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FSM governments prepped for El Niño related drought conditions

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM –In the FSM, the first four to five months of the year are considered to be the driest times of the year. It's expected, but when El Niño conditions act in the Pacific Ocean, dry conditions can become life threatening droughts, especially in inhabited outer islands of the FSM where water supplies are already limited.

According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), "El Niño is a disruption of the ocean-atmosphere system in the Tropical Pacific having important consequences for weather and climate around the globe." It involves a cyclical increase in water temperatures that affects, among other things sea levels, temperature, and rainfall most notably in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Rain doesn't fall on atolls the same way that it does in the mountainous islands of the FSM. When it does fall residents collect it and save it. The atolls themselves have no significant naturally occurring way to store the water. Outer islands residents can only collect and save so much water and when it runs out they need help if they are to live.

Even though current El Niño conditions could develop into a life threatening situation for outer island residents, Charles "Chip" Guard, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the Weather Forecast Office of Guam said that there is no reason to panic. He has briefed emergency service agencies in the FSM and they are making preparations to provide water when, where, and if it is needed.

Andrew Yatilman agrees. Yatilman directs

the FSM national government's emergency services efforts. He said that his department has begun to make enquiries amongst FSM businesses to see what stocks of water supplies are currently available and at what cost. He said that if water deliveries need to be made to outer islands, the MS Voyager and MS Hapilmohol could make those deliveries to all islands that need water in a reasonable and effective length of time.

Guard said that current El Niño conditions are not as severe as they were in 1998 or in 1983. He said that his office had been monitoring what they thought would prove to be a weak El Niño but that in the month of December the conditions intensified. Currently his office rates the current El Niño conditions as moderate.

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PRC Ambassador Zhang Weidong to the FSM turns over Pohnpei State Government building to the FSM in a gala celebration



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Peilapalap, Pohnpei, FSM — On Wednesday, February 10, 2010 hundreds of FSM and Chinese celebrants gathered together at 10:00 in the morning for a gala ceremony at the handing over of the new Pohnpei State Government building. Police blocked off the road more than an hour and a half before the ceremony was set to begin.

Government officials and the diplomatic corps were announced one by one and escorted to their seats starting with FSM President Mori and continuing with the seating of PRC Ambassador Zhang Weidong, FSM Congress Speaker Isaac V. Figir, FSM Secretary for Foreign Affairs Loren S. Robert, Pohnpei Speaker of the Legislature

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During the early stages of the El Niño the four states of the FSM experienced wetter than normal conditions. Guard said that the FSM was lucky in that no major tropical storms threatened any of its islands during that time. Storms that did develop did so further west than they normally do which impacted Guam and the Marianas Islands but not the FSM.

For now, the threat of El Niño caused tropical storms in the FSM is minimal but the threat could return for Chuuk and Yap in April or May.

He said that because heavy rains lasted as long as they did during El Niño conditions, the impact on the main islands of the FSM will likely be less drastic than they might have been otherwise.

The threat now is an FSM drought.

Guard, who was in the FSM principally to provide briefings to FSM emergency service officials in order help them to understand worst case scenarios in the FSM said that for most of the mountainous main

islands in the FSM the moderate El Niño would probably be "an inconvenience" but would not likely be life threatening.

He said that Pohnpei and Kosrae will likely experience a 30% decrease in average rainfall during the period of the El Niño conditions. Chuuk and Yap could suffer a more intense 40% decrease in rainfall during that time.

Rains may return to Kosrae by late April or early May. The other states may have to wait as late as June before the normal pattern of rainfall returns.

"March will be the driest period," he predicted and encouraged all residents of the FSM to begin conserving water now. This season is probably not the best time for car wash fund raisers or other water intensive activities.

Fire danger on all of the islands will be higher than normal during the El Niño conditions. In 1998 nearly 20% of Pohnpei was burned in accidental fires. In that same year Guam experienced 1500 fires. Guard said that if residents are not aware of the impact of dry conditions fire could indeed be a danger in the FSM again. A burning cigarette butt thrown out the window of a passing car into dry vegetation could spark

a fire that in combination with strong trade winds could quickly burn out of control. Residents should be particularly careful about burning debris during this time.

Pohnpei Police Chief Joe Roby said during an event unrelated to El Niño conditions that he was concerned about the fact that Pohnpei has only one fire truck and that the Department of Public Safety, under the direction of Director Lucas Carlos is already keeping a vigil.

Guard said that state governments need to keep in mind residents of rural areas whose drinking water needs are not serviced by public utilities and told those governments that they need to begin making plans to deliver water to them if the time comes.

He said that during this dry time rivers may not completely dry up but they may become stagnant and that residents should boil water if the water has come directly from a river or spring.

Even when there are not drought conditions residents who rely on river or spring water for their own consumption should boil that water before using it. The Conservation Society of Pohnpei's Director, Patterson Shed said during an event at Pohnpei's Environmental Protection Agency on Fri-

day, February 12 that a recent study concluded that in Pohnpei there are more than 3000 pig pens and outhouses on Pohnpei's shores.

Guard said that during past El Niño conditions, sakau (kava) growers tended to move their plantations higher up on the steep slopes of the mountain sides since at all times rain is more prevalent on the mountains. He warned sakau growers against the practice. Cleared slopes could cause severe landslides that could result in loss of life when the rain does return. "The rain will come back," Guard exclaimed.

Andrew Yatilman said that President Mori participated in an informal luncheon with the members of Congress not long after the FSM briefing with Chip Guard. Yatilman said that the President included in his lunch time conversation with Senators a "heads up" on the developing El Niño situation and that he asked the Senators to be adaptable in case Congressional action for funding is needed in the event of a drought related emergency in the outer islands.

Guard's office has doubled the frequency of monitoring of the El Niño conditions and he will keep FSM state and national officials informed if they need to step up their efforts.

Conservation Society of Pohnpei holds its annual meeting

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—The Conservation Society of Pohnpei held its annual meeting at the Island Food Community of Pohnpei at the Botanical Gardens at 5:45 on Friday February 5. As many as 100 people gathered to hear about CSP's project with conservation projects.

Father Frances X Hezel and Alloys Malfitani have agreed to serve as board members for the next three years. Bill Raynor, who Executive Director Patter-

son Shed called a father of modern conservation in Pohnpei and Micronesia has served as a board member for 12 years. Although he has agreed to act in an advisory capacity he leaves the CSP board this year. Patti Arthur has served for the last three years and will be leaving the board this year.

Several dignitaries attended the function including Lt. Governor Churchill Edward, Senator Walter, Senator Phillip, Speaker Nett District Council, Vice Speaker Sokehs Council, U Chief Minister, community chiefs Lepen Madau

en Metipw and Sahu Takaiou. Shed also thanked the Church, in particular Father Dave Andrus and Dihken Santiago for their presence.

Shed said that he looks forward to working ever more closely in 2010 to protect Pohnpei's biodiversity and livelihood from "ridges to reefs."

Among his announcements that evening Shed said that thanks to the good work of CSP in collaboration with the State and the Nahnpei family, Governor Ehsa has agreed to issue an executive order that

will include Ahnd as part of Pohnpei's marine protected areas.

Shed presented an outstanding Power Point presentation that showed that not only is the Conservation Society of Pohnpei making great strides in environmental conservation and education their achievements are being noticed by donors. Some major grant makers and some smaller ones supported CSP last year. Shed thanked past donors and encouraged future donors to consider the environmental future of Pohnpei when they consider donations for the future. "We can't do it without you," he said.

Shed said in an email that the CSP Annual report will be available online in PDF form at www.serehd.org.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Incinerator for Chuuk State Hospital

By *Clark Graham*

On February 1, 2010 a brand new bio-incinerator was delivered to the Chuuk State Hospital. The hospital desperately needed an incinerator for trash and bio-waste and Rotary Clubs from International Rotary District No. 2750, made aware of the need from a JICA volunteer working at the hospital several years ago, answered the call.

Combining resources, the Denen Chofu Club, Seijo Shin Club and Hachioji West Rotary Club all of Japan, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon (RCTL) provided all necessary funding for this important humanitarian project.

Thanks to the amended FSM tax law permitting donated items to have a duty free status, the FSM national government and the Chuuk State government waived all taxes and associated charges. Transco donated handling and unloading fees.

A major reason for the success of this project is JICA volunteer Tadashi Miyagi and hospital maintenance supervisor Dennis Triana. Tadashi has acted as coordinator of this project, helping with communications and preparations. Dennis has served as the technical advisor and is the person who will be in charge of the operation and maintenance of the incinerator. Both men have worked closely with the Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon (RCTL) and their expertise and support went a long way to the success of this project.

Not only did the Rotary Clubs pay for the incinerator to be manufactured, but covered all shipping costs. But there is more. On February 10 a team arrives in Chuuk to train hospital staff in its operation.

Chuuk State, especially the hos-

pital, the Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon, and the people of Chuuk are most grateful to Rotary District 2750, the donor clubs, Truk Transportation Company and JICA for their assistance and concern for the people of Chuuk and for taking action to help.

It is through such collaborative efforts by concerned individuals that positive steps are taken to alleviate needs in our islands. We should all be grateful for the help of all individuals and organizations involved.



