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FSM Congress looks to the sea to help “find the rest”

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—On May 30, 2010, the FSM Congress passed resolution 16-89, CD1 which urged the President of the FSM to restrict access to the Exclusive Economic Zone of the FSM, and to bid out fishing rights on an exclusive basis to one foreign country.

The “CD” designation of the resolution indicates that wording in the initially proposed resolution was changed before it was passed by Congress. The resolution, submitted by Pohnpei’s Senator Dohsis Halbert, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee initially suggested that the foreign country could

possibly be the People’s Republic China.

Many FSM citizens wondered why Halbert specifically suggested China as a possibility for exclusive fishing rights in the FSM. Halbert said that China gives the FSM sev-

eral grants every year totaling millions of dollars but those grants are unpredictable. “We need to know what we can budget... This would be one way to do it,” said Chairman Halbert.



Fishing vessels lie at morrage off Sokehs Island on a slow day in Pohnpei

Despite that reasoning, ultimately Congress changed the wording of Chairman Halbert’s resolution and left out the words “possibly the People’s Republic of China.”

“We asked the U.S. for \$100 million for sector grants,” Halbert said. “They gave us less and told us to ‘find the rest.’ This is one way to ‘find the rest.’”

The trust fund is not per-

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Kosrae film receives international recognition



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Renewal of bonding requirements for infrastructure projects eliminates local contractors

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—Representatives of VCS Construction and Pacific Landscaping, Engineering, and Construc-

tion (PLEC) both say that they won’t be able to bid on the contracts to build the next three school buildings. Bids on those projects are due by August 10 of this year. Contract award notification is planned for August 25.

According to a press release by the FSM Public Information Officer a pre-bid conference was held previous to bidding on the three Pohnpei school projects which have a project range of from \$1 to \$5 million. Eight local construction companies, two local insurance companies,

representatives from Pohnpei State Government, and the Principals from the Nett, Saladak, and Sapwalap schools attended the conference.

The FSMPIO press release said that the PMU Contracting Officer Marcelino Actouka told those in attendance at the pre-bid conference that DOI reinstated the bonding requirement as a result of certain FSM construction projects not having been successfully completed. Other PMU officials said that none of those kinds of problems that seemed to motivate the ruling had occurred in Pohnpei.

PLEC and VCS were awarded the current Pohnpei school projects after they successfully bid on the contracts at the Project Management Unit of the FSM Government which administers infrastructure projects funded with money from US Compact infrastructure funds.

See “Locals out” on page 5



Nearly completed Kolonia Elementary school classroom being built by VCS Construction without a performance bond

Let’s “Go Local” Fun Run



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FSM Legislatures express displeasure with Telecom Board Selection Bill

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei—On June 18, FSM President Manny Mori vetoed Congress Bill 16-34. Among other things, the Congress Bill would have made it the responsibility of the President to nominate Board Members to the FSM Telecommunications Board of Directors with advice and consent of the FSM Congress.

His transmittal letter to Congress Speaker Isaac V. Figir asked the Speaker to recall that at the FSM leadership conference it was decided that the composition of the board of directors of the FSM Telecommunications Corporation should be maintained at the status quo until the five governmental entities have had an opportunity to deliberate further on their respective ownership rights in the corporation.

At issue during that meeting were state claims to proprietary interests in the Corporation since FSMTC runs its lines on electric poles erected on State-owned easement rights acquired by each State government. Except in the State of Chuuk, most FSMTC lines are run under ground. Even still, states claimed at the meeting that easement rights were obtained by the individual states and that FSMTC has been using the State easements without providing each State with just compensation.

The President said that “the National Government currently lacks sufficient information to confirm the truth of these claims, however, because the States are claiming ownership interests in the Corporation as consideration for the use of their State property, the National Government has a duty to take these claims into serious consideration.”

President Mori mentioned in his letter a resolution passed by the Pohnpei State Legislature the day before his veto letter was transmitted to Congress. The Pohnpei State Resolution was strongly worded and was titled, “A proposal for a resolu-

tion urgently requesting the President of the FSM to embrace his responsibilities as the leader of our entire nation inclusive of the four states, in vetoing C.B. No. 16-26, CD1, through which the FSM Congress is attempting to deprive the four states of the FSM of their rightful ownership and participation in the nation-wide telecommunications corporation of the Federated States of Micronesia.”

Kosrae, at the end of May passed a similar resolution though the President didn't mention it in his veto letter. The Kosrae resolution was not as strongly worded as the Pohnpei resolution but the cover letter written to the President by Speaker Lyndon H. Jackson concluded by saying, “The Kosrae State Legislature sees this bill as little more than a naked ‘power grab’ by the Congress and urges you to exercise your Presidential authority to act to protect the rights of the states and veto this bill.”

The Governors of Yap, Kosrae, Chuuk, and Pohnpei also each urged the President to veto the bill. The President also didn't mention those communications in his veto cover letter to Speaker Figir.

The President concluded by saying, “I hope that you will understand that there are simply too many outstanding unresolved issues to all Congressional Act No. 16-34 to pass.”

Since Senator Mori was elected from amongst his Congress colleagues as the President of the FSM, Congress anecdotally has had a long and storied history of overturning Presidential vetoes of their bills. At press time the Congress Public Information Officer had not responded to our queries for exact figures on the number of vetoes that Congress has overturned since Mori was selected as the President.

Much of the recent National Government activity regulatory activity that focuses on FSMTC seems to be centered on the fact that the first FSM Congress set up the national corporation to function as the sole



FSM Telecommunications headquarters in Kolonia, Pohnpei

provider of telecommunications services—a monopoly.

“Pacific countries with similar population size to the FSM, such as Tonga and Samoa, through competition in their telecommunication market, enjoyed greatly reduced phone and internet charges by sometimes more than 50%, as well as far better coverage,” said Francis Itimai, Secretary of the FSM's Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure (TC&I).

The quote appeared in a TC&I press release that said that Itimai was one of the keynote speakers at a conference on a “Framework for Action in ICT (Information Communication Technology) for Development in the Pacific,” at a conference that took place in Tonga on June 16, and 17.

