Attorney General Maketo Robert said that he had been given the impression from the email from Freeman that Foster was not due for potential release for at least another year. What Freeman actually said in that email was that Foster had applied for a release earlier than his "non-parole period" would allow and that request was denied. She said that the "non-parole period" would expire on May 4, 2009 and that Foster would be released on parole on May 1, 2009 due to a public holiday in Queensland.

Freeman advised that due to the lack of a bilateral agreement between the two countries the only way that Foster could be extradited to the FSM would be under the terms of a multilateral agreement to which both countries were signators. Even then there are stringent requirements that must be met.

It is not unusual for two nations not to

have bilateral agreements regarding extradition. Those diplomatic agreements are generally made after it has become clear to both nations that an agreement should be made.

Freeman wrote that she had made inquiries with the US Department of Justice, who are consulting with the US Department of State, regarding whether the FSM can be considered a protectorate of the US for purposes of extradition.

Secretary Robert said that he has assigned to the Chief of the Division of Litigation the responsibility to "expeditiously find a way to effect his (Foster's) extradition."

He said that the Division would also look into the possibility of the using the "Interpol Convention as the legal framework upon which an extradition can be offered."

An Internet search into how many countries there are in the world yields results that vary from 192 to 206 countries depending on whose views are recognized or how old the websites are. Of those, 187 are members of Interpol, "The Inter-

national Criminal Police Organization," whose aim it is to facilitate international police cooperation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries.

The FSM is one of only a handful of nations in the world that is not a member.

DeCourteney said, "Notwithstanding the FSM not having a bilateral agreement or being a member of Interpol we have received exceptional assistance and support from Australian Authorities working in tandem with FSM Department of Justice. Criminal charges were levied by Australian Federal Police, successful prosecution ensued through the Australian Department of Prosecutions, jail sentence was imposed, incarceration occurred and a subsequent appeal by Foster was disallowed."

According to DeCourteney, in addition to Foster's criminal prosecution a summary Civil Judgment against Foster was issued by the Australian Court in the amount of \$214,138.47. He said that the judgment will remain in effect for many years so that any future earnings that Foster or any company with which he is involved will be

subject to seizure by the Bank of FSM in order to satisfy the civil judgment.

He said that the Bank has retained competent attorneys in Australia to monitor Foster's activities and to pursue recovery of the debt at the appropriate time.

The Bank of FSM is also involved in trying to obtain partial reparation from the Fiji attorney who apparently misused funds sent by the bank to his Trust Account.

Greg Stolz and Jeremy Pierce of Australia's "Courier Mail" reported that a sentence management report before Foster's release said that he was under contract with a publishing company to write his autobiography and planned to do an arts degree and work in his family's property development business.

"We expect ultimate recovery of full debt as Foster will be unable to travel overseas, obtain credit, borrow to buy assets, build a credit rating, become a company director or undertake any substantial economic activity with the Civil Judgment hanging over his credit rating and reputation," said DeCourteney.

## Fisheries Cooperation with the Taiwan Tuna Purse Seine Boat-owners and Exporters Association

*FSM Information Services*

The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (Authority) met on April 20-24, 2009 at the Foreign Affairs Conference Room. All five members of the Authority were present. The members include Mr. Ricky Carl, representing Pohnpei State; Senator Robert Taulung representing Kosrae State, Mr. Thomas Tamangmow representing Yap State; Mr. Romio Osiena representing Chuuk State and Secretary Lorin S. Robert, being the At-Large representative.

The Authority met for two days from the 20th to the 22nd to prepare itself for its consultation [1] with one of its longtime bilateral fisheries partners - the Taiwan Tuna Purse Seine Boat-owners and Exporters Association (Association) on the 22nd-24th of April. The Association operates one of the largest purse seine fleet (approximately 34 vessels) operating in the region, including the FSM EEZ. The FSM EEZ remains one of the Association's productive areas of operation.

The current bilateral fishing agreement, which will expire May 17, 2009, involved licensing all 34 fishing vessels for six months to fish in FSM EEZ with a fee of \$45,000 per vessel. The parties renewed their agreement with a new licensing system. That is using the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). Instead of the

## Symposium on Foreign Investment Laws and Regulations held in Palikir

*FSM Information Services*

*May 1, 2009, Palikir, Pohnpei -*

This week at the Central Facilities in Palikir, Pohnpei, a symposium on foreign investment laws and regulations is being held and representatives from each of the four FSM states and the national government are in attendance.

The symposium opened on Tuesday, April 28th with opening remarks given by President Manny Mori. In his remarks, President Mori told the group that "this symposium ... stands as an opportunity to devise strategies and approaches and to harmonize our investment regulatory regime to be more transparent and aggressive in terms of facilitating investments that could contribute to FSM economic growth in creating jobs, and increase opportunities for business development." He further stated that, "Following recommendations from international partners,

usual licensing by the number of vessels the Association will have to buy days for their fleet. This newly concluded agreement will bring in over \$100,000 per vessel. This has the potential to increase further as the vessels need and purchase more days. The newly settled bilateral agreement is breaking new ground,

efforts have been made during the last decade to reform our investment laws and regulations. Can you imagine, it has been more than ten years we've had these reform efforts and I hope today we will be more successful than the last efforts."

President Mori invited participants to give their thoughts and inputs on the following key areas of the existing investment regime: (1) the reserved activities that fall under the Red list (which are activities that are either prohibited to foreign investors to invest in or are reserved only for local investors), (2) conditions to start business in economic sectors listed in the Amber list (which are investment activities that are open to foreign investors with certain requirements to be complied with), (3) investment permit requirements, (4) rights and obligations of investors, and (5) dispute settlement mechanisms.