Incinerator on site at Chuuk State Hospital



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US Ambassador to the FSM Peter Prahar lays out his guiding principals at a welcome reception in Nanpohnmal

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM — On the evening of February 8 many U.S. citizens living in Pohnpei gathered along with FSM dignitaries including President Manny Mori, Speaker Isaac Figir, and many of the other members of the 16th Congress at a welcome reception at the residence of the new U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Peter Prahar and his wife Amy. During the previous week, President Mori accepted the credentials of Ambassador Prahar making him the 8th US Ambassador of the United States of America to serve in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Ambassador and his wife personally circulated amongst the crowd and introduced themselves. After a period of cocktails and appetizers the Ambassador took to the podium to deliver what he considers to be his agenda, mandated, and guiding principals for his term in the FSM. The full text of his speech follows:



Mrs. Amy Prahar supports her husband, US Ambassador Peter Prahar as he addresses his guests at their residence in Nanpohnmal. First Secretary William Douglass is in the background.

Your Excellency, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Emanuel Mori, Speaker Figir, members of the Cabinet, members of the FSM Congress, members of the FSM Judiciary, Pohnpei Chief Justice Rodriguez, members of the Pohnpei State Government and Legislature, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of international and regional organization, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Allow me to welcome you to the Residence with some brief remarks. I will be brief because I realize that all this speech-making is standing between you and dinner. But, first, let me introduce the real boss up here: My wife Amy. She and I grew up on opposite sides of the Pacific – me on the Oregon coast, she in Hong Kong, we were married in Japan, and now we are continuing our Pacific Partnership here in the FSM.

I would like to begin by thanking my Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. William “Doug” Douglass for his stewardship of the U.S. Embassy during the past five months. Doug and the embassy staff provided me with accurate and timely information throughout my confirmation process. I am delighted to accept from him a smoothly-running mission with high morale and an excellent reputation. So, thank you, Doug.

I also want to thank others that have worked so hard to make this evening’s event possible: The staff of the U.S. Embassy – each and every one of you. I especially want to thank my chef, Mr. Samuel Recites, who has either prepared or overseen the preparation of all the food you will be able to enjoy once we’ve stopped talking up here. And, finally, the students from the Hospitality Program and the College of Micronesia-FSM,

who are serving drinks and appetizers this evening.

I have the honor –the honor of a lifetime – to have been appointed the 8th Ambassador of the United States of America to the Federated States of Micronesia.

I thank Your Excellency, and I thank the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia for having accepted my credentials as Ambassador.

President Obama has provided a very clear set of principles and instructions to guide those of us who have the honor of serving as his personal representatives in the capacity of ambassador.

Let me share with you a sample of these principles, as they will direct and inform my performance in the coming months and years.

President Obama has told us: “The United States will advance its interests through a core pragmatism rooted in America’s enduring values. We must rebuild our traditional alliances and pursue new partnerships based on mutual interests and respect, so that together we can confront the key common challenges of the 21st century, including weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, poverty, pandemic disease, dependence on fossil fuels, and global climate change. America is strongest when we act alongside other nations and peoples. Our security is also enhanced through principled and sustained engagement with those who think differently.”

Your Excellency and honored guests, I intend to implement these principles while pursuing three broad goals during my tenure.

First, I will nurture the profound relationship between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia. Our two countries and our two peoples share a commitment to the values of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. We also share a commitment to defending these values and defeating terrorists that threaten our way of life. Your Excellency, I recognize that your daughter is now serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and that many Micronesians here today are veterans, as am I. These are profound ties – far beyond those formed by formal treaty commitments. Under my direction, the United States Embassy will be more than a bridge between our two governments; it will also be a bridge between our peoples and societies.

Second, I am committed to ensuring the security of the FSM. Of course, under the Compact of Free Association, the United States is responsible for defending the FSM, to use the language of the Compact, “as the U.S. and its citizens are defended.” – the highest level security commitment we can make.

But I take a broad view of security. For example, I recognize the need to effectively protect the FSM’s most important natural resource: the last healthy fishery in the world. This fishery is today threatened by unlicensed and unregulated fishing. We know that fisheries can collapse quickly and irreversibly, and permanently deprive countries of both food and income. We must continue to tackle this issue with the seriousness and urgency it deserves.

I also see global climate change as a security threat. Climate change impacts, including sea-level rise and more frequent and more intense natural disasters,

have the potential to adversely affect coral reefs, fisheries, agriculture, access to drinking water, and living space in the FSM. In other words, climate change threatens the socioeconomic and political well-being, and potentially even the long-term viability, of the FSM. We must tackle this issue, too, with the seriousness and urgency it demands.

Finally, during my tenure, I will work with the governments and peoples of the FSM to help them achieve their Compact development goals: an increase in the standard of living of the citizens of the FSM and increased budgetary self-reliance of the governments.

I know from years of experience certain things about development work. First, development is never easy. Many of the important changes needed – such as in education and health – are the work of generations. Also, development is not ever-and-always upwards: There are reversals and stagnant periods. Finally, development requires a sound policy environment. We can point to countless examples from around the world of bad policies overcoming well-implemented and well-funded programs. But I know, too, that as difficult as some changes may be and as difficult as development can be to achieve, the goal is well worth the effort: Increased opportunities and choice – and a better life - for the people of the FSM.

More than 30 U. S. Federal Agencies implement programs in the FSM. The representatives of some of them are here tonight: the Peace Corps, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development program and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. USDA’s new resident representative, Mr. Paul Lake, is here this evening and I hope all of you take the opportunity to introduce yourselves to him.

As Ambassador, I will be proud to lead them in a unified and well-informed effort to assist the FSM meet its development goals. I will also work with the FSM’s other development partners – including Australia, China and Japan, whose ambassadors are here this evening – to ensure that our work is transparent, well-coordinated, complementary, and of real benefit to the citizens of the FSM.

In closing, again let me say that Amy and I are grateful for the warm welcome we have received here. As I embark on my tenure, I hope that this evening is just the beginning of many fruitful discussions with all of you. I can’t – and won’t - promise I will always agree with you in the end – but I can promise that the door will always be open and that we will be happy to hear your views.

Thank you all so much for coming.

Globetrotting photographer from Amsterdam in Pohnpei for “Streets of the World” project

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM- After searching for three years to secure funding for his innovative art project, Jeroen Swolfs nearly gave up. He tried to get funding from foundations and multinational corporations but was having no luck at all. Just when he began to think that he no longer cared enough about the project to sell it well he found the funding he needed to carry on with his life long dream to travel to every country and territory of the world taking pictures.

The funding came from a wealthy individual who started a large corporation and who lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Swolfs would not name the philanthropist. He said only that he collects art and that he often funds art projects. It was exactly what Swolfs had in mind.

Swolfs intends to travel to 200 countries and territories of the world over the course of five years on a photographic tour of the world. The funded portion of his tour began in July. Since that time he has visited 20 countries with a short break to travel home for Christmas. In the three years previous he had visited eight separate countries, in Africa, Europe, and Asia.

He will select just one photo of hundreds he will take on city streets in the capital cities of each country to represent his view of life in each of the countries he visits. At the end of his tour a large book containing 200 photos, one from each country will be part of the product that comes from his tour. Additionally, he and his investor will print each of those photos in a large scale format and present them as a walking tour exhibit in large parks around the world.

Swolfs arrived in Pohnpei from Palau on February 10. He spent the first evening with Steve Finnen and Uta Krause who also picked him up at the airport. Swolfs “met” Steve and Uta through an online service known as couchsurfers.com, a networking site for world travelers with common interests.

Swolfs chose to station himself in the parking lot next to the Pit Stop, across the street from the Post Office in Kolonia. He chose that spot partly because the 19 Meter Earth Station at Telecom is clearly visible in his wide angle camera lens but also because people of Pohnpei walk up and down the street and some stop at the Pit Stop for conversation. That is what he is trying to capture.

He chose the spot because he felt that it would represent “street life” in the capital of the FSM, a country, he admits he had never heard of until he began to do his research for the Oceania leg of his trip. He said that he expects that he will have to make exceptions during his world travels and that FSM is one of them. Kolonia is not the capital of the FSM. That is located in Palikir but since the government buildings themselves in Palikir are just that, buildings, he chose Kolonia, the busiest place in the capital state.

The idea of the project, Swolfs said is to provide a pictorial comparison of lifestyles across the world. The juxtaposition of those photos, he said, will show a positive view of humanity because Swolfs will choose the best and most representative places in each country. It also will show how different people’s lifestyles are and how far the world has yet to go to eliminate disparities in standards of living.

Wherever he travels he stations himself in one place and waits for the perfect opportunity to capture by photographs his idea of the lifestyle of each country as displayed by the people who walk its streets. “Part of being a good photographer is being in the right place at the right time. I can’t control the right time but I can do something about the place and hope that the right time comes along.”

As I took photos of Swolfs taking photos on what is known as Kaselehlie Street, a woman in a taxi who had obviously noticed Swolfs’ pervasive camera toting presence in the parking lot yelled from the window as she passed by, “That’s enough photos for now I think,” and cackled good naturedly.



Jeroen Swolfs waits on the main street in Kolonia for the perfect photo opportunity

Swolfs said that of all of the many people he has met during his travels on this project only two or three percent have anything bad to say. “People are mostly positive,” he commented.