Itimai led the FSM delegation which included Assistant Secretary for TC&I Jolden Johnnyboy, a former board member of FSMTC, and TC&I consultant, Dr. Norman Okamura from the University of Hawaii.

In fact, FSMTC's service rates for telecommunications services are still less

than either of Tonga or Samoa according to several studies conducted in the Pacific region (www.strategies.nzl.com/wpapers/2009010.htm). Additionally, neither Tonga nor Samoa has the widespread geography that FSMTC is charged to cover, though the population bases are, as Itimai said in his press release, similar.

FSMTC seems to be an anomaly as far as Pacific telecommunication price structures are concerned. The company continues to develop its technology and maintains some of the lowest prices for their services in the Pacific despite the fact that it is currently a legally mandated monopoly.

Editor's note:

Mathematically and economically inclined readers with internet access might be interested in reading the scholarly work by Cambridge scholars Pavlos C Symeou and Michael G Pollitt entitled, “Telecommunications in small economies: the impact of liberalization and alternative technologies on universal service,” which can be found at the website address: www.city.ac.uk/economics/dps/CCRP%20Conference%20Papers/Pavlos%20Symeou.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Kosrean Students Going Robotics

FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei (National Department of Education): July 7, 2010 - High School students in Kosrae have been enjoying the opportunity to build and operate their own robots in an extra-curricular activity organized by the Department of Education.

grammed to detect and react to an obstacle in its path. Ultrasonic and touch sensors automatically send information back to the robot. The robot then reacts to this information by moving in a pre-determined way. Small but powerful servo motors allow for precise movement.

To start the robotics club, the Department purchased four Lego Mindstorms kits. These kits contain all the technology necessary for students to build a variety of robots and include a sophisticated programmable interface that connects the robots to a computer. The students can then write a program containing a sequence of commands to operate the robot.

The students in Kosrae are enjoying the technical challenges of building and operating a variety of sophisticated robots while also perfecting their problem-solving skills in computer programming, science and mathematics.

In the future, Kosrae robot club members hope to share their projects and compete with other teams in the FSM and beyond. They also plan to purchase more sophisticated robot-making kits.

Currently, high school students are working on a robot that can be pro-



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Film on Kosrae's recycling project broadcast worldwide

By Maria Stephens

June 3, 2010

Rwanda, Africa—Top-ranking UN VIPs, famous environmental champions, a glamorous gala, and, above all, the world's best environmental projects comprised the ENERGY GLOBE Gala Rwanda 2010. This year the top environmental gala served as the official opening event for the UN World Environment Day. The level of excitement was unbelievably high at the start

of the Gala.

Environmental VIPs delivered the introductions: top Rwandan politicians, UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, UNEP climate hero Luo Hong, Peter Rae (vice president of the environmental initiative REN21) and Ian Redmond (patron of the Great Apes Survival Project).

More than 800 environmental projects from 105 nations were submitted this year

for the Energy Globe Award for the 5 categories. "Kosrae and the recycling activity" was selected as one of three nominees for the World Award in the category Earth. In May, a film team came to Kosrae to film aspects of the project. The 2 minute long Kosrae recycling project film was broadcast worldwide during the gala.

As it was the year of biodiversity, the Award went to Mauritius (Africa): The seedling program offers residents new sources of income while ensuring biodiversity and combating massive deforestation.

Kosrae was acknowledged as the national winner for the Micronesia region, as it has the most successful recycling project in the area. When an aluminum can, glass or plastic bottle enters Kosrae, a six cent tax is paid. The tax is four dollars USD for car batteries. After being used, local residents bring the empty cans or bottles washed and with all labels stripped to Micronesia Eco Corporation, which pays five cents for it. MEC pays three dollars for recycled batteries.

For cans, glass or plastic bottles MEC then gets back 6 cents from the State. The one cent profit covers the operating costs of the recycling center. Therefore, each bottle or can imported to Kosrae nets a five cent income for the community.

Each week, MEC goes around the villages to collect recyclable materials. To have an idea of how much trash has been collected

in one year, imagine 20 houses full of cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and car batteries. Almost \$90,000 has been redistributed among the collectivity in 2009. MEC sends all the recovered materials (except for the glass bottles) abroad as raw materials for more sophisticated recycling operation. For crushing, solar energy is used.

As there is currently no demand for crushed glass MEC's warehouse would have been filled to capacity if Pacific Treelodge Resort had not begun using this recovered material for paving the resort and building a new bridge walkway through the mangrove forest. This project contributes strongly to the sustainable development of the island with its positive economic, sociological, and ecological effects. Money paid to the families

for the recovered materials creates a small sub economy; a cleaner island improves the quality of Kosrae life; our ocean, mangroves, and land are saved from thousands of cubic meters of trash; and the dredging activity of sand can be reduced if we start use the crushed glass instead of sand.

We want to give a special thanks to KIRMA for their strong support of the project.

The host nation of the 2010 World Environmental Day was Rwanda. Rwanda was the first in the world to ban the use of plastic bags nationwide. We hope one day Kosrae can receive a similar acknowledgment as being the first island to ban the use of Styrofoam containers.



Rwanda's Prime Minister Bernard Makuza greets Maria Stephen's of Kosrae's Pacific Treelodge Resort

"Girls camp a sunny success" (Camp GLOW 2010)

By Mollie Wright

From June 8-11 girls and women from all around Pohnpei took over Nihco Marine Park for the 6th annual Camp Girls Leading Our World (GLOW). This year's health-themed Camp GLOW welcomed 150 participants who hailed from communities in Kitti, Madolenihmw, Uh, and Sokeh's – including a group from the outer island of Pakin. Among the participants there were 63 recently graduated 8th grade girls, 10 Pohnpeian female counterparts, several groups of guest speakers, and many Peace Corps volunteers and staff.

The campers enjoyed presentations from Island Food Community of Pohnpei, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Public Health. Presenters educated the girls on good nutrition and lifestyle habits in a variety of ways, focusing on key issues like substance abuse, coping with stress, and sexual/reproductive health. The biggest crowd-pleaser was the informative HIV/AIDS puppet show from the peer educators at Public Health. A panel of successful Pohnpeian women opened up about their lives and answered the girls many questions, as well.