The symposium will continue

being the first purse seine bilateral agreement to incorporate the VDS and the Third Arrangement implementing the Nauru Agreement (3IA). The consultation ended on good notes of appreciation to the Association from the Authority and vice versa for the time and effort for consultation and mutually ben-

through the week and have sessions on the following topics; a review of foreign investment laws and regulations applicable in the FSM, a presentation on the trend of foreign investments in FSM, a session with foreign investors and NGOs, a session with international partners, a session on investment-related issues, a session on the latest developments in trade negotiations, a session with Mr. Don Jacobson from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and recommendations on the way forward.

The symposium is being hosted by the FSM Department of Resources and Development and outcomes from this meeting will be presented at the upcoming State-National Leadership Conference that will be held on May 12th-15th, 2009 which will bring together the executive and legislative leaders from all four states and the national government.

eficial outcomes. It will also be an agreement with the highest fee per vessel. The new agreement will be transmitted to the FSM Congress for review and further action as provided in Section 405 of the Marine Resources Act of 2002.

# FSM States Receive Sector Grant Awards from US Department of the Interior

## FSM Information Services

The four FSM States will be receiving copies of their grant awards from the US Department of the Interior (DOI) in the areas of Public Sector Capacity Building, Environment, and Private Sector Development Sector Grants and funding for specific projects are listed below.

## Public Sector Capacity Building Sector Grants (Public Law 108-188)

Chuuk State	\$362,750
Kosrae State	\$478,605
National Gov.	\$681,057
Pohnpei State	\$511,869
Yap State	\$849,727
Total	\$2,884,008

## Environment Sector Grant

Chuuk State	\$542,656
Kosrae State	\$271,354
Pohnpei State	\$404,195
Yap State	\$292,249
Total	\$1,510,454

## Private Sector Development Sector Grant

Chuuk State	\$756,179
Kosrae State	\$799,956
Yap State	\$917,162
Total	\$2,473,297

The only breakdown available of these grants was done on Private Sector Development.

Kosrae State has several areas it will focus on. The first is for professional consultancy support services for a start-up export business (bottled water). They will also focus on land surveying and registration of land, and on analyzing current government land leases in order to comply with a change in land local law so that they can end the use of leased land. The government will produce a government land use development and allocation plan as well.

Kosrae State will also work on invasive species mitigation and focus on plant research and propagation activities, and the Kosrae Small Business Development Center is getting \$55,941 to focus upon providing skill training and counseling to new businesses and to provide information, skill training and counseling to existing businesses.

The Kosrae Visitors Bureau is receiving \$83,562 to help focus upon promoting Kosrae as a visitor destination with an emphasis on marketing and media placement, to develop new sites and products which will be marketable to visitors, and to conduct cleaning of the Kosrae environment so that it remains attractive to visitors.

In Yap, the Visitors Bureau is getting \$284,174 to focus upon promotion and marketing of Yap as a visitor destination. It will also focus on community outreach programs to support product development and collect and analyze tourism data and promote integration with neighboring destination.

The Yap Small Business Development Center will use a grant of \$168,373 to focus on providing counseling, loans and technical advice to new and existing businesses and to provide training to new businesses and potential entrepreneurs

The Yap State Department of Resources and Development – Land is getting \$ 198,107 to focus on completing surveys and land registration for public land and nonpublic land with commercial potential and \$20,636 to focus on maintaining and accounting for 35 parcels of both public leases of private land and private leases of public land.

The Yap State Dept. of Resources and Development (Agriculture) will use \$39,863 to continue to transition government agriculture functions to the Yap Farmers Organization.

The Yap State Dept. of Resources and Development (Workforce Enrichment) has \$95,396 to promote and improve manpower resources and capacity in Yap and the Dept. of Resources and Development (Commence & Industry) is getting \$36,867 to promote trade and investment in Yap.

The Yap State Dept. of Resources and Development (Marine Resources) has a total grant of \$34,382 which will be used for surveying and monitoring trochus and sea cucumber populations to determine the best seasons for harvesting, for transplanting trochus seedlings to promote growth in all potential areas and for transplanting sea cucumber to promote growth in all potential areas.

In Chuuk State, the Department of Agriculture is getting \$77,000 to develop and maintain a system of nursery facilities to provide food plants to people for the purpose of consuming more local foods. The Department of Marine Resources is getting \$28,585 for the development of an agriculture industry in Chuuk which will encourage the raising and consumption or sale of sea cucumber.

The Chuuk Visitor's Bureau has a grant of \$192,893 which will be used to conduct clean-ups of visitor areas, to procure pamphlets and give-away promotional materials, to promote new products and activities which appeal to visitors, to promote and market Chuuk to attract visitors, and to provide training for work in the visitor (tourism) industry.

The COM – Land Grant is getting \$87,000 for a grant that will cover 3 activities. The first is to provide training in the culinary arts to women and youths to encourage them to form their own businesses or work in existing businesses. The second is to facilitate the planting of fruit trees for reforestation and the production of local foods, and the third is to provide training in the sewing and handicraft production to women and youths to encourage them to form their own businesses or work in existing businesses.

Finally, the Chuuk Small Business Development Center has a grant award of \$113,280 that will be spent to provide counseling, loans and technical advice to new and existing businesses, to provide training to new businesses, and to develop business plans for new and existing small businesses.



## Australian Leadership Awards Scholarships

### Scholarship opportunities for current and future leaders for Intake 2010

The Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships are provided by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) with the aim of developing leadership and linkages within the Asia-Pacific region. The Scholarships are offered to high achievers from the region to undertake postgraduate study in Australia and a Leadership Development Program. Study programs must relate to AusAID's priority areas of disability, economic growth, education, environment, food security, gender, governance, health, human rights, infrastructure, regional stability, rural development and water & sanitation.