Swolfs is by no means a traveling vagrant living off the means of a dotting sponsor. Reading his resume on his website at www.StreetsoftheWorld.nl, I got the impression that Swolfs could probably do anything he wanted to do and that what he wants to do is exactly what he is doing. He attended law school at Utrecht University. He has been a sailing instructor and was the President of the Board foundation sailing school Eedracht. He is an accomplished glider, kite surfer, snowboarder and diver. His photographic background is also impressive. He attended the Photo Academy of Amsterdam where he studied photojournalism. Since then his photographic work has appeared in major publications.

He said he was in Samoa just after the recent tsunami there and traveled with the Red Cross for three days doing some sideline reporting on the tragedy.

Swolfs said that he plans to spend an average of four to five days in each country. He will accomplish his plan in four phases. Phase 1 will include Asia and Oceania from a basecamp in Bangkok Thailand. That phase is planned to take 16 months. Phase 2 will include the Americas and will begin in South America, continue to Central America and then North America. His base camp for that phase of the trip will be Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and is scheduled to last for eight months. Phase four will

be based in Cape Town, South Africa and will cover the African Continent in 18 months. The final phase will be based in Rome, Italy from where Swolfs will base his travels to photograph streets in the capital cities of Europe over period of 16 months.

Swolfs will continue on from Pohnpei to the Republic of the Marshall Islands where he will meet another person he met through couchsurfers.com. He said that couchsurfers.com has been a great tool that enables him to already know someone when he arrives in a new country. It helps him to develop insight into a country faster than he might otherwise be able to do.

Swolfs, like every photographer, is a firm believer that a picture speaks a thousand words. Just the same, he said that some of his photographs will require a caption to help the viewer understand what they are looking at.

“Today mankind as a species is more connected than ever. The very serious problems we face today are global. Climate change and terrorism are not regional problems, but the shared problems of a divided world,” Swolfs said in his website.

“I want to show that the world is not a simple place. I hope that my photographs will show that changes need to be made and that they will force serious discussions,” Swolfs said. “The combination of these streets will create a portrait of what our world looks like, what humanity looks like at the beginning of the 21st century. All countries. Thus making visible what humanity is. Who we are.”



FSM Observes World Cancer Day

FSM Information Services

February 11, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – President Manny Mori declared February 4, 2010, as World Cancer Day to be celebrated in the FSM. A brief ceremony to commemorate the day was held at the Central Facilities Conference Room in Palikir, Pohnpei, and was attended by more than 85 FSM National Government employees, officials and the public. The ceremony featured an introduction by the National Comprehensive Cancer Coalition Program (NCCCP) Coordinator, Mr. Amato Elymore, and opening remarks were delivered by the Acting Secretary of the Department of Health



and Social Affairs, Mr. Ben Jesse and the Chairman of the National Cancer Coalition, Mr. Wilson Waguk.

The theme of this year's World Cancer Day was "Working Together against Cancer". At the ceremony, the NCCCP Coordinator made an educational presentation about cancer followed by a "Question and Answer session" which provided the participants an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about cancer.

The Comprehensive Cancer Coalitions in the other FSM States had similar celebrations which recognized and observed the importance of the day. In Pohnpei, the Comprehensive Cancer Coalition had a parade with students from Ohmine Elementary School walking on the roads in Kolonia to raise awareness of cancer as the world's leading cause of death. In Kosrae, they reported that their weeklong activities culminated in their Governor's signing off on their constitutional documents for their coalition. Now, the Kosrae Comprehensive Cancer Coalition is a fully recognized non-governmental organization.

The FSM NCCCP Coordinator would like to thank everyone that was involved with the activities and looks forward to more public awareness of cancer and how it can be prevented.

FSM Postal Service Restricts Commercial Commodity Shipments

FSM Information Services

February 10, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – On November 11, 2009, the FSM National Government received notice from the Government of the United States in regards to the exploitation of the United States Postal Service (USPS) from the high volume of commodity shipments originating within the FSM. According to the terms set forth in the Federal Programs and Services Agreement (FPSA), as amended, the United States has requested the cooperation of the Government of the FSM to protect the postal services, which are provided for by the Government of the United States, from exploitation. The exact language from the FPSA comes from Article VI, Section 5, that says, "The Government of the FSM shall undertake to protect the postal service provided by the Government of the United States from exploitation for the monetary gain of private or government organizations or of individuals or of commercial enterprises, including the posting of bulk mail, books, catalogues, goods or materials."

The shipments in question are ones that contain betelnuts, sakau root, breadfruit and cigarettes that are being mailed through the USPS in large volumes for business purposes. The USPS opted to apply the above mentioned provision in prohibiting the shipments of these commodities when they realized that the FSM Postal Service's (FSMPS) outbound mail volume was skyrocketing because individuals and businesses were exporting these items in bulk, for profit. According to the FSM Postmaster General, Mr. Midion G. Neth, although the FSMPS had restrictions on the commercial shipping of these items, the way the Postal Service and Related Program Agreement was set up, it failed to indicate that postal customers should declare to the Postal Clerks whether his/her parcel was being sent was for personal consumption or for commercial reasons. The Postal Clerks were therefore accepting all

See "Postal Restrictions" on next page

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Chancellor Serrano completes pre-visit to COM-FSM

College of Micronesia - FSM

Sandra Serrano, chair of the WASC visiting team, has completed her visit to all the COM-FSM six sites.

The pre-visit commenced at Kosrae Campus on January 18 and concluded at Yap and FSM-FMI campuses on January 26, 2010. During the visit, Ms Serrano met with the president, the vice presidents, campus directors, the accreditation liaison officer and other staff to obtain logistical information from the College. The visitor also toured all the college's six sites.

According to information from Ms Serrano, the pre-visit is an important aspect of the comprehensive visit. It gives her the opportunity to meet key individuals, to become familiar with the College, the physical settings, and achieve a sense of institutional climate and dynamics. The pre-visit will facilitate the logistical arrangements for the team, including access to evidence to support the self study report, and access to computer hardware and software. Another reason for the visit is to determine travel, lodging, and other logistical arrangements for the team, and to develop a preliminary schedule for the team visit, including visits to the College's six sites.

The pre-visit was conducted in preparation for the College's comprehensive visit which is scheduled for March 8 - 11, 2010.

...Postal Restrictions

Continued from previous page

packages that were within the prescribed USPS weights and dimension regulations.

Based on the contents of the notification and meetings with USPS officials, on November 18, 2009, the FSMPS ceased allowing the shipment of betelnuts, sakau roots, breadfruit and cigarettes thorough the U.S. Postal Service. Then on December 28, 2009, after further consultation with the USPS and an official notice from the Government of the United States, the USPS relaxed the restriction on the ban and is now allowing the FSMPS to begin sending the commodities in shipments of 1 pound quantities per mailer per day or to a single address per day for sakau, breadfruit and belelnut, or 200 cigarettes per mailer per day or to a single address per day for personal usage only. This new policy will allow people to send small amounts of these commodities to family/friends for personal consumption and will prevent the postal services from being exploited for monetary gain from businesses. All business wishing to export commodities should use a freight forwarder to send their goods.

For more information on these and other postal requirements and policies, please contact your local post office.

U.S. Representative Diane Watson announces plans for retirement

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Los Angeles, California— According to several United States news sources, U.S. Representative Diane Watson announced on Thursday, February 11 that she will retire in November at the end of her current term as representative for the Los Angeles area. The Los Angeles Times said that the 76 year old Democrat "was tiring of the cross-country trips and wanted to spend time with her mother, who recently turned 100."

Diane Watson came to the FSM as the United States Ambassador in 1999 after her appointment by then-President Bill Clinton. She resigned that position in 2001 in order to pursue a seat in the US House of Representatives. She won the special election in 2001 to complete the term of the late U.S. Representative Julian Dixon.

She easily won subsequent elections and will have served as a Congress woman for nine years when she retires.

Watson, a Clinton political appointee to the FSM, endeared herself to both US and FSM citizens when she served in this country though she freely admits that she knew nothing at all about this country when she accepted the appointment. Her record at

Congress shows that she continued her record of outspokenness and flamboyance, a trait that characterized her service in the FSM.

Watson was the first African American to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education in 1975. She also served in the State Senate and has been a force in Los Angeles politics for decades.

One of the founding board members of The

Kaselehlie Press said that it was Diane Watson's deep desire to see a newspaper in the FSM and that as a result of several conversations with her the newspaper was started in 2001.

One of the top contenders for Watson's Congress vacancy is expected to be Karen Bass, the speaker of the state Assembly who faces term limits and would likely be a strong favorite for the seat according to US newspaper sources.



Former US Ambassador Diane Watson at an event at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington D.C. in 2007. With her are her immediate successors, Larry Dinger and Suzanne Hale

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FSM TC&I Committee holds public hearing on “Telecom Oversight Bill”

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM

February 4, 2010 — “This is not the Micronesian way to handle problems,” said Sasao Goulard, Chairman of the Board of FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) in an impassioned introductory speech in front of the FSM Committee on Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure chaired by Pohnpei’s Senator Dion Neth.

“If this bill passes I think maybe I’ll resign,” said FSMTC Vice Chairman Esmond Moses.