In addition to the presentations, the girls participated in a variety of activities, including group discussions, organized games, arts and crafts, a sing-a-long, a talent show, and a hands-on nutri-

tion lesson. They also had ample time to meet new friends and future classmates while talking in the nahs houses and playing in the water during their free time.

Hosting the four days of education and fun were nine Peace Corps volunteers, who – along with Peace Corps staff members and community affiliates – make up the Gender and Development (GAD) Committee of Pohnpei. GAD is a non-profit NGO, founded by Peace Corps and present in all Peace Corps posts worldwide that focuses on empowerment and gender awareness for all people.

Many generous donors made this year's Camp GLOW possible, including AusAID and the Australian Embassy, Island Research Education Initiative (IREI), Palm Terrace, Ray & Dors, XIX, Nihco Marine Park and Ace Office Supply.

Camp GLOW is a worldwide Peace Corps program held in a diversity of countries, from Romania to the Dominican Republic. After this year's success, GAD Pohnpei is enthusiastic about next year's Camp GLOW and is currently looking for potential funding.

For more information, please contact Trueleen Joseph at 320-2531 ext.160, or email TJoseph@fm.peacecorps.gov

U.S. supports conference on domestic violence in Chuuk

Embassy of the United States of America, Kolonia

On June 24-26, the U.S. National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) conducted a conference titled "Domestic Violence and its Impact on our Community" at the Truk Stop Hotel in Weno, Chuuk. Sponsored by the Chuuk State Attorney General's Office through the U.S. Compact of Free Association, the three-day training included participants from Chuuk State Departments of Public Safety, Health, Legal Services, the religious sector, Chuuk Women's Council, and other interested community groups.

Chuuk State Attorney General Joses Gallen remarked that "domestic violence is a major problem in Chuuk, and it affects everyone in the community," and noted that his office is increasing its focus on family-related issues. Management Officer JoEllen Gorg of the U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei thanked conference organizers "for their courage to bring this issue out in the open" and conference participants "for their courage to be associated with this sensitive issue."

The conference included sessions on the impact domestic violence has on victims (especially children) and communities. Participants also studied the characteristics of abusers, the im-

portance of collaboration between law enforcement, the legal system, victim and legislative advocates, and victim sensitivity. The conference also discussed action plans and coalition building among community and state-advocacy groups.

At the conclusion of the training, Supreme Court Chief Justice Camillo Noket urged participants to assist in community awareness and lobby for domestic violence legislation. To date, no state in the FSM has enacted anti-domestic violence legislation.

In addition to Legal Trainer Bill Minkley, the training included presentations by NDAA Director of Programs Candace Mosley, Senior Attorney Kristina Korobov of the National Center for the Prosecutions of Violence Against Women, Police Lieutenant Mark Wynn of Wynn Consulting, and Valerie Wynn, Executive Director/Founder of The Mary Parrish Center for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence.



...Locals out

Continued from front page

For the Pohnpei school projects, the US Office of the Interior through the Office of Insular Affairs waived bonding requirements. To insure that the contracts reach final completion, the FSM Government withholds 20% of any payment due to the contractors until the projects are completed.

Both contractors said that the projects are on schedule and that the projects are approximately 90% complete.

Apparently the contractors who attended the conference had not been aware before the conference that the bonding requirement had been reinstated. Some

said they probably wouldn't have bothered to attend if they had known.

According to the FSMPIO press release, Larry Adams of ABCOR Engineering and Construction gave an example of one of his company's past attempts to obtain bonding that seemed typical for the contractors in the room. He said that for a \$3,000,000 project one insurance company had asked him to deposit \$1,000,000 in an escrow account for the issuance of a performance bond. He said that was more than he could afford and he believed that no local contractors could afford that much either.

We contacted another Pohnpei contractor who would only speak anonymously for fear of jeopardizing any future earnings potential. He said that it seemed

to him as if the United States really just wants one of their big contractors to come in and build everything in the FSM and be done with it. "But what about the rest of the Compact," he asked? "I thought the idea was to help us build up our economy."

"What really happens is that outside contractors come in with maybe one or two representatives. They use the local contractors but they make all the money," the concerned contractor said.

Actouka, who must adhere to the requirements of DOI, told the gathered contractors that by imposing such a stringent requirement DOI is hoping local construction companies, in order to obtain bonding, will come to terms with the need to prepare adequate audited financial statements as well as a proven history of project completion.

According to the press release Actouka also said that if none of the local contractors could obtain bonding, that fact might assist PMU in future negotiations with the DOI that could potentially lead to waiver requests on a case-by-case basis. He seemed to be making an educated guess about that.

"Do we like bonding? Yes, we do," said Dana Smith, legal counsel for the PMU. He said that bonding makes the PMU's job easier because the bond insures that the infrastructure construction jobs will get done. "It just seems strange (for DOI) to change the rules in the middle of getting projects done."

DOI rules require performance bonds for all contracts above \$100,000. Smith wonders how PMU will be able to attract bondable contractors, which currently is equivalent to foreign contractors, to bid on small maintenance type contracts in the \$100,000 to \$300,000 range. "I don't think they're going to do it," he said. "Nobody's going to bid."

Jose San Nicolas, of VCS Construction said that he is trying to get all of the local contractors together to write a joint letter to the President of the FSM and to the Governor of Pohnpei.

While those two Government leaders might be able to negotiate on a higher level than contractors could, the ultimate decision on the matter lies with the DOI and they have already stated their requirements.

U.S. donates computers to agriculture students

Embassy of the United States of America, Kolonia

On July 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) donated approximately \$5,000 worth of computer equipment to the College of Micronesia (COM-FSM) Agriculture Department. COM-FSM Agriculture students will have better access to computers to complete assignments and conduct online research over the Internet. Moreover, they can research other higher education institutions, scholarships, and employment opportunities.

The Agriculture Division might utilize the computers to develop brochures advertising compost for sale from its piggery waste management system. All proceeds from the sales go into a student fund.