ALA Scholarships seek to empower awardees to lead social and economic policy and development in their own countries and in the region. To enhance leadership skills, AusAID has invested A\$10.128 million over four years to deliver a comprehensive Leadership Development Program (LDP) to all ALA scholars. The LDP comprises of a three day conference in Canberra, regional workshops, leadership coaching and practice opportunities. The LDP aims to help scholars explore and harness their full leadership potential and enhance their understanding of development challenges at national, regional and global levels. The LDP also provides important networking and collaborative opportunities for participants.

### Applications for the commencement of the 2010 academic year open on 19 March 2009 and will close on 30 June 2009.

#### Mandatory requirements for ALA Scholarships application\*:

- A record of high-level undergraduate or post-graduate academic achievement;
- Appropriate results in one of the following English language proficiency test being achieved for no longer than two years prior to the date of the application ie IELTS with an overall result of at least 6.5 and no individual band less than 6; or the equivalent level of TOEFL. You must have a TOEFL or IELTS score to be eligible.
- An Unconditional Letter of Offer from an Australian university before 30 June 2009. You will need to select your desired course of study now and apply immediately to the Australian Institution for an offer.
- Willingness to return to your country for at least two years immediately upon completion of the scholarship to help build capacity there.

\*Information provided here is a summary, please refer to the ALA Scholarships Handbook on the website.

For detailed information on ALA Scholarships please visit: [www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm).

Please contact: Cathy Smithson, AusAID, Australian Embassy, Pohnpei on phone (691) 320 5448 or email: [cathy.smithson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:cathy.smithson@dfat.gov.au).

## Samoa Packing to shut American Samoa plant end of September

### Radio New Zealand

Chicken of the Sea, Samoa Packing has officially said it is shutting down its local cannery on September 30.

The move was announced by Governor Togiola Tulafono at a media conference over the weekend,

The governor said he asked the cannery representative if there was a chance for the company to reconsider its plan and seek other alternatives to maintain its operations .

However he was told the decision, which will hit up to 1,500 workers, was final.

Togiola said he asked if the increase in the minimum wage was the reason for the cannery's departure but was told that it was difficult to give a definite answer.

But the cannery officials indicated their belief that the wages had a big part to play in the decision to shut down.

Governor Togiola says the work opportunities for those who are to lose their jobs are slim:

"I don't think we have vacancies anywhere in the government, so there's going to be a lot of people laid off from work. The company has promised to work with their employees to make the transition a little easier, how that is going to work I don't know, they have not announced any specific plans."

Governor Togiola said that Samoa Packing intends to maintain a fish purchasing facility there after the closure but no other specific details were given.

## Asian, American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2009 by the President Of The United States Of America, a proclamation

The vast diversity of languages, religions, and cultural traditions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continues to strengthen the fabric of American society. From the arrival of the first Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants 150 years ago to those who arrive today, as well as those native to the Hawaiian Islands and to our Pacific Island territories, all possess the common purpose of the fulfilling the American dream and leading a life bound by the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we remember the challenges and celebrate the achievements that define our history.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have endured and overcome hardship and heartache. In the earliest years, tens of thousands of Gold Rush pioneers, coal miners, transcontinental railroad builders, as well as farm and orchard laborers, were subject to unjust working conditions, prejudice, and discrimination—yet they excelled. Even in the darkness of the Exclusion Act and Japanese internment, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have persevered, providing for their families and creating opportunities for their children.

Amidst these struggles, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed in great and significant ways to all aspects of society. They have created works of literature and art, thrived as American athletes, and prospered in the world of academia. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a vital role in our Nation's economic and technological growth by establishing successful enterprises and pushing the limits of science. They are serving in positions of leadership within the government more now than ever before. And along with all of our great service men and women, they have defended the United States from threats at home and abroad, serving our Nation with valor.

From the beaches of the Pacific islands and the California coast, the grasslands of Central Asia and the bluegrass of Kentucky, and from the summits of the Himalayas and the Rocky Mountains, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community hails from near and far. This is the story of our more perfect union: that it is diversity itself that enriches, and is fundamental to, the American story.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2009, as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA

## FSM Public Information Office brings back the National Union

*FSM Information Services*

On May 8th, 2009 a familiar newsletter that has been absent for many years will return to the public hands containing news from the National Government. The National Union, a biweekly publication highlighting the top news stories that come out of the FSM Public Information Office will go back to print. Special Assistant to the President and Public Information Officer, Mr. Patrick Blank has revived the National Union "to inform those citizens of the FSM that do not have access to the internet to view our press releases." Currently, FSM PIO sends out daily news via an email distribution list and by posting news articles to their website at fsmpio.fm and to the MicSem Forum, which allows for discussion of the topics. "Although we are reaching a lot of people through our current methods of distribution, we are not reaching a majority of the general public who don't have a computer," Mr. Blank noted. The PIO plan is to disseminate 1000 copies of

the National Union newsletter to the four FSM States; 400 copies to Chuuk, 300 to Pohnpei, 200 to Yap and 100 to Kosrae, to begin with.

Since they are working on a budget that was not created with the National Union in mind for funding, they have been able to fund the printing and mailing of the newsletter through the savings the PIO has realized by streamlining its internet usage. "We are saving \$400-500 a month on our new internet set up and this has allowed us to find money to pay for the newsletter in our current budget. President Mori's goals of increasing efficiency and cutting costs have motivated us to be more creative in using our resources, and getting information out to the public is our number one initiative. If we can increase the number of people getting our news, without increasing our expenditures, then we have really done something special," Mr. Blank noted.