The TC&I committee met at 8:30 on the morning of February 4, 2010 to consider CB Number 16-08 which would essentially transfer most of the management responsibilities for FSMTC to the Department of TC&I under the direction of Secretary Francis Itimai. The committee also heard testimony on CB Number 16-26 which would allow the FSM President to nominate all of the members of the FSMTC’s Board of Directors for Congressional review. Currently the President nominates only one member for the Board of Directors who serves as the representative for the National Government. The Governors of each state nominate their own representatives and their legislatures review the nominee for advice and consent. The FSMTC Board therefore, consists of five members, one from the National Government and one each from Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.

16-08 was introduced by Floor Leader Joe Suka of Chuuk on behalf of FSM President Manny Mori. 16-26 was introduced by TC&I Committee Chair Senator Don Neth of Pohnpei.

Secretary Itimai said that there is a Pacific wide trend toward governmental regulation of telecommunications providers in order to insure quality service. He pointed out that the Cook Islands has introduced legislation to do essentially the same thing that is being proposed by 16-08. He said that the bill was proposed to promote greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency at FSMTC. The goal, he said is for the economic and social development of the FSM.

He said that during hearings on the matter the states said that they were in full support of the bill. The Department of TC&I strongly endorsed passage of the bill as well.

An August 25, 2009 memo written by John McKenzie, Counsel for Kosrae Legislature said that while the Legislature agrees in principal with the stated intentions of the bill they recommend that the bill not be passed by Congress. “It (the Kosrae Legislature) strongly believes that this bill has not been drafted in such a way as to give legal effect to the bill’s intended purposes and is constitutionally defective,” the memo said.

The five page memo detailed the provisions

of the bill that the Kosrae Legislature felt were unconstitutional or merely ambiguous and therefore deficient.

Some provisions of the bill would give subpoena power to the Department of TC&I, something that McKenzie said would be a violation of the Separation of Powers Doctrine, which is a judicial or legislative responsibility and cannot be given to the Executive branch.

“If the Managers of Telecom are acting inappropriately, as was discussed by Professor Okamura (Information and Communications Technical advisor for the Department of TC&I) then there are ways of dealing with the issue without effectively nationalizing Telecom. Almost any other approach would be more effective than this bill,” the memo said.

Former President, Senator Joseph Urusemal, of Yap is a member of the TC&I committee and said that if he asked people who had never been to Fiji to compare the services of FSMTC to service in Fiji they would probably say that FSMTC service “is lousy. They don’t know. I’ve been to Fiji and other places in the Pacific and used their cell phones.” His conclusion was that FSMTC services compare very well to other Pacific islands.

“Of course if you go to Guam their services are going to be better. They have more money and a bigger market.” He said that Guam’s geography wasn’t nearly as challenging either.

It was an interesting statement coming from the Senator who regularly criticizes FSMTC from the Congress chamber floor usually in his habitually good natured manner.

Takuro Akinaga, FSMTC’s Chief Executive Officer broke step with his normal even tempered style when he said that FSMTC management didn’t appreciate the way the bill was presented. He said that FSMTC follows FSM’s Financial Management Accountability Standards and that if there was a problem it should have been discussed before the bill was introduced. He speculated that the bill probably arose after he refused to provide the Secretary of TC&I with a copy of the arrangement between FSMTC and Tyco on the trans-Pacific fiber optic line. Since he had signed a non-disclosure agreement with Tyco he was not legally allowed to provide that information. He said that FSMTC does have transparency and issues audited annual reports every year.

FSMTC is already subject to Congressional oversight through the Committee on TC&I. FSMTC’s Vice Chairman Esmond Moses said that in 27 years FSMTC had never been sued as a result of their standards of service nor has it been told by Congress that they were in non-compliance with the law establishing Telecom.

“The more services you add the more complaints you will have. Why do they (the Ex-

ecutive Branch) need to know every single detail,” he asked?

Moses pointed out that FSMTC’s rates for telecommunications services are still some of the lowest in the Pacific even when compared to islands that have competition. He compared the average monthly cost for a regular casual residential user of FSMTC phone service to the average rate in the Cook Islands where legislation is being introduced to break up the monopoly for telecommunications services. In the FSM the average price for such a customer is not quite \$10 per month while in the Cook Islands the same type of customer would pay approximately \$50.

Senator Peter Christian of Pohnpei, also a member of the TC& I committee suggested that perhaps TC&I and FSMTC should have talked about the bill amongst themselves before it was submitted to Congress. “Does this bill mean that the President has no confidence in his own (FSMTC) board,” he asked? “If the bill passes does that mean that we get rid of the board?”

Christian pointed at Secretary Itimai and said, “I don’t think this man has enough staff to handle this. He’s going to have to come back to us and tell us how he’s going to organize.”

He said that it was clear that something was going to have to change at FSMTC; that the status quo was unacceptable. “It’s either more government oversight or privatization,” he theorized.

Christian asked FSMTC Chief Operating Officer John Sohl a pointed question. If faced with a choice would FSMTC management prefer to be subject to tax or to the kind of government oversight that the Telecom bill suggested? Sohl blinked only once and answered, “We’d prefer the tax.”

That seemed to be the end of the matter for the committee. Congressional staff said that the committee at press time was not recommending that the bill be passed at this time and that there was no committee report. The staff member said that the legal staff for the TC&I committee was in the process of composing a committee report on the bill (16-26) that would allow the President to appoint all of the members of the FSMTC board with Congressional advice and consent.

During the hearing on the 4th of February, members of the committee and witnesses from FSMTC expressed concern that the bill might tend to usurp the constitutional powers of each of the states and to limit the States powers to have input into the oversight of their own telecommunications issues.

It was not clear at press time whether the committee would recommend 16-26 for passage.

Both bills can be viewed in their entirety at www.fsmcongress.fm.

Pacific nations participate in high level meeting at the United Nations

United Nations News Service

Fourteen island developing nations in the Pacific Ocean wrapped up a United Nations-backed meeting today with a call to the global community to honour its commitments to help them weather the fallout from global economic crises and recent natural disasters.

“External assistance, through development aid, debt relief and foreign investment, is needed to support the Pacific on its path to equitable economic growth,” UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Executive Secretary Noleen Heyzer told the high-level forum in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

“Pacific island economies are vulnerable for a number of reasons. They are isolated, small in size, lacking in resources, subject to a high frequency of natural disasters and vulnerable to rising sea levels,” she said, noting that global economic crises and recent natural disasters had affected the islands’ halting recovery from the earlier food and fuel crises.

“In order to move forward, we must first understand the social, economic and environmental impacts these new risks and vulnerabilities have had on the region. With this knowledge we can then develop appropriate strategies for recovery and long-term plans for sustainable development.”

Strategies adopted at the two-day meeting, organized by ESCAP and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), include a call on the international community to honour their commitments, adoption of green growth policies, strengthening of implementation mechanisms, and adequate budget allocation.

The outcome will be discussed at a three-day Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis beginning in Port Vila tomorrow, when Ms. Heyzer will be joined by UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark.

Ministers and senior officials from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu participated in the meeting.

...Government Building

Continued from front page

Nelson Pelep, Pohnpei Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez, Pohnpei's Lt. Governor Churchill Edward, United States Ambassador Peter Prahar, Ambassador from Japan Shoji Sato, and the dean of the diplomatic corps, Australian Ambassador Susan Cox. Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa was seated last.

Pohnpei's paramount chiefs, from each of the municipalities, the Mwoalen Wahu were individually announced and seated as well.

Former Pohnpei State Governor Johnny P. David under whose administration the new building was conceived and facilitated observed the proceedings from the front of the sidelines. Several of the speakers thanked his administration for what they had accomplished in seeing the planning of the building through.

The Pohnpei State Police color guard marched in to hoist the FSM flag, the flag of the People's Republic of China, and the Pohnpei State flag on the slightly less than vertical flag poles situated in a line perpendicular to the building. The flag of the PRC occupied the center pole on that day.

Pohnpei State Public Information Officer McGarry Miguel, dressed in traditional Pohnpei dress was the Master of Ceremonies for the event and welcomed the hundreds of people gathered for the culmination of the 22 month building process.

Each of the five speakers who addressed the crowd, beginning with Speaker Nelson Pelep gravitated toward the central themes of friendship, harmony, and unity between the people of the FSM and the People's Republic of China. President Manny Mori said that we "all share a sense of pride at what the new Pohnpei State Government building will bring to Pohnpei."

Ambassador Zhang said that the building, the largest in Pohnpei, covers an area of 21,000 square meters. The two story building, with a construction area of 3000 square meters, has 30 rooms and can hold up to 150 people to work inside. It was built by Chinese contractors mostly from the China Ningbo Construction Group Co. Ltd. Over 100 local laborers also were hired to help build the new government building.



Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa smiles as he receives the symbolic key to the new Pohnpei State Government building from President Mori.

He said that it is a modern building including many high tech facilities such as a security monitoring system, an automatic fire alarm system, central air conditioning, and the first elevator in Pohnpei. He said that it is an environmentally friendly building. Instead of concrete walls, the double layer vacuum glass curtain wall that was built is not only an aesthetic decoration but also saves an extensive amount of energy.

Governor Ehsa said that there is still much to do in terms of funding for landscaping, furnishings, security and maintenance for the \$3.8 million building. For instance, the central court yard around which the building is situated has no landscaping of any kind and is currently filled with coral gravel. The Governor said that he would be approaching partner countries some of whom were represented by the diplomatic corps that morning for possibilities for assistance.