Attendees at the donation ceremony included U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Peter A. Prahar, USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist Paul Lake, COM-FSM Vice President Ringlen Ringlen, Agriculture Di-

vision Chair Professor Kiyoshi Phillip, and Instructional Affairs Director of Academic Programs Karen Simion.

In his remarks, Ambassador Prahar noted that USDA-NRCS offers technical assistance "free of charge, to FSM residents through their national, state, and local governmental agencies and organizations." The Ambassador also expressed his "hope [that] this event and this donation remind us of the twenty-five year partnership between the FSM and the NRCS - a partnership that has worked to ensure a sustainable future for all FSM citizens."

NRCS has a history of partnership and providing technical assistance to COM-FSM's Agriculture Department, including assisting in the design of a piggery waste management system, soils training for COM-FSM and high school students, and raised bed gardening training. COM-FSM Agriculture Professor Kiyoshi Phillip is a longtime supporter of NRCS and was active in the Pohnpei Soil and Water Conservation District.



Vice President Ringlen and Ambassador Prahar tour COM-FSM's piggery waste management system at the Agriculture Facility July 1

Congress holds statewide public hearings on issue of Chief Justice and others

FSM Congress News

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – The Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations (J&GO) and Resources and Development (R&D) are conducting public hearings in the states on various issues currently pending before the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Among the pending issues are the nominations for National Judiciary Branch for the FSM Chief Justice and for an Associate Justice, several constitutional amendments, issues on fisheries and the National Trade Policy among others.

The public hearings will be held at the respective Chambers of each State Legislature and the interested public is encouraged to attend. Two days are accorded for public hearing in each state and those days as scheduled are: June 28th and 29th at the Chambers of Chuuk State Legislature; July 1st and 2nd at the Chambers of Kosrae; and July 5th and 6th at the Yap State Legislature Chambers. A wrap-up hearing will be scheduled at a later date for the Pohnpei State Legislature to consolidate the committee reports for final presentation to Congress.

Pending legislations scheduled for the statewide public hearings include the following issues before the Committee on J&GO:

- **Congressional Bill 16-28**, a proposed amendment to the Constitution to make all members of Congress elected four years,

set a term limit for members and allow all members eligibility for the Presidency and Vice Presidency;

- **C.B. 16-30**, to amend the procedures for admission of a new state into the FSM;

- **C.B. 16-84**, a proposed amendment to the Constitution to require the President and Vice President to run on the same slate for election by FSM citizens;

- **Congressional Resolution 16-75**, the nomination of Associate Justice Martin G. Yinug for Chief Justice of FSM Supreme Court; and

- **C.R. 16-80**, the nomination of Ms. Beauleen Carl-Worswick for Associate Justice of the FSM Supreme Court.

Pending before the Committee on R&D are the following measures:

- **Congressional Bill 16-108**, to establish a Maritime Surveillance Revolving

- **C.B. 16-124**, for a concession loan agreement with the Government of the People's Republic of China for the rehabilitation of shore-side fisheries transshipment and processing infrastructures in the four states; and

- **Congressional Resolution 16-100**, a proposed Trade Policy for the Nation.

The state-wide public hearings are headed by the Chairmen of the two Committees, Chairman Roger S. Mori of the R&D and Chairman Peter Sitan of J&GO with various members of the committees joining at various junctures of the trip.

...Fishing rights

Continued from front page

forming in the way that it was anticipated it might do. "The Compact Economic Objectives aren't working up to now," he said.

"I have roads to fix and other things to take care of (in the FSM.) We have to 'find the rest.'"

He said that the proposed tax reform plan, including the Value Added Tax is another way the FSM could potentially, "find the rest."

Halbert said that he is proposing a bill in the September session of Congress that he hopes will pass because he thinks it would be another way to "find the rest." The bill, if it passes the muster of an assembled Congress would double license fees for companies wanting to fish in FSM waters. He thinks the bill would help NORMA, (National Oceanographic Resource Management Agency) the FSM entity that regulates fishing licenses in the FSM EEZ. NORMA could then rely on an FSM law to back their actions in doubling fishing fees. He said that NORMA has been hesitant to increase fees for fear of driving fishing companies away and losing fishing revenue which, according to Senator Halbert, last year amounted to \$20 million.

"It's not enough," Halbert said. Doubling fishing fees is another way to "find the rest."

International tuna sales amount to well over \$2 billion annually. Certainly not all of those tuna come from FSM waters, but the FSM EEZ is the second largest EEZ in the Pacific Ocean which has been described as the last great tuna fishery on the face of the earth.

Halbert is banking on a bidding war amongst countries for the opportunity to fish in FSM waters, a bidding war that could be much more lucrative for the FSM than it currently is. He said that was the idea behind the resolution.

FSM fisheries enforcement was also on his mind. He said that it would be much easier for Marine Surveillance officers to spot a ship illegally fishing FSM waters if only one country besides the FSM has the right to fish here.

It's the way things are handled in French Polynesia. Only local vessels are allowed to fish that EEZ which makes law enforcement much easier for the French Navy. Spot a ship with the wrong flag with nets or lines in the water, arrest them.

"WHEREAS, the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia is a valuable resource and its exploitation can produce needed revenue..." the resolution he authored says. It's another way of "finding the rest."

The resolution requests that President Mori report his actions pursuant to the resolution on or before November 1, 2010.

FSM Petrocorp gives life to boating safety

Pohnpei Fishing Club

FSM Petroleum Corporation has joined forces with the Pohnpei Fishing Club to promote boating safety in the state of Pohnpei. As part of this safety program Mr Mathias Lawrence officially handed over 30 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) to the President of the Pohnpei Fishing Club at a small ceremony on 24th of June.

Improving small vessel safety has become the number one priority of the Fishing Club, with new minimum safety requirements coming into effect for the Annual Tournament.

The benefit of these EPIRBs is that they broadcast a unique registered distress signal that tells rescuers where you are. With a built-in Global



Positioning System (GPS), they fix your position to within 100 meters, and relay your distress call to orbiting satellites. All the EPIRBs are registered with NOAA and the USCG who monitor distress signals for this region.