"We are encouraging anyone who has access to the internet to visit our website and to sign up for our daily news distribution list. It's as simple as sending an

email to fsmpioweb@mail.fm and asking to be put on the list. Once you do that, you will begin receiving daily news releases from the PIO that will keep you informed of what's going on in the FSM Government. "We still have a long way to go to capture all the activities worthy of being reported, but we have come a long way in just a few months, and bringing the National Union back is a big step in increasing our readership." Mr. Blank stated.

Those who remember the National Union from before will appreciate the nostalgia of the publication. At one time, before the internet was available in FSM and there was no Kaselehlie Press, the National Union was the only source of information on the goings-on in the FSM. "With its revival, we are also going to be renaming the newsletter. Anyone with a suggestion for a new name should email it to fsmpioweb@mail.fm. In July, we will post the submissions on our website and encourage people to vote for the new name. Until then, we hope you enjoy seeing the National Union back in print."

## Nomination of Deputy Chief of Mission to the FSM Embassy in Fiji Announced

*FSM Information Services*

President Mori has nominated Mr. Stan D. Kensof from Yap State to serve as Deputy Chief of Mission to the FSM Embassy in Fiji. This nomination will be submitted to the 16th FSM Congress during its upcoming session in May.

Mr. Kensof has a background in public service from working for the Yap State Budget Office in 1980 to 1984 and as the Transportation Officer for the State Transportation Office from 1984-1987. He was also a Yap State Senator from 1989-2007. He is a graduate of Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan with

a Bachelor Degree in Public Administration and has a specialty in Labor Relations.

President Mori believes that Mr. Kensof is well-suited for the position in Fiji and with the necessary resolution sent up to Congress, is looking for a favorable consideration of this nomination.



## ESSAY CONTEST

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Tuna Commission) and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) are sponsoring an essay contest with the theme:

*"The ocean around us: what it means to FSM and us as individuals"*.

**Essays will be judged in three categories: Elementary, High School and College.**

1. Submissions need to be certified by teachers as being original works of individual students. Essays must have name of student, contact number home and school, and teacher's name and certification that the essay submission is the student's original and own work.
2. Essays must be in English.
3. Essays must be no more than 600 words for Elementary students, 1000 words for High School and 1500 for College level students.
4. Essays must be submitted by end of working day – June 1st, 2009 to the office of the Tuna Commission.
5. Decisions by judges are final.
6. June 8, 2008 - winners will be announced.
7. Students whose parents are staff members of the Commission are not eligible to participate in this contest.

Monetary prizes will be given to first, second and third place winners of each category. First place winners, \$100.00, 2nd place, \$50.00 and third place, \$25.00

For additional information please call 320-1992/1993

## Letter to the Editor

### Religious Tolerance, Business and Democracy

When I was visiting the national campus of COM in April, I had an opportunity to see some of the historic sights on Pohnpei. I noticed that the Japanese community erected a memorial statue to honor Japanese citizens who died on Pohnpei during the Japanese administration and WWII. The statue is a representation of a Buddhist saint, called a Bodhisattva, literally a Buddha-to-be. The idea is that a Bodhisattva is so totally dedicated to the liberation of all sentient beings that the Bodhisattva postpones his or her own entrance into nirvana (liberation, enlightenment) until everyone else is ready to enter.

Even if you are not a Buddhist, do you not think that the ideal of the Bodhisattva is a sign of great compassion? Even if we are not a member of another religion, can we appreciate their ways; can we come to understand and even celebrate their diversity? People are beginning to understand the importance of biodiversity. Isn't religious diversity also important?

When I was giving a lecture at COM, I drew a representation of the Taoist religious symbol on the board. It is a circle. One side is white with a black dot and the other side is black with a white dot. It represents the nondual, interactive forces of yang and yin--something similar to the positive and negative charges in electricity. After the lecture one student told me he had been taught that that yin-yang symbol is "bad." He thought that it represents evil. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The majority of citizens in the FSM are Christians. They follow the teachings of Jesus Christ whether they are Roman Catholic or Protestant. Some historians believe that the development and successes of European and American cultures are due to Christianity. They propose that Christian values and virtues underlie the development of democracy and the industrial revolution. In short the idea is that Christianity taught that each and every person, not just the elite rulers or wealthy, could be saved with the gift of eternal life. The idea that each and every person can be saved means that each person has value. If each person has value, then the idea of human rights can develop. If people have rights, then they need political protection and opportunities. The value of the individual lays the foundation upon which democracy is built.

As Protestants came to realize that each individual could read and interpret the Bible by him or herself, they also looked upon nature as a source of God's revealed truth. If they could read the sacred text and understand it, then they could study nature and understand it. This notion started the scientific revolution and led to the industrial revolution that has for better and for worse changed human life and the world's economy. The "better" side of that global economic change raised the standard of living for many people. The "worse" side of those changes is the environmental degradation that affects us all, and it also creates extreme poverty that undermines democracy and human rights.

This model of world change maybe a little bit simplified, but it shows us how OPEN-MINDED Christians were able to improve the human condition. Are we open-minded Christians today?



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# BANK OF GUAM

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If the FSM is going to be successful in promoting democracy and maintaining international business relationships, then I propose that we will have to become more tolerant of other religions. People have to be confident in their own religious beliefs and not fear that a different idea or a different religion is a threat.

The disturbing thing about the Buddhist statue on Pohnpei is that the base is marked with graffiti and a Christian cross was installed on the back of the statue. Religion is not magic. Religion is not about a power struggle to see who has greater strength. Religion is about finding your place in the world in this life or the next life.