The symbolic key to the building was presented to Ambassador Zhang by the contractor. Zhang in turn presented it to President Mori who presented to Governor Ehsa. Afterwards, Loren S. Robert and Ambassador Zhang signed the official paperwork representing the actual turn over of the building to the FSM.

Governor Ehsa announced during his speech that the building also has a permanent place for the council of paramount leaders, the Mwoalen wahu. He turned the symbolic key over to the Nanmwarki of Madolenihmw, His Majesty Kerpet Ehpel. Doahkesa Dr. Berysin Salomon, the Nanmwarki of Wein Pingelap spoke in Pohnpeian and in English on behalf of the Mwoalen Wahu.

Several community church choirs and one outstanding soloist provided special music for the event.

icap accessible facility.

"As a Chinese saying goes, though born a thousand miles apart, two minds with but a single thought shall meet. China and the FSM are both developing countries. We, the developing countries in the world, had the similar experience in the past, share the same nation-building and common aspirations for peace and development today, and

hope to have a better life and better world in the future. As friendly countries, we respect and trust each other. A friend in need is a friend in deed. Although China is not rich, we will continuously provide assistance to the FSM and other friendly Pacific island countries to seek common social and economic development in the years to come," said Ambassador Zhang during his speech.



First visitors to the building view a photographic display presented by the Chinese Government in the lobby.



Ambassador Zhang Weidong receives the symbolic key from the head contractor for the new Government building.



The Paramount Chiefs of Pohnpei will have a permanent seat in the building.

At the conclusion of the ceremony which lasted nearly two hours, President Mori, Ambassador Zhang, Governor Ehsa and His Majesty Kerpet Ehpel cut the ceremonial ribbon and participants were allowed to tour the hand-

Australian Federal Police support Pohnpei Police Crime Prevention Initiative

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM — Community policing and crime prevention took center stage in Pohnpei on February 11 at 2:00 in the afternoon in the conference room of Pohnpei's Department of Public Safety. On that day, Susan Cox Australia's Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau presented a check to gathered DPS officials to cover the cost of a new community law enforcement awareness tool.

The Australian Federal Police through its Pacific Police Development program provided the money to pay for a vehicle and associated hardware to the Pohnpei State Police to support its community policing initiative Crime Prevention through Community Awareness.

The AFP sponsored program aims to raise awareness amongst local communities within the Federated States of Micronesia regarding crime prevention; and how police both respond to unlawful behavior and investigate criminal activity

The crime prevention tool, a vehicle donated to the Pohnpei State Police Department is a

Honda CRV four wheel drive with all-weather cover and portable table and chair cost just over \$6,000 USD. It will act as a mobile police station. The Honda will be driven to communities and set up for community engagement activities where the dedicated team of community police can talk to residents face-to-face.

An Australian Embassy media release quoted State Police Chief Joe Roby as having earlier said, "Communities play an important role in both identifying and reporting crime to police. It is essential that our police officers have the community's confidence and this can only come from working together."

Chief Roby said during the Thursday ceremony that the community policing initiative is important for the people of Pohnpei. In the past, he said, the police department functioned on a reactionary basis, after a crime had already occurred. The community policing initiative will allow for proactive responses to crime; a greater focus on crime prevention.

As an example he spoke about police concerns about domestic violence issues in Pohnpei. The community could help to resolve those kinds of issues while they are simple matters of disputes rather than after they have escalated to crimes that envelop whole communities

with their tragic ends.

Captain Hermin Edmund is currently heading an island wide project in Pohnpei State that has already involved several local communities in crime prevention issues.

The Embassy press release quoted Captain Edmund as saying during events leading to the hand over ceremony, "Community engagement and education is critical to crime prevention in the Pacific. This important vehicle provided by the Australian Federal Police will provide Pohnpei Police with the means to engage with our communities and work together

to prevent criminal activity."

Ambassador Cox challenged the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety to invite the media to "ride along" and see the new mobile police station in action in communities of Pohnpei.

The Kaselehlie Press agreed as did Pohnpei State officials.

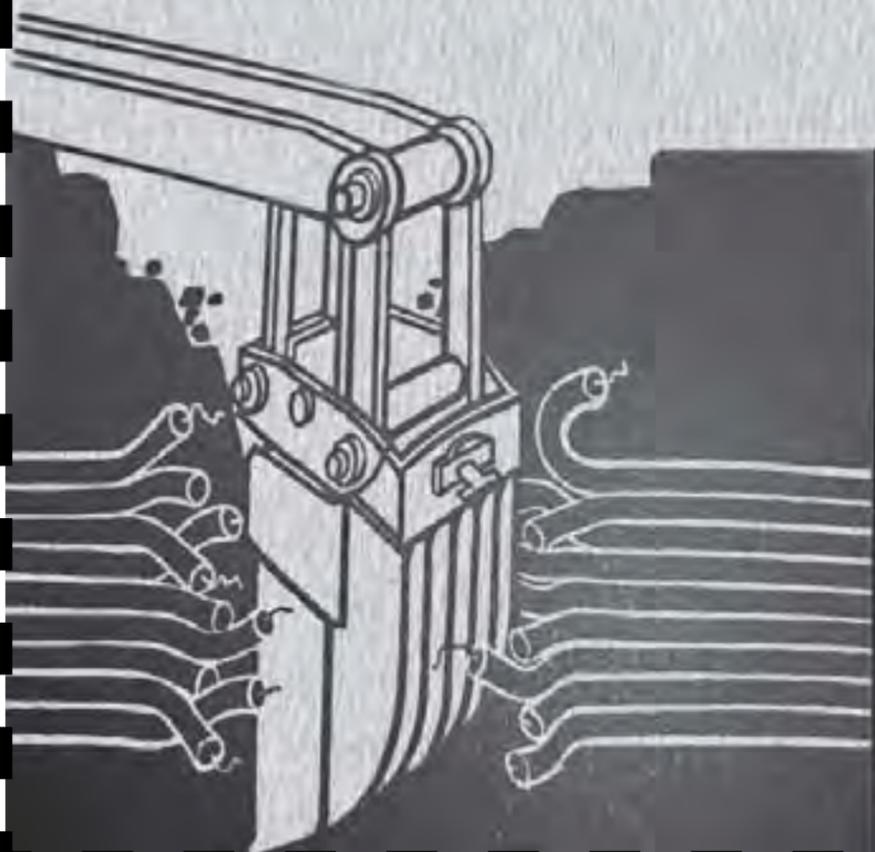
Ambassador Cox announced during the ceremony that the Australian government had recently committed \$8 million USD to fund policing projects in Micronesia and Polynesia. Most of that money, she said, is earmarked for small island policing projects in the region.

After the ceremony, Lucas Carlos, Director of the Department of Public Safety proudly displayed the new mobile police station.



Pohnpei Director of the Department of Public Safety Lucas Carlos thanks Australia's Ambassador Susan Cox for the donation of the mobile police station

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Japanese Embassy helps to launch a Water Pollution Awareness campaign with EPA and CSP

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—

A recent study conducted in Pohnpei estimated that there are over 3000 pig pens and outhouses situated along its waterways. So said Patterson Shed, Executive Director of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei at a ceremony held at 10:00 in the morning on Friday, February 12 at the Environmental Protection Agency for the launching of a Water Pollution Awareness campaign. Clearly, though much has already been done there is still a great deal of work to be

done if Pohnpei's once pristine rivers are to be made safe for use by humans.

Lt. Governor Churchill Edward during his remarks lamented that the river in which he swam as a child in Daini is no longer safe for children to swim in.

The Executive Director of the EPA told the story of a tourist who came from Washington D.C. and visited Kepirohi Falls. After that tourist went home he developed scabies most likely from contaminants in the river. Roby said the tourist was understandably upset and called the EPA and threatened to

sue them for not doing their jobs. "And maybe he was right," said Roby. The job can't, however, be done by the EPA alone. The agency must have the cooperation of the residents of Pohnpei. He hoped that the water pollution awareness program would help to educate the public about the dangers of violating Pohnpei law especially terms

of the positioning of pig pens and outhouse which by law must be at least 50 feet away from any water in the State.

Japan's Ambassador Shoji Sato who delivered his speech in well pronounced Pohnpeian said that "in Pohnpei more than 20% of children chronically suffer from diarrhea which is said to be the second largest cause of death for children under five. Diarrhea stems from human excreta," he said. "It is easily widespread in Pohnpei due mostly to people's limited accessibility to good sanitary facilities in proportion to its population size. Securing sufficient sanitation for school children means satisfaction of basic human needs. School children never feel like using toilets of poor sanitary conditions, which generates many cases of class cutting, which results in the nation's loss of its future. In other words, human security at the grassroots level has been exposed to crisis."

The Embassy of Japan to the FSM, in 2008 provided \$88,394 to help EPA to improve the existing sanitary facilities of the poorest conditions for three public schools – Seinwar and Mand Elementary Schools and Pohnpei Island Central School. The funds came through the Grassroots/Human Security Grant scheme and revolutionized the bathroom facilities in those schools.