"A pool of registered EPIRBs will be maintained by the Club and every boat that takes part in our tournaments that doesn't already own one, will be issued one. If any member



Andy Musrastik receives and EPIRB from Petrocorp CFOMathias Lawrence

Tuna industry says No to Protecting Pacific Tuna

Greenpeace

Brisbane, Australia, Thursday, 1st July – Foreign tuna industry power brokers blocked developing nations trying to protect tuna stocks in their own waters at a key international fisheries meeting that closed today in Brisbane.

"The meeting was a disgrace. Foreign tuna industries are preventing Pacific Island countries from protecting their tuna by not agreeing to a timely process or criteria to cut the number of boats on the water to a sustainable level," said Duncan Williams, Greenpeace Pacific Oceans Campaigner.

"There are simply too many boats chasing too few fish," he said.

The five tuna fisheries management organizations from around the world came together at the Kobe II meeting in Brisbane this week seeking solutions to the problem of "overcapacity" in tuna fishing, accepting that the number of fishing vessels on the water far outweigh the availability of tuna.

Over 20 million boats are fishing the oceans. The foreign states own over 95% of the vessels fishing in Pacific waters using improved technologies such as FADs (Fish Aggregation Devices) and purse seine nets that is capable of catching up to 3000 tonnes of tuna on one trip.

"If we continue to fish at this rate we are going to empty our oceans," said Duncan Williams.

"Today foreign fishing industries have literally hijacked discussions to protect Pacific tuna and have ultimately put at stake the livelihoods and economies of dependant Pacific island communities that still use canoes and a pole and line to catch their fish." he went on to say

Last month, a UN report predicted that world fish stocks would collapse by 2050.

The failure of international decision-makers to address over fishing has prompted Greenpeace to call for urgent action by consumers and retailers to step up their role in saving the world's favorite fish - tuna.

"Greenpeace is calling for consumers and tuna retailers around the world to take action and stop the trade of endangered species of tuna. If we don't, we will eat Bluefin, Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna out of existence, and kill endangered turtles and sharks with destructive tuna fishing methods such as fish aggregation devices," he said.

Greenpeace is campaigning for sustainable and equitable fisheries and a global network of fully protected marine reserves, covering 40% of our oceans. Marine reserves are essential to ensure clean and healthy oceans and protect marine life from over fishing and habitat destruction.

gets into trouble the club will be quicker to respond to an incident at sea. We will all have better peace of mind and focus on enjoyment," says Andy Musrastik, the President of the Pohnpei Fishing Club.

An EPIRB can cost over \$400, and at this price it is often too costly for the average recreational or small vessel owner. Under this plan, the Pohnpei Fishing Club will make available the EPIRBs to the general public.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club members are very grateful for this gesture from Petrocorp and will be working together to ensure that the boating safety message gets out to the general public.



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NISSAN ATLAS 1ton
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Australian Embassy Pohnpei



The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is seeking submissions from interested parties for the provision of gardening & maintenance services for the Embassy's residential compound in Nanpohnmal.

The successful contractor will be responsible for the upkeep of the grounds, including the swimming pool and tennis court. Minor maintenance of the residences and outbuildings will also be required.

Request for quotation documentation can be collected from

**Australian Embassy
H & E Building
Kolonia, Pohnpei**

or email : phpi.mail@dfat.gov.au

or download from www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

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Chuuk Tel: 691.330-2333

Yap Tel: 691-350-2104

Kosrae Tel: 691-370-3164

234 years of US independance celebrated at US Embassy in Pohnpei



Request for Proposals

Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting proposals from Businesses or Individuals interested in leasing for office space units located in the Seaport Building on the Pohnpei Fisheries Dock at Dekehtik, Pohnpei State.

The following are descriptions of the office spaces:

- Unit 1, approximately 208 square feet, located on the 2nd floor.
- Unit 2, approximately 430 square feet, located on the 1st floor.
- Unit 3, approximately 430 square feet, located on the 1st floor.
- Unit 3, approximately 430 square feet, located on the 1st floor.



Proposals should include the nature of business to be conducted and other relevant information regarding the businesses or the individuals.

Proposals will be accepted from June 16, 2010 until 5:00 PM on July 23, 2010.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals recieved in connection with this request for proposals.

Additional information regarding this request for proposal can be obtained from the Office of the General Manager, Pohnpei Port Authority, Dekehtik, Pohnpei State.

NDOE Staff Undergoes Intensive Training on Project Reporting

FSM Information Services

July 7, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei - On July 5, 2010, at the NDOE Office, in the Kolonia Amcres Building, seven NDOE staff members attended a Project Reporting Training Session, conducted by Dr. Kyaw Soe of Pacific Resource in Education and Learning (PREL). Dr. Soe was awarded the contract to provide training on a basic project reporting format that could give the staff guidelines for the preparation of their reports on the NDOE major program activities, including the National School Accreditation System.

A long time employee of PREL and an acquainted consultant in the FSM area, Dr. Soe created the Pacific Education Data Management System (PEDMS) that is used Pacific-wide in the US Territories and the Freely Associated States. Dr Soe started the training by familiarizing the staff with the performance reporting format using: goals, objectives, indicators, expected outcomes and actual outcomes.

As usual, Dr. Soe often uses examples to elaborate each topic discussed, here he referred to the NDOE progress chart on the wall. He reiterated the significance of writing a concise program plan which provides the guidelines in project implementation as well as reporting. He also pointed out how the objectives, indicators, expected and actual outcomes should always be quantifiable and measurable reflecting the numeric values of what is accomplished and what is not.

Attending the training were Weison Weital, data specialist, Chris Iriarte, textbook inventory specialist, Quincy Lawrence, bridging gaps specialist, Olfred John, financial management specialist, Kulliano Raymond, secondary education specialist, Wayne Mendiola, administrator, postsecondary education & scholarship and Welson Nedlic, curriculum and assessment specialist. Seated in to cover the training was Wehns Billen, editor for the NDOE Media Unit. The training is expected to last several days.