The FSM is composed of very diverse cultures, and peoples. There is already a high degree of tolerance of diversity in the na-

tion. However, I notice a good number of closed-minded people when it comes to tolerating other peoples' religions. I propose that if the FSM is going to continue to expand its growth of democracy and economic development that religious tolerance must be high on the list of things to promote. A vibrant, healthy developing community celebrates its diversity. "Pohnpei sohte ehu," is the old saying. "Pohnpei is not one." Many people have settled on the island over the centuries. There are distinct traditions, customs, rituals, and beliefs. It has always been that way. It will always be that way. We all must respect other religions and other people.

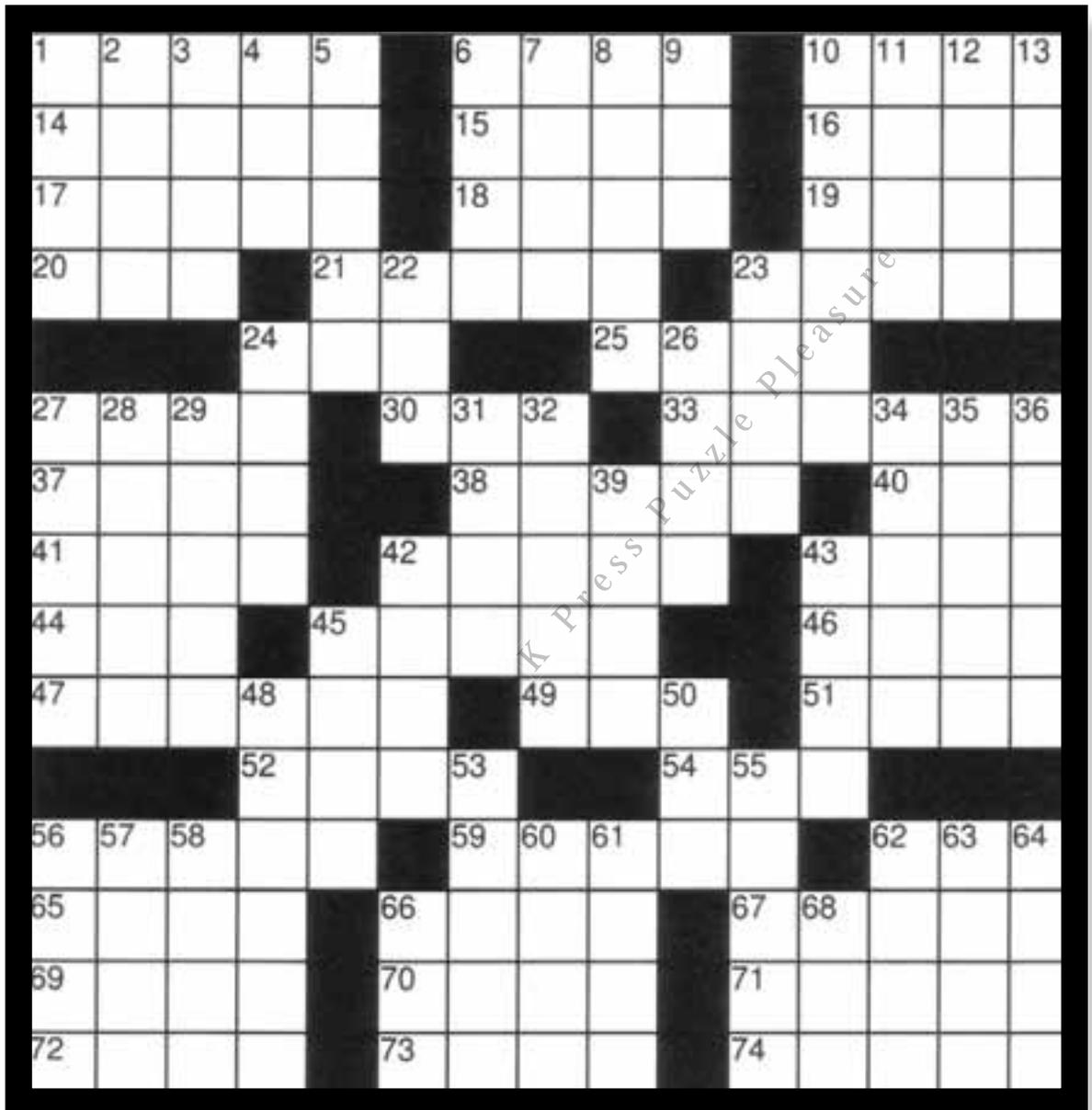
**James Sellmann**  
*Professor of Philosophy,*  
*University of Guam*