During 2007 the Embassy of Japan in the FSM provided \$41,638 to the Conservation Society of Pohnpei to help the group create environmental education materials for Primary School education in Pohnpei. That

project has not only educated the teachers and 7,802 primary school students in Pohnpei's 28 elementary schools but the students have also been encouraged to spread the message of conservation to their parents and friends. The materials were so cost effective that CSP was unable to spend all of the money that had been given to them for the project and the meeting at the Environmental Protection Agency was to celebrate a reprogramming of the remaining funds for the use of construction of awareness billboards to prevent water pollution.

After the ceremony the first of those billboards was installed outside of the EPA office on the main street.

The billboard is double. One side has a message regarding the health effects of human and animal waste on the rivers of Pohnpei. The other side lists the status of several of the rivers in Pohnpei. On the other side of the billboard is the safety status of Pohnpei Recreational Water Sites. Currently 15 of those sites are listed as being safe meaning that those sites are not contaminated by fecal coliforms at a level that would be dangerous to humans. Those sites are safe for swimming.

Five Pohnpei's rivers are still listed as being unsafe for human recreation. Unfortunately, one of those sites is one of Pohnpei's most scenic spots, Kepirohi waterfall. The other recreational water sites are Pwudoi, Pehleng, and Mand Rivers, and the Enipein Powe Bridge.



Workers install the new bill board immediately after the ceremony

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Economics and Law

Are ONE PASS miles government property?

By *Martin Mix*
The Kaselehlie Press

On January 27 I hand delivered a letter to the Secretary of Justice of the FSM and to the Attorney General of the State of Pohnpei asking about who owns Continental One Pass miles earned by government officials when traveling on official business at government expense. We asked the Secretary and the Attorney General to comment on what looked like legal questions regarding the way one pass miles are currently handled.

Currently, when the government of the FSM or the State of Pohnpei buys an airline ticket the person who travels gets the One Pass miles.

I think that government property includes anything that the government pays for unless the specific "thing" is exempted by law. It does not matter whether the "thing" is a car or a desk, or if the "thing" is One Pass miles earned when using a ticket for which the government paid.

I believe that all One Pass miles that are earned with government money belong to that government unless the Congress and the Legislature and the Municipal Councils pass laws that say that the one pass miles are not government property. If the National, State, and Local governments want to give these mileage credits to the person who travels then these legislative bodies need to pass laws that say that these one pass miles do not belong to their governments.

The Attorney General of the State of Pohnpei, Scott Garvey took the time to respond to my letter. In his response, dated February 2, Garvey said that One Pass miles are "not tied to the government employee's position and do not arise due directly to the individual's employment. Therefore one pass miles are not government property."

He said that some states in the United States give the miles to the employee while others keep the miles for government use. As an

example he said that "New York and Washington both permit government employees to use frequent flier benefits earned on official travel, while Ohio does not." He cited Executive Ethics Board Advisory Opinions for each state.

Garvey mentioned the Pohnpei Code that prohibits Government employees from receiving gifts in excess of \$500 from any one source that might lead a reasonable person to believe that the entity intends, by giving the gift, to influence the public officer in the performance of that individual's official duties. Government employees can only choose Continental Micronesia Airlines on which to travel and so granting frequent flier miles to government employees cannot be construed to be a gift intended to influence a government traveler to travel on their airline. He said that even if there were other airlines in the FSM it is a common practice for airlines to issue frequent flier miles to everyone who travels not just to public officials and so it would not be unusual for a government official who is a frequent traveler to receive those miles.

Garvey reminded me that Senator Edgar Lickeneth of Kapanamarangi submitted a bill to the Pohnpei Legislature in 2000 that would have given the miles to the government. Garvey attached a copy of that short and short lived bill to his letter. The bill did not pass second reading and there was no committee report. The Legislature, when they didn't pass the bill essentially agreed to the present system of giving the miles to the employee.

So, are One Pass miles considered to be personal income and therefore taxable?

Mr. Garvey said that personal income is not defined in the Code or the Constitution. He said that the Pohnpei Public Service System Regulations discuss compensa-

tion of an employee, but refers specifically to salary. "Frequent traveler benefits would not be considered personal income."

The FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice did not make any comment on the issue.

The FSM tax laws say that income means any kind of payment or benefit received as part of a person's work. It would seem to me that this means that One Pass miles from a government ticket that are given to the traveler are personal income.

There is no explicit and defined exception for this income like there is for housing or for per diem.

I believe that taxes should be paid on this income just like any other income.

FSM Revenue personnel say that the person using the One Pass miles should report it as income. However, FSM Revenue does not have a program to collect a tax for personal trips taken on One Pass miles earned while traveling on government business nor for any money a government employee may make by selling those miles to others.

According to my reading of the law, if a person does not pay this tax then that person must also pay penalties and interest for not having done so.

If Congress wants to define One Pass miles as being exempt from personal income tax when earned as part of their government position then the Congress should pass a law explicitly exempting the use of those miles as income. Until Congress passes such a law any ticket paid for with One Pass miles earned while on government business is personal income.

This practice has been going on since the FSM and the State of Pohnpei came into existence. Nothing needs to change, but our legislative bodies need to pass legislation to make the law fit the facts or the facts need to fit the law.

In my opinion, the best way to fix this problem is to have One Pass miles from government tickets go to the government. I suggest that One Pass miles earned with government money should go into an account for medical referrals. If this is not acceptable then the miles should go to the general fund.

It is my sincere hope that this article leads to hearings within the National and State legislative bodies so that citizens can be given an opportunity to voice their opinion about the way that frequent flier miles earned at government expense are used in the FSM.



Letter to the editor

Dear Kaselehlie Press,

It came to our school like an unexpected deadly disease, without warning. I am talking about pornography in the innocent form of a cigarette lighter. One of our teachers was getting ready to dismiss her class when she heard a commotion from some of the students who were hovering over and peering at a small gadget. What she heard disturbed her somewhat. She overheard one of her students denying bringing the thing to school, but instead of giving it to the teacher, he handed it to one of the girls and told her to push the tiny

flashlight on the thing, which happened to be an ordinary-looking lighter. After confiscating it from the students, she found out that the picture they were flashing around was "hardcore pornography."

The students were brought to my office for questioning by our principal and the discipline committee. One of the students finally admitted that he was the one who brought it to the campus. As written in our School Handbook, the penalty for such an offence includes a week's suspension and 100 demerits. Upon further personal investigation, I found out from the majority

of our staff and students that Senny's stores were the ones selling it to retail stores all over Pohnpei. The man from Senny's store told me over the phone that they sold the lighters in boxes to storeowners only and that they "never thought that it would end up in the hands of small children." Duh

We humbly request the management of Senny's stores and all storeowners to treat such items just as they treat tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. - NOT TO BE SOLD TO MINORS. Please join our school and school parents and fight for the purity of the minds of our children. Let us treat por-

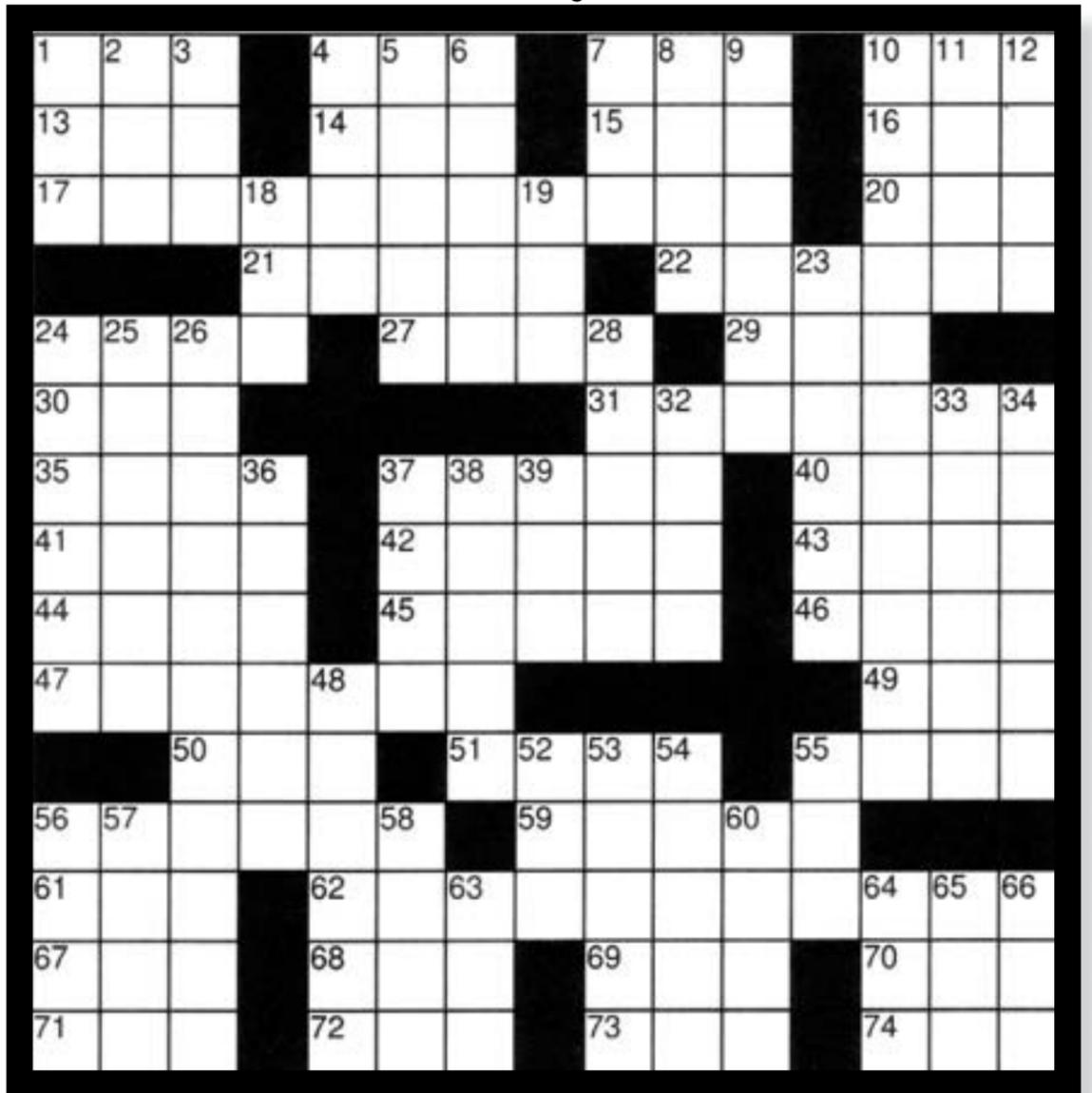
nographic materials as a deadly disease and destroy them before they destroy the minds of our kids or transform the next generation into Sex Maniacs, rapists, and Molesters.