Last year Dr. Soe conducted a similar training on developing database for NDOE's projects and demonstrated how the data could be collected and factor into the progress reports for the department.

Soil surveys of major islands of FSM completed by USDA-NRCS

FSM Information Services

July 2, 2010

Kolonia, Pohnpei - The United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) completed separate soil surveys for the major islands in all four states of the Federated States of Micronesia. Donated to the people and national and state governments of the FSM by the United States of America, the work to complete the soil surveys cost in excess of \$400,000.

The FSM's soil surveys were originally completed in 1980. Hardcopies and digital information on the surveys are available via USDA-NRCS's Pacific Islands Area website, www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/soils.html. A recent revision to the website gives easier access to the information for professionals and interested citizens. The updated layout (suitable for use in GIS) and information provides a direct link for the public to important resource planning information for the Federated States of Micronesia.

The USDA-NCRS is the agency responsible for completing soil surveys for the mainland, U.S. territories, and freely associated states. A soil survey is a complete inventory of the soil resources for an area. The information contained in soil survey manuscripts is valuable for environmental planning and community development work. Informed decisions can be made about the ability of the land to accommodate human activities and ecological restoration. This includes the soils' ability to grow crops, support engineering activities like building construction, and the soils' vulnerability to erosion.

FSM reports \$2M in revenue from foreign corporations

FSM Information Services

July 7, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei - A report issued by the FSM Department of Finance and Administration (the "Department of Finance") indicates that for the period from 2005, to May 25, 2010, a total of approximately U.S. \$2,000,000.00 of corporate income taxes has been collected by the Department of Finance from 14 Major Corporations registered with the FSM Registrar.

To continue the stimulation of registrations of overseas corporations in the FSM, Congress approved, during its Fourth Regular Session in May 2010, and President Mori signed into law, a note-worthy amendment to Section 321 of the FSM Tax Code: lowering the current corporate tax rate from

25.5% to 21%. The new FSM tax rate of 21% will allow the FSM to remain competitive and still be above what is deemed a tax haven threshold in other foreign countries.

President Mori is considering investing part of this revenue generated by these corporate registrations, into the FSM (non-Compact) Trust Fund, Social Services, MiCare Health Insurance and other priority programs at State and National level.

In the wake of the FSM Registrar's success in producing revenue from its corporate registry, especially from the captive insurance licensing regime; the government is eager to pursue other business opportunities, such as an International Open Ship Registry, to create other sources of revenue for FSM. The President's Administration is striving to create revenue sources to progressively replace the decreasing amounts received by the FSM under the Amended Compact.

i link

For more information, Call
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FSM Association of Chief State School Officers Finds Solutions to Remedy Audit's Non-Compliance Findings

FSM Information Services

June 29, 2010

Kosrae, FSM - The FSM Association of Chief State School Officers (FACSSO) met twice during the 2010 Micronesia Teachers Education Conference being held in Kosrae from June 29 to July 2, to discuss the job and management audit of the State Departments of Education (DOE) and the FSM National DOE.

In particular, the audit revealed that each State DOE was non-compliant in the following areas: strategic and annual planning, professional standards, policies and procedures, in-service training for employees, recruitment practices for new employees, consistency in curriculum development, programs with special education and information management.

As a result of their discussions, the FACSSO team adopted a resolution to establish a Management Audit Think Tank Education Reform (MATTER) body for each state and for the National DOE to monitor and ensure the implementation of corrective actions to remedy all non-compliance findings outlined in the audit. The MATTER members shall be appointed by FACSSO and will include Board of Education members, as well as National DOE Accreditation Specialists. MATTER activities will be posted daily on the National DOE webpage (www.fsmed.fm).

FACSSO also adopted a resolution to contact the relevant government agencies to speed up the installation of the Rural Internet Connectivity Systems for outer island schools across the FSM. Three units have already been installed, one such unit has been set up at Moch School. "The internet connection is working great, we now have access to so much information," said Sitae Smith, teacher at Moch School; "and we can connect with our family and friends in the other islands."

A third resolution was adopted by FACSSO to allow the FSM Close-Up 2011 program to take place in January 2011 instead of May 2011. The FSM Close-Up Program enlists the 40 top-performing high school seniors of FSM to participate in a program based in Palikir, introducing the students to the inner workings of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of government.

FACSSO is comprised of the following individuals: Margaret Margou, Yap Director of Education, Gardenia Aisek, Chuuk Director of Education, Paul Hadik, Kosrae Director of Education, Joseph Villazon, Pohnpei Director of Education, Spensin James, President of COM-FSM and Casiano Shoniber, FSM Secretary of Education.

2010 FSM National Law Day

FSM Information Services

July 2, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei - The FSM National Law Day is one of the FSM Supreme Court's annually sponsored programs that features high school students representing the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap in debates on issues of national significance.

The purpose of Law Day, since its inception in 1991, has been to involve high school students and the general public in discussions about issues important to the FSM as a developing nation. Since 1991, over 150 high school students from the four states have been involved in the event and \$150,000 in scholarship funds has been issued.

A coordinating committee is appointed each year by the Chief Justice to organize and implement the Law Day. The committee, comprised of members from the FSM executive, legislative, and judicial branches worked together to determine the topic of the debate. This year's topic is "BE IT RESOLVED that in the best interest of securing the greatest possible benefit for the people of the FSM from the natural resources within the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone, all foreign fishing, and all fishing by entities in which non FSM citizens own greater than a 49% interest, shall be

prohibited by law."

Each year, the Court pays to send the student debaters from each state to the venue of the debates and provides scholarship money for their post-secondary education to attend colleges and universities of their choice, including the College of Micronesia-FSM. The scholarship money is provided to the student debaters upon receipt by the Court, of letters of acceptance to the colleges or universities of their choice.

This year's 2010 FSM National Law Day will be held in Pohnpei State, at the FSM Supreme Court in Palikir. The Debates will be held on Monday, July 12, 2010, beginning at 10:00AM. The general public is cordially invited and encouraged to attend to show support for the student debaters' accomplishments. For those unable to attend in person, the ceremonies and debates will also be broadcast live on July 12, 2010. In Pohnpei, the debates will be broadcast by the Baptist Radio at 999 AM and 104 FM and through the local stations in the other three states beginning at 10:00 a.m. (Pohnpei time).