# Crossword - The I's have it

**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Slip                  | 1. Limping                |
| 6. Swing                 | 2. District               |
| 10. Sting                | 3. Hit                    |
| 14. Twirling             | 4. Visit                  |
| 15. Clip                 | 5. Pick                   |
| 16. Fix                  | 6. Fight                  |
| 17. Skirmish             | 7. Twist                  |
| 18. Flight bd. list-ings | 8. Stinging               |
| 19. Bits                 | 9. Right!                 |
| 20. Dig in               | 10. Digs                  |
| 21. Wrists               | 11. Twist                 |
| 23. Ski sticks           | 12. "Vissi d' ____"       |
| 24. JFK listing          | 13. Plight                |
| 25. Dip                  | 22. Mil. bigwig           |
| 27. Kill                 | 23. Sit                   |
| 30. .001 inch            | 24. Iris districts        |
| 33. Pitch in             | 26. Pink                  |
| 37. Knitting rib         | 27. Whisk                 |
| 38. Filmic 007           | 28. Sri ____              |
| 40. ____-fi              | 29. Birch's kin           |
| 41. Limits               | 31. "Wish ____, wish ..." |
| 42. Micki & ____ (film)  | 32. Nit                   |
| 43. Split                | 34. British ____          |
| 44. Scrimp               | 35. Whiff                 |
| 45. Insist               | 36. Link                  |
| 46. Split                | 39. Whiff                 |
| 47. Split                | 42. Did                   |
| 49. Till                 | 43. Drifting              |
| 51. This: Sp.            | 45. Schism                |
| 52. Chills               | 48. Kindling              |
| 54. Ships hdg.           | 50. This: Sp.             |
| 56. Tilt                 | 53. GI's bills            |
| 59. Sing                 | 55. Clips                 |
| 62. Tint                 | 56. Sp. Miss              |
| 65. Rip                  | 57. Spring                |
| 66. ____ Night           | 58. Kick in               |
| 67. Insipid              | 60. Drift                 |
| 69. British pic digs     | 61. Sign                  |
| 70. Split                | 62. ____-kiri             |
| 71. Risk                 | 63. GI gp.                |
| 72. Mimic                | 64. Fish Dish             |
| 73. Bid first            | 66. Siding with           |
| 74. Hits                 | 68. Mint                  |



## MASTER OF SUSPENSE

The novels penned by author Dean Koontz contain a good deal of chills and thrills, but they all share the common theme of good triumphing over evil. Author of more than 70 books and several pieces of short fiction, Koontz has had six novels on the New York Times hardcover bestseller list. Hidden in the diagram are 36 of his titles.

L O S K S H A D O W F I R E S D T  
 E V R E S U C O D D K I N S M A R  
 S R E G N A R T S S C Y P A R R A  
 U I H R L B M R I Y A P G V M K P  
 O S C E I D L R O W Y A R G U F P  
 H B T E W F D V A U N O U B R A E  
 N S A T B O D E E S N O M E D L D  
 U B W H O O D L H A R D S H E L L  
 F W A L Y I U E O I I P E M R W R  
 N H B D H T S N N C H G Y D I D E  
 G I D M P A I V D A F A E N L R H  
 N S S O H L A S N E O T T I L A C  
 I P D C O S A T N N R E H S G G T  
 N E C N I L O C O E R C G I L O A  
 T R G O N M B I E M T O I G A N N  
 H S N S S T S R O S L N L T P F S  
 G V C E K I C O A S O U I I Y L H  
 I F V C V E N E C T M R W Y T Y B  
 L N I A L O B M A H S B T N D N E

- BAD PLACE (The)
- BEASTCHILD
- BLOOD RISK
- BRUNO
- CHASE
- COLD FIRE
- COSMIC SIN
- CRIMSON
- WITCH
- DARKFALL
- DEMON SEED
- DRAGONFLY
- FUNHOUSE (The)
- GRAYWORLD
- HARDSHELL
- HIDEAWAY
- ICEBOUND
- INTENSITY
- INVASION

- LIGHTNING MASK (The)
- MR. MURDER
- ODDKINS
- PHANTOMS
- SHADOWFIRES
- SHAMBOLAIN
- SNATCHER
- STARBLOOD
- STRANGERS
- SURROUNDED
- TRAPPED
- TWILIGHT EYES
- UNDERCITY (The)
- VISION (The)
- WATCHERS
- WHISPERS
- WINTER MOON

*Puzzle Pleasure Previous Issue's Solution*

**SUMMER SONGS**

- |                          |  |                      |                       |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Herb Alpert           | 14. Buffy Sainte-Marie                 | 26. Rolling Stones   | 32. Paul McCartney    |
| 2. Celebration/Mike Love | 15. Isley Brothers                     | 27. Astrud Gilberto  | 33. Paul Anko         |
| 3. Don Henley            | 16. Grover Washington, Jr.             | 28. Stevie Wonder    | 34. James Taylor      |
| 4. Bananarama            | 17. Partridge Family                   | 29. Chad & Jeremy    | 35. Alan Jackson      |
| 5. Eurythmics            | 18. Alphaville                         | 30. Robert Goulet    | 36. Gordon Lightfoot  |
| 6. Frank Sinatra         | 19. Confederate Railroad               | 31. Desert Rose Band | 37. Jane's Addiction. |
| 7. Rod Stewart           | 20. Pogues                             |                      |                       |
| 8. Aldo Nova             | 21. Johnny Mathis                      |                      |                       |
| 9. Elvis Costello        | 22. Chris Rea                          |                      |                       |
| 10. Sparks               | 23. Olivia Newton John & John Travolta |                      |                       |
| 11. Nancy Sinatra        | 24. Willie Nelson                      |                      |                       |
| 12. Jim Bajor            | 25. Belinda Carlisle                   |                      |                       |

Crossword Solution



4-Letter Words



Word Search Solution

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at:  
- [rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com](mailto:rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com)

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# Have you treated yourself to taro today?

By *Kathay Larsen*

*Island Food Community of Pohnpei*

Before I came to Pohnpei, I read about the various foods that I would be experiencing here. Taro is one of the foods that I read about before I came and although I may not have enthusiastically tried it the first time, I have come to really enjoy eating it. I find that giant swamp taro (mwahng) is a food that if I spend one dollar for a take-out of it at lunch time, I still feel full at dinner time. This is one of the many wonderful properties of Mwahng.

Taro is an excellent source of nutrients. The taro root, sometimes referred to as the tuber, contains fiber, essential minerals such as calcium and iron, as well as Vitamin C, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2 and Niacin, carotenoids (in the yellow-fleshed varieties), and protein and energy. Remember that fiber is important for good digestion and proper function of your intestines. Fiber is also what makes you feel full long after eating it. Calcium is an essential component for strong teeth and bones, while iron is important for proper blood function.