Psalm 101:3 says, "I will set no wicked thing before Mine eyes" and in Proverbs 23:7, we read, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." Both of these verses tell us that what we see and think about will affect the way that we are.

Sincerely,
William E. Joel,
CCA Administrator

Crossword - Sean Connery Films

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Common complaint 4. Relaxing place 7. Apple alternative 10. Uppermost 13. Musical sense 14. Laugh track collection 15. Dawn, for instance 16. Resentment 17. Sean Connery film of '96 20. Gullet 21. Sing part of "Hocus Pocus" by Focus 22. Author output 24. Frolic 27. Answers in Jeopardy 29. Intriguing place 30. Cry against the bull 31. Cinematic style 35. Bookie's numbers 37. Spring-time sound 40. Stack from the bank 41. Amistad, for one 42. Phrase 43. Rephrase 44. Shell food 45. Raises a stink 46. Aerial replacer 47. Avoided lumps 49. ___ Don 50. Gallery givers, for short 51. Fool 55. Ruthless ruler 56. Midday break 59. Vital vessel 61. Sleeve 62. Sean Connery film of '65 67. Doc flock, for short 68. 49 Across, in Spanish 69. It's important to me 70. Pool breaker 71. Outlaw 72. Spud bud 73. Place for cars 74. Embarrassed one's face cover | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joined together 2. Boathouse item 3. The end of an ___ 4. Vamoose 5. Bamboo biter 6. Angela's ___ 7. Rhoda's mom 8. Feel the ___! 9. Soul deliverer 10. Sean Connery film of '81 11. Aloud 12. Where the plate gets passed 18. Trick 19. He's got a lot on his mind 23. Put the kibosh on 24. Perches 25. The usual 26. Sean Connery film of '92 28. Paint protector 32. 7/4 cries 33. She entertains 34. Bible book without the G-word 36. Plant missiles 37. Piece of land 38. Dorm denizens 39. Paint choice 48. Baby toy 52. Fleming who wrote of M and Q 53. T 54. Ragu rival 55. Cola choice 56. Volvo rival 57. Marie Wilson's friendly role 58. Yoo-hoo on the blue 60. Hurry 63. Apply 64. Poker or tennis term 65. Shlep 66. Chair part |
|--|---|



MORE MODERN MOVIES

Below you will find a brief summary of the movie, Regarding Henry, starring Harrison Ford. Once you've circled all the words, the unused letters, when read from left to right, starting at the top, will spell out the titles of the three other Ford films.

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

**Ruthless
lawyer
Henry
Turner
is shot
in a
robbery.
During
his
long
recovery,
he sees
that
there
are more
important
things**

**in life
than
just
winning
cases,
such
as his
neglected
wife and
daughter,
and he
is moved
to give
up his
career
in law.**

Japanese sponsor a program to bring Rubgy to the FSM

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM — The FSM-Japan Friendship society and the Micronesia Branch of NPO Association for Micronesia Development have coordinated an event to be held at the Spanish Wall designed to interest Pohnpeiians in the sport of Rugby. “Eight ex-rugger men from Japan will come to Pohnpei to introduce the rugby and coaching class,” beginning this Friday, said Minako Nishijima, a JICA senior volunteer working in Pohnpei.

The players are coming from the Musashino City Rugby Football Association in Japan.

Events will begin with the presentation of rugby balls at 4:30 PM, Friday, February 19, 2010. Ambassador Sato, Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, and Mr. Hamada, the director of the JICA Micronesia Office, along with representatives from PICS, Xavier and the Division of Youth Services in Yap will be on hand for that event.

An exhibition game is scheduled to begin at 5:00 that evening.

From 9:00 the next morning until 12:30 that afternoon, the members of the Musashino City Rugby Football Association will be teaching the sport of rugby to potential coaches and players. That event will also be held at the Spanish Wall play field.

The program is supported by the Embassy of Japan in the FSM, the Embassy of the FSM in Japan, and the

JICA Micronesia Office.

Nihijima-san said that she didn't know how many students are interested in new sports but she hopes that “Micronesians people could enjoy it.”

Show your support on Friday evening and Saturday morning!



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Previous

Crossword Solution

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

I've Got it!

Hank's Movies

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 China Star 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 High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: - rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too!. Call: 320-2496
- Ultimate Frisbee pick-up game every Tuesday. PICS field. After 6pm. All levels welcome! Free!

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press:

P. O. Box 2222 phone to: (691) 320-6547
Pohnpei, FM 96941 email to: kpress@mail.fm

ANOTHER CLASSIC LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY **TRASHBUSTERS**

There once was a girl from Great Britain
Who carelessly sat on her kitten
Imagine her surprise
and the look in her eyes
when on the behind she was bitten.

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Pohnpei Catholic School Seventh Graders Learn and Sing about Local Foods

By: Lymer Yamada
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei gave a presentation on local foods to an excited group of seventh graders from the Pohnpei Catholic School held on January 14, 2010. The program was coordinated by Josephine Corder and more than 20 students participated.

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei Local Food Educator, Areline Joakim taught the students about the importance of growing and eating our local food. She expressed that according to the Pohnpei Steps Study, one in three adult Pohnpeians is now diabetic. But it can be prevented if we change our lifestyles, exercise more, and consume more of our local foods. Diana Helgenberger said "I am very grateful because I have learned how important my health is and how diabetes could take away my happiness".

The students were very excited to learn about the local food varieties such as banana, taro, and pandanus which are rich in beta-carotene and help protect against certain cancers,

Pohnpei Catholic School seventh-graders enthusiastically hold Karat, Akadah, Akadah Weitah, and Utin Menihle bananas and their 'Be Happy-Eat a Banana' pencils

diabetes, heart disease, vitamin A deficiency and anemia (weak blood). Some banana varieties like Karat, Akadah, Taiwang, and Utin Menihle were given out to the students. One student pointed out "To be honest, that was the first time I tried a Karat banana and I liked it"! In addition the students learned the importance of local foods for Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, and Food Security and sang the "Let's Go Local" and the "CHEEF" song. Later the students composed thank you letters in English to thank IFCP for the presentation.

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei would like to thank the Pohnpei Catholic School for welcoming us to their school. Thanks also to Josephine Corder of the Pohnpei Catholic School for coordinating this program and to the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Program for funding support.



Photo by Josephine Corden

Astronomical Tide Prediction February 17 - March 2, 2010

	Pohnpei				Chuuk			
Wednesday	02/17		02/24		02/17		02/24	
	04:50AM	3.5	12:35PM	3.4	03:46AM	1.3	12:14PM	1.8
	10:41AM	0.8	08:14PM	1.0	09:21AM	0.3	08:56PM	-0.4
	04:46PM	3.8			03:36PM	1.7		
Thursday	11:04PM	0.5			09:59PM	0.1		
	02/18		02/25		02/18		02/25	
	05:14AM	3.5	02:07AM	2.2	04:05AM	1.4	12:55PM	2.1
	11:10AM	0.9	06:40AM	1.5	09:52AM	0.4	09:04PM	-0.4
Friday	05:08PM	3.5	01:29PM	3.9	03:47PM	1.5		
	11:22PM	0.6	08:32PM	0.7	10:03PM	0.1		
	02/19		02/26		02/19		02/26	
	05:40AM	3.5	02:24AM	2.6	04:26AM	1.5	01:30PM	2.3
Saturday	11:41AM	1.1	07:37AM	1.1	10:26AM	0.5	09:15PM	-0.4
	05:29PM	3.2	02:10PM	4.2	03:48PM	1.2		
	11:40PM	0.7	08:56PM	0.4	10:03PM	0.1		
	02/20		02/27		02/20		02/27	
Sunday	06:11AM	3.4	02:49AM	3.0	04:52AM	1.6	03:23AM	0.8
	12:19PM	1.4	08:20AM	0.8	11:05AM	0.7	06:53AM	0.5
	05:48PM	2.8	02:47PM	4.5	03:22PM	1.0	02:02PM	2.3
	11:58PM	0.9	09:21PM	0.3	09:57PM	0.0	09:26PM	-0.2
Monday	02/21		02/28		02/21		02/28	
	06:50AM	3.3	03:16AM	3.4	05:24AM	1.6	03:14AM	0.9
	01:13PM	1.7	09:00AM	0.5	09:40PM		07:42AM	0.4
	05:58PM	2.3	03:21PM	4.6	-0.1		02:32PM	2.2
Tuesday			09:46PM	0.2			09:34PM	-0.1
	02/22		03/01		02/22		03/01	
	12:12AM	1.1	03:44AM	3.7	06:10AM	1.5	03:19AM	1.2
	07:54AM	3.1	09:37AM	0.3	09:14PM		08:26AM	0.3
Wednesday			03:54PM	4.5	-0.2		02:57PM	2.0
			10:12PM	0.2			09:38PM	0.1
	02/23		03/02		02/23		03/02	
	12:04AM	1.4	04:14AM	4.0	11:03AM	1.5	03:31AM	1.4
Thursday	10:39AM	3.0	10:14AM	0.3	08:57PM		09:06AM	0.3
	08:21PM	1.4	04:25PM	4.3	-0.3		03:15PM	1.7
			10:37PM	0.3			09:36PM	0.2