Representing each of the States are:

Pohnpei State

Calvary Christian Academy

State Departments of Education Publish Books In State Languages for Kindergartners and First Graders

FSM Information Services

July 5, 2010

Kosrae, FSM - In the Fall of 2010, the kinder and first grade classrooms of all public schools in the FSM will receive their first sets of hardback bilingual alphabet books, written in both their State language and English. After a 12 month process of designing, translating, financing and publishing, the books are being shipped from the printing company based in Hong Kong directly to each State Department of Education (DOE) in the FSM.

These school books, available in Chuukese, Pohnpeian, Kosraean, Yapese, Satawalese, Woleaian and Ulithian, are the result of team-work between the State DOEs and volunteers from Island Research and Education Initiative (IREI), a non-profit organization based in Pohnpei. IREI volunteers provided most of the art and design work, while the State DOEs called upon their state language experts to do the translation work and used their respective sector education grants to pay for the printing and shipping costs.

"These books are a welcome addition

to the Early Childhood Education alphabet posters, already available in many Kinder classrooms," said Jacqueline Hazen, IREI volunteer.

IREI's next project is aimed at cultural literacy, with the preparation of books about FSM legends; these books will be geared towards 5th or 6th grade-level readers. IREI volunteers have designed and published a prototype called "The Creation of Pohnpei," and hope to finalize four books about different legends relating to each State.

The Department of Health also recently put to good use a grant from the Australian Embassy to publish pre-literacy books. These books will be distributed to each parent who brings their child to the hospital for immunization.

Another work in progress is a series of 4th grade social studies books being created by the Micronesian Conservation Trust, with the assistance of European Union funding. These books showcase 10 eco-systems for each State. The National DOE and the State DOEs are reviewing the prototypes of these books and will decide whether or not to invest in publication.

Coach: Terisa Joel

Debaters: Kimo Carl and Marisa Sterllings

Chuuk State

Saramen Chuuk Academy

Coach: Marcellus J. Akapito

Debaters: Gwendolyn Maryrose Nakayama and Eason Chenbo Eas

Kosrae State

Kosrae High School

Coach: Lyna R. George

Debaters: Neelma P. Skilling and Joshua C. Hadik

Yap State

Yap High School

Coach: Brian Ramngen

Debaters: Cyril Celestine Garaad Gorongayin

US asks Japan to pay more for Marine move

Associated Press

TOKYO — The United States has asked Japan to help shoulder hundreds of millions of dollars in additional fees to transfer Marines from a controversial base on Okinawa island to Guam, Kyodo news agency reported.

The extra money — needed to help pay for electricity, water and sewage facilities at the new site — could add further uncertainty to the future of the Futenma Marine Corps Air Station, which has strained the security alliance that Japan and the U.S. sealed 50 years ago.

Debate over a relocation plan for the base, which currently sits in the middle of a city in Okinawa, led to repeated mass protests and was a major factor in Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's resignation last month. Under the existing deal, 8,000 Marines and their dependents will move to the U.S. territory of Guam and some facilities will shift to a less populated part of the Japanese island.

Japan agreed in 2006 to pay more than \$6 billion of the \$10 billion the move was expected to cost.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates asked Tokyo last month to help pick up the tab for the higher-than-expected infrastructure costs at the new base, Kyodo news said, citing unnamed diplomatic sources.

Kyodo said that would likely cost Japan an additional tens of billions of yen (hundreds of millions of dollars). The country's massive debt and struggling economy are a major issue in national elections set for this month, and any additional financial burden for the already sensitive Okinawa base issue would draw strong criticism at home.

New JICA Volunteers Dispatched to the Federated States of Micronesia

FSM Information Services

July 2, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei - JICA Micronesia has welcomed four new members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and one Senior Volunteer (SV) into the Federated States of Micronesia, mainly for Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

The JOCV program has been established in the FSM since November of 1989, and the SV program was later added in 2001. The JICA Volunteer program's objective is to provide technical cooperation and actively support work for nation-building and human development in the FSM. Hence, the education sector of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Yap requested JOCV volunteers in the field of elementary education.

On the environmental focus, JICA has had a success story with Kosrae's waste management largely due to the Fukuoka Method which was implemented by JICA experts. This time, Yap EPA will soon benefit from Senior Volunteer Hiroshi Terakoshi, an expert in solid waste management, especially in the disposal of hazardous materials and recycling.

The new JOCV members, all specialized in elementary education, and the new SV member arrived in Pohnpei on June 23, 2010, and will be dispatched to their respective posts during the first week of July. They have been assigned as follows: Shuichi Matsumoto to Malem Elementary School in Kosrae; Haruko Maruyama to Ohmine Elementary School in Pohnpei; Hidenori Takushi to Awak El-

ementary School in Pohnpei; Kaori Shimizu to Gaanelay Rull Comm. School in Yap; and SV Hiroshi Terakoshi, specialized in Solid Waste Management, to Yap EPA.

JICA is an agency of the Government of Japan responsible for implementing technical cooperation, grant aid and yen loan programs of Japan's ODA to developing countries. JICA is the world's largest bilateral development organization, operating in some 150 countries to help some of the globe's most vulnerable people. Its core professional staff works hand in hand with dispatched Japanese personnel, experts and volunteers and local staff in the overseas office in promoting human security which is incorporated in about a hundred on-going cooperation programs.

YOUTH PHOTO CONTEST

By the U.S. Embassy

theme: POHNPEI IN MY EYES

Interested youth are invited to participate in the U.S. Embassy's inaugural photo contest. The first fifty (50) youth to show up at the U.S. Embassy at 9AM on Monday, July 19th will receive a disposable camera and will return used cameras to the Embassy by 4PM Friday, July 23rd.

The U.S. Embassy will develop the photos and select the finalists.

Winning submissions will be selected at the Youth Photo Contest Reception (date TBD)!