It is imperative that we eat a well balanced diet, and taro provides many of the essential elements. As stated above, there are so many vitamins and minerals contained in taro that it really does seem to be almost a perfect food. To make things simple and get all of your nutrients at once, just clean up the taro root and then toss it into a pot to boil. You can then add some fish, and later some green leafy vegetables (chaya, pele etc) and spices to taste. You have just made a simple, very nutritious meal.

Cooking with local food does not have to be an all day affair, nor does it need to be seen as a "chore". It is called "local cooking" as the only food used was that which was grown here on the island, and simple, non electric cooking methods were used. This is how it was done for hundreds of years, and Pohnpeians of old were healthy and happy. It's only in the past several decades, with the trend of eagerly searching for "shortcuts", that this side effect of rapid decline in the population's health has been noticed. Let's try to bring back a bit more of the old ways and use what this great land yields for us. Take care of your local crops and then cook them for your family, explaining to them the importance both for health and for your culture. Enjoy some taro with your family tonight!

## Taro Lasagna with Spinach

By *Maria Stephens, Pacific Treelodge Resort, Kosrae*

### Ingredients for two persons:

- 5 eggs
- 8 tablespoons of taro flour\*
- A pinch of salt
- 1 cup water
- Small bit of olive oil or coconut oil
- 1/2 cup of cow milk or coconut milk
- Spinach
- Parmesan and mozzarella cheese

### Preparation of taro pasta (or "scrippelle")

1. Beat 4 eggs well in medium-size mixing bowl.
2. Gradually add 8 tablespoons of taro flour and salt, and mix well.
3. When the mixture is smooth and creamy, add water, more if needed to make a thin batter.
4. Heat a 6-inch skillet and brush with oil.
5. Pour in one small ladle of batter, spreading over the bottom of skillet to form a thin pancake.
6. As soon as bubbles appear on the top, turn and brown other side.
7. Continue making scrippelle, greasing the skillet between each one.

### Preparation of filling for the pasta

1. Boil the spinach in salt water.
2. Drain and stir for few minutes in a skillet with oil.

### Preparation of béchamel sauce

1. Beat 1 egg with milk in a bowl; add some parmesan cheese.



### Final preparation of lasagna

1. Coat the bottom of pan (8" by 8" by 2") with oil.
2. Place a layer of taro scrippelle to cover bottom of pan.
3. Put a thin layer of spinach over the pasta.
4. Sprinkle with the mozzarella and béchamel sauce.
5. Repeat layering, until the top of the pan.
6. Add the final layer of taro pasta and cover top layer with the remaining mozzarella and Parmesan.
7. Bake approximately 20-30 minutes in a preheated oven to 350 degrees F.
8. Let stand for about 10 minutes before serving.

\*Dried taro flour can be prepared by drying pieces of raw or cooked giant swamp taro. The taro flour used in this recipe was prepared and marketed in Kosrae.

**Note: Scrippelle can also be cut in small squares and used in soup as an alternative to rice.**

## Great turnout for 13th Annual COM-FSM 5k Walk/Run

By Jim Tobin

The 13th annual COM-FSM 5K Walk/Run was held the morning of Saturday, May 2 at the Palm Terrace Shopping Centre. Over 400 people of all ages walked and ran the 3.1 mile course starting and finishing at Palm Terrace with an out and back course to the causeway. The large turnout of runners and walkers made for the biggest 5K since the final PATS 5K Run held 5 years ago.

The overall male and female winners were Tim Smith, with a speedy time of 17 minutes and 7 seconds, and Meghan Orgeman with a time of 20.46. Tim and Meghan continued dominating local runs having finished first in all the 5Ks held on Pohnpei the past year. Other division winners were: COM-FSM students - Texter Rain (22.32) and Scarlet Single (36.48); COM-FSM staff - Sisco Simram (26.03) and Merly Gabriel (1.09.52); COM-FSM faculty - Dana Leeling (28.24) and Meghan Orgeman (20.46); youth division - AJ Gabriel (24.17) and Sharisey Leeling (37.58); teen division - Dionisio Augustine (23.17) and Margret Damarlene (29.24); master division - Gary Bloom (35.00) and Jasmin Gonzalez (60.53) and senior division - Tatasy Yamaguchi (1.03.06) and Anca Dema (1.05.04).

Also receiving awards were the top 10 COM-

FSM student finishers: 1st - Texter Rain (22.32), 2nd - Solomon Goldman (22.05), 3rd - Anthony Gastor (22.52), 4th - Bryan Gabriel (23.02), 5th - Dickson Twilifil (23.47), 6th - Luellen Jim (25.28), 7th - Loyola Maimai (26.02), 8th - Orlando Torres (26.03), 9th - Quinston Lawrence (28.00) and 10th - Jaylee Joseph (30.04).

Following the completion of the run/walk speeches were made by Spensin James, COM-FSM President and major sponsor Peter Konings, European Union Country Manager, Renewable Energy Program in 5 Pacific Countries (REP5). This was followed by an award ceremony, including outstanding door prizes donated by the sponsors, led by MC Castro Joab, COM-FSM Recreation Coordinator. The sponsors of the event were: European Union Renewable Energy Program in 5 Pacific Countries (REP5); FSM National Olympic Committee; Palm Terrace Shopping Centre; Island Food Community of Pohnpei; Do It Best Hardware; Ace Hardware, Bank of Guam; Moylan's Insurance; Seven Stars; Hide Out/Blue Nile; Amcres; Isamu Nakasone Store; Pohnpei LP Gas; Pohnpei True Value; EMC; Bank of FSM; XIX; Ace Office Supply; NIHCO; Tuna Commission; Andy's Car Rental; Caroline Fisheries Corp; Pohnpei Arts & Craft; Efren Roque; Ray & Dor Store and Pohnpei State and Kolonia Town Police.