College of Micronesia-FSM Participants Join Cancer Awareness Project

By: Lymer Yamada
Island Food Community of Pohnpei



Photo by Lymer Yamada

The College of Micronesia-FSM Teachers Corps class happily show bananas of several varieties as a part of an Island Food Community of Pohnpei "go local" and cancer awareness presentation on January 27, 2010

An exciting set of two Island Food Community of Pohnpei presentations was presented to the College of Micronesia (COM)-FSM Teachers Corps as invited by Robert Andreas and the COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus Enrichment Program as invited by George Mangonon. Over 60 participants from both the National and Pohnpei Campuses took part. The Teachers Corps presentation was held on January 27 and January 29, 2010, at the National Campus and the Pohnpei Campus presentation was given on February 4, which was World Cancer Day.

On the first day, a questionnaire on cancer awareness was given out to the group, as part of an IFCP Cancer Awareness Project. This was a pre-test that included three questions on tobacco control and three questions on nutrition and cancer. One of the questions was "What is the most important recommendation for preventing those cancers related to food, nutrition and physical activity"? Many participants were surprised to find that the answer is to keep a healthy weight. The questionnaire was given again on the second visit to check their learning on this topic. The Pohnpei Campus group plan to complete their post-test on February 18.

The group learned about the recent findings of the analyses of Pohnpei local banana, taro, breadfruit, and pandanus varieties, and that the yellow-fleshed varieties are rich in provitamin A carotenoids with

health benefits, also helping protect against certain cancers. They also learned about the "CHEEF" benefits of local foods which are Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, and Food Security.

The IFCP team sang two awareness songs on "Let's Go Local" and the "CHEEF" benefits of local foods. The participants were informed that a singing competition will be held on the second visit and t-shirts will be given out to the best singer or singers.

The Teachers Corps watched the "Going Yellow" Video, which is informational and entertaining. This video is about family members who first love their unhealthy diet of rice, ramen, corn beef and turkey tails and how the mom and the grandma slowly introduce local food into the family's diet for the sake of their health. The program concluded with the singing competition. Teachers Corps Lily-Rose Nesheim and Toshimichy Winis were proclaimed the winners. They sang the song so well and performed catchy motions too.

Warm thanks are extended to Robert Andreas, Jeff Arnold, George Mangonon, Yoneko Kanichy, and Harriet Hoover of COM-FSM; Shra Alik of the Kolonia Kosrae Women's Christian Association; and the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Program and US Forestry for funding support.

Banana Blossom with Shrimps and Assorted Vegetables

By: Lola James

This was an entry in the "any local food category" of the 2009 World Food Day Healthy Cooking Competition, October 15, 2009.

Ingredients

3 banana blossoms
15-20 shrimps
1/2 sliced onions
3 shredded carrots
2-3 shredded chili peppers for taste
2 sliced bell peppers
1 cup coconut cream
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/4 teaspoon salt

Methods

1. Remove outer layer of banana blossoms and wash
2. Chop the banana flowers into small pieces.
3. Put the chopped pieces in a bowl of salt water for 3-4 minutes and set aside. (This is to remove the bitterness of the banana blossom).
4. Slice the onion and sauté (gently cook in the oil).
5. Add the rest of the ingredients except the coconut cream and saute for 2-3 minutes more.
6. Add the coconut cream and stir for another minute and serve.



Australian Government AusAID

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Opening Date: 17 February 2010
Closing Date: 17 March 2010

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2011 for full time undergraduate and post-graduate study in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed an Associate Degree or equivalent, or due to complete by **June 2010** with minimum GPA of 2.8, **OR**
- Be over 25 years with High School GPA 2.8 or above and have a minimum of 5 years work experience related to the field of study.

Students just finishing High School are **NOT** eligible.

Expression of Interest Forms are available at:
the Australian Embassy website www.fsm.embassy.gov.au
the FSM National Scholarship Office,
2nd floor AMCREC building, Kolonia, Pohnpei
Pohnpei Dept of Education, Scholarship Office, Joyceleen Daniel
Kosrae: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office, Alokoa Sigrah
Yap: Dept of Resources & Dev, Scholarship Office, Brian Southwick
Chuuk: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office, Joyce Otoko
the COM Financial Aid Office, Pohnpei
the Australian Embassy, HE Building (next to Sea Breeze Hotel)

All completed Expression of Interest Forms should be submitted to the appropriate Scholarship Boards office above by 17 March 2010.

President Mori Held High-Level Talks with Leadership of Israel

FSM Department of Foreign Affairs

February 12, 2010

President Emanuel Mori has just completed a high-level working visit to the State of Israel from 20-25 January 2010 upon the invitation of the Project Interchange, an institute of the American Jewish Committee, which conducts educational tours and seminars on Israel for current and emerging leaders from the US and from around the world.

During the visit, President Mori met with President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman. During President Mori's official call on President Peres, the Israeli head of state seized the initiative to welcome the FSM President and invited him and the members of his delegation to "feel at home in Israel," further referring to the special relationship between the two countries by stating that it is not the FSM's "size" and "great distance" but its warmth of friendship and steadiness of support to Israel that raises or heightens the awareness of the FSM among the Israeli people. In inquiring about the economic conditions of the FSM, President Peres pledged his country's support wherever feasible to the FSM.

In expressing his appreciation for the invitation and the warm welcome, President Mori referred to the cornerstones of FSM's relations with Israel: 1) the two country's shared Judeo-Christian traditions; 2) Israel's support of the FSM as Israel was the very first non-Pacific country to extend diplomatic recognition of the newly born Micronesian nation; and 3) their respective common links and friendship with the US.

The Government of Israel itself had extended various assistance schemes to the FSM Government in the area of health-care, agriculture, and sports. Israel is also a strong supporter of a recent resolution by the Pacific Small Island Developing States introduced at the UN seeking to dramatize the threats that the PSIDS are facing as a result of sea-level rise and global warming.

To further demonstrate the mutual interest of the two countries to encourage people-to-people exchanges and tourism, among others, a visa waiver agreement was signed by the foreign ministers of the two governments. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert signed on behalf of the FSM and Foreign Minister Liberman signed on behalf of Israel.

President Mori raised the issue of dialysis treatment seeking Israel's support given the large number of FSM citizens needing hemodialysis treatment, and the fact that the majority of the patients seeking treatment outside of the FSM, particularly in Hawaii, is a result of the serious limited facilities in the FSM to treat such patients.

In this respect, the FSM has also proposed the execution of another agreement on technical assistance and economic cooperation through which Israel's technical assistance and economic cooperation would be funneled.

Aside from the high-level meetings, President Mori participated in various briefings and presentations on such topics as the security situation in the Gaza Strip that included an onsite visit to the town of Sderoit, Golan Heights, presentations on education and innovation in Israel's economy, and on public health and initiatives in diabetes prevention and education with a visit to Israel's renown Hadassah Hospital. To commemorate his visit and the friendship between the two countries, President Mori planted a tree in Jerusalem's Forest of Nations.

The President and his delegation also toured various Christian holy sites along the Sea of Galilee in Israel's northern region. Among the sites visited was the Tagba Church, situated where Jesus performed the miracle of multiplying the loaves of bread and fish for the multitude of 5,000 people, and the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered his famed Sermon. The tour of the historic and holy sites ended with a visit to the Basilica Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth in Jesus' hometown.

Veterinarian On Island



Veterinary services will be available
Mon Feb 22 and Tuesday Feb 23
Dr. Myles Moritz will be substituting for
Dr. Joseph

On Wed Feb 24 he will be touring
Pohnpei, and will leave on Thurs Feb 25
on the afternoon flight.

He will be accompanied by his wife,
Sondra.

Thank you all in advance for the warm
Pohnpeian welcome extended to him.

Office hours:

Monday Feb 22 10 am - 5 PM
(lunch sometime)

Tuesday Feb 23 9 am - 5 PM
(lunch sometime)

Wed - OFF

Thursday - office hours if needed before noon

Clinic is located next to Napa - bottom
apt near the water 320-4707

Call Thomas (number above) and arrange
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surgeries in on Monday if possible.



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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