The event was organized by the College of Micronesia - FSM Recreation Office and FSM National Olympic Committee as a fundraiser for the COM-FSM Endowment Fund. The next scheduled Pohnpei walk/run is the 3rd annual STAP 5k to be held on Saturday, May

23, followed by the 12th annual FSM Olympic Day Run on June 23 to be held on Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae. All of the walk/runs are open to the general public. Our goal is to improve the fitness and health of our community. For more information contact the FSM National Olympic Committee office at 320-8914.



*Pictured are the top 10 COM-FSM students finishers: 1st - Texter Rain, 2nd - Solomon Goldman, 3rd - Anthony Gastor, 4th - Bryan Gabriel, 5th - Dickson Twilifil, 6th - Luellen Jim, 7th - Loyola Maimai, 8th - Orlando Torres, 9th - Quinston Lawrence and 10th - Jaylee Joseph, with Spensin James - COM-FSM President and Peter Konings - European Union Country Manager, Renewable Energy Program in 5 Pacific Countries (REP - 5).*

## President Mori Nominates Two Representatives to the FSM/US Joint Trust Fund Committee

FSM Information Services

April 30, 2009—President Mori has transmitted his nominations, in the form of resolutions, for the FSM/US Joint Trust Fund Committee to Speaker Figir at the FSM Congress. The President has selected Mr. Aren Palik to serve as a representative from the private sector and Mr. Fabian Nimea to serve as the FSM Government representative to the Joint Trust Fund Committee.

With his nomination for Mr. Palik, President Mori states that "Mr. Palik has held various leadership positions with the FSM Bank; Bank of Hawaii and FSM Development Bank since 1987 and is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Pacific Islands Development Bank." The President believes that Mr. Palik is well-suited for the position based on his current and prior work experiences. The term for Mr. Palik will be for three years.

For Mr. Nimea, who is also the Director of the Office of (SBOC) Statistics, Budget

& Economic Planning, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management, President Mori highlighted his enormous experience in banking and banking related transactions, memberships in various professional organizations, and that he is currently the Vice Chairman of the Joint Trust Fund Committee. According to the statutory qualifications under Section 3 of Public Law No. 15-70, one FSM representative to the Joint Trust Fund Committee is to be selected from a position within the National Government and to have at least five years of working experience in financial management and investment. Mr. Nimea's job experiences, educational background, training achievements and professional credentials fulfill these requirements.

President Mori is confident in both candidates' abilities to represent the FSM and the private sector and hopes that during the first (May) session of the 16th FSM Congress, that these two nominations will be considered favorably

## Universal Periodic Review for the FSM

FSM Information Services

At the Pacific Regional Workshop for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Human Rights that was held in Auckland, New Zealand from February 4-6, 2009, it was decided that all UN Member States will appear before the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and undertake a human rights records review. The FSM, which is a member of the UN, will appear before the Working Group during the 9th Session in December of 2010.

The UPR process is a new mandate of the Human Rights Council when it was created in 2006. The review is conducted by the Working Group consisting of 47 members of the Council, but any UN Member State can take part in the discussion/dialogue with the reviewed states.

The UPR will address human rights obligations as set out in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights instruments such as treaty bodies, voluntary pledges and commit-

ments by the State, and applicable international law.

The UPD will base findings on three items, namely, 1) report from the State under review, which can be in the form of a "national report", 2) information from stakeholders such as civil societies and human rights institutions; and 3) information contained in independent human rights reports and human rights treaty bodies such as CRC, CEDAW, etc.

President Manny Mori has directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to take the lead on preparing the national report and enlisted the following departments to be part of the UPR Task Force; Department of Justice, Department of Health and Social Affairs, Department of Education, Office of National Archives, Cultural and Historic Preservation and the Office of the President.

Ultimately, the Department of Foreign Affairs will make the presentation at the Human Rights Council meeting in December.

## International Day of the midwife

UNFPA

5 May 2009 - "In many Pacific Islands Countries, there is a shortage of trained midwives. UNFPA strongly applauds and encourages the training of more midwives in order to ensure skilled birth attendants are present at all deliveries. There is also a need for all countries to follow the lead of those countries where midwives are regularly up skilled and retained." said Dr Annette Sachs Robertson, UNFPA

Representative and Director Pacific Sub-Regional Office a.i.

Speaking on International Day of the Midwife, UNFPA Executive Director, Ms Thoraya Ahmed Obaid called for the presence of skilled professional at birth to protect the life of the mother and the child, who by recognizing problems early, could control the situation by intervening quickly.

In 2008, UNFPA launched a new initiative with the

International Confederation of Midwives to tackle the severe shortage of midwives in more than 30 developing countries. "An additional 350,000 midwives are needed to improve maternal health, reduce child mortality and combat HIV. Addressing this shortage is also critical to achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015," said Ms Obaid. Globally, every minute a woman dies in childbirth. The presence of a midwife can save her. The pres-

ence of a midwife at birth can mean the difference between life and death. For example, countries like PNG really need more midwives to ensure that no woman dies due to child birth related complications.

"UNFPA is committed to supporting governments to address maternal mortality which includes strengthened midwifery training. Midwives are the cornerstone for the delivery of safe obstetric care for women in the Pacific, and indeed all over the world," said Dr Annette Sachs Robertson, UNFPA Representative and Director Pacific Sub-Regional Office a.i.