Age Categories:
10-12
13-15
16-18

A picture says a thousand words. . . .what will yours say?

For more information, please contact U.S. Embassy Public Diplomacy/Staff Assistant
Michaela Corr
320-2187 or CorrMM@State.gov

GVB Taps Chinese Outbound Market

By Guam Visitors Bureau

Tuesday, July 6, 2010; Tumon, Guam - Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) joined more than 1,000 domestic and international visitor industry professionals and destination representatives in Beijing from June 23-24, 2010, for the 2010 International Forum on Chinese Outbound Tourism (IFCOT), China's premier government-sponsored travel trade conference.

GVB General Manager Gerald S.A. Perez was invited as a keynote speaker to 6TH IFCOT, which focused on "Quality Service and Sustainable Growth After the Crisis." GVB also sponsored Guam Night for conference attendees as the event finale.

"The China outbound travel market is the fastest-growing visitor market in the world," Perez said. "We've worked for several years to increase our presence in that country through meetings with travel trade operators at exhibitions like IFCOT, by working with airlines for more charter flights, and by meeting with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to secure a Guam-CNMI visa-waiver for China. This exhibition helped further strengthen our trade and government relationships with key stakeholders in China's outbound travel industry."

In the past 10 years, the average annual growth rate of Chinese outbound departures has averaged about 20 percent. In 2009, the number of Chinese travelers reached more than 47 million. That number is expected to nearly double in the next five years, according to data from the Ivy Alliance Tourism Consulting Co., Ltd.

Perez spoke about "Island Resorts & Holiday Tour" on the forum's first day, offering insight on how island vacation spots can improve their presence in the Chinese outbound market, how tour operators can package island tour products, and what Guam has done to attract Chinese visitors, including introduction of a unified Guam brand tailored to specific market interests.

IFCOT is strongly supported by the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), the China Tourism Association (CTA), the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), and organized by the Ivy Alliance Tourism Consulting Co. Ltd. Since 2003, more than 1,200 officials and executives from tourism boards of destination countries and tourism insiders of overseas and domestic operations have participated in IFCOT.

IFCOT was held in conjunction with the Beijing International Tourism Expo (BITE), one of China's leading consumer travel exhibitions.

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K-Press Perspective

Pohnpei's new "government" website—a work in progress

"Welcome to the Official Website of Pohnpei State Government," the home page of the website at www.pohnpeimet.fm says. The website was published to the international web community on July 5, 2010, according to Pohnpei State Public Affairs Officer Heinrich Stevenson.

At the top of the screen, the words, "Peace, Unity, Transparency" and "Accountability" float by one at a time from left to right before they fade away, superimposed over the word, "Kaselehlie," the beautiful and meaning filled greeting so often taken for granted by many of us who use it.

Though the website has been published for the world to see, it's obvious that it is a work still in progress. The home page of the new website, along with several others pages doesn't quite fit horizontally on a computer screen. The drop-down headings don't fit in their spaces. Neither do the menus below the headings. Additionally, the website isn't, in the fullest interpretation of what the word "government" means in FSM, the official website of the "Pohnpei State Government" since only the Executive Branch is represented.

"The website is designed primarily to inform and to share with the people of Pohnpei and the general public true and realistic information concerning what the government (executive branch) is doing, and at the same time to seek public input and guidance on how best we can improve delivery of public services to those that we serve," says the message written by Pohnpei State's Governor John Ehsa which dominates the home page.

Under the heading of "Latest News" on the home page are the words, "Welcome Governor Ehsa from your trip from South Korea," followed by the words writ in blue, "Contact us..."

At least in its start up phase the website doesn't have a great deal to offer yet and though "contact," as Governor Ehsa said in his message, is the purpose for the site it is also a missing component.

While every page has an alluring blue lettered, "Contact Us," clickable link, the link doesn't work. I clicked the blue letters, filled in the requested information boxes including my name and email address and wrote a fairly long comment in the box provided for that purpose and clicked submit. The next page that came up said, "The contact form you are testing needs to be setup." Apparently, the Allwebco template hasn't actually been finished by the designer of the website so no contact can yet be made by the website without sending an email by other means.

I clicked the link that said info@pohnpeimet.fm under the heading "email us" and the email address that popped up in my Outlook Express page showed the address isou@pohnpeimet.fm. Two days after writing to that email address there still has not been a response, which, I suppose is not too surprising

given that there currently is little to no Internet access in the new Pohnpei State Government Complex.

Indeed, the spreadsheet formatted page that represents the Executive Directory lists the names of some of the people working at the top levels of government but contained absolutely no information as to how to contact them. Though the spread sheet implies that there should be, there are no recorded fax numbers, no home, cell or office phone numbers and, not a single email address.

News is currently scant on the new website. At press time one could find out which four bills were signed by Governor Ehsa last month but you can't read the bills.

Some websites carry disclaimers and the new Pohnpei State website is no exception, "Any person who intends to use the information is hereby advised to confirm its accuracy with Pohnpei State Office of the Governor or the party to which the information is related, before acting on that information."

I suppose that this means that whoever the webmaster is has carte blanche to post whatever he or she wants to post without having to worry too terribly much as to whether it's accurate. It's probably not what they meant but that was my immediate knee jerk interpretation.

Under the heading "Pohnpei Met" are the following words: "Our objective is to provide a better life for our people, to live in a healthy environment and to live a long prosperous lives in Pohnpei."

There is a box devoted to "What's New in Pohnpei," that takes up a good portion of the left side of the computer screen. The box below it says, "Click on the resources links in this website to find out more about opportunities, programs, projects and much more here in Pohnpei State." Why not leave those boxes out and save the screen space?

Having said all of these things, the Governor's office is to be congratulated for making the effort to have a new website. It seems like a natural thing to do since so many Pohnpeians rely on the Internet to get news about goings on their homeland. With the arrival of high speed communications in the FSM more and more Pohnpeians who still live here are connecting to the Internet for information.

I applaud the Governor's office for making this effort and look forward to great improvements in the site in days to come. The website is miles better than the non-existent one that was available a few days ago.

It's been a long time since the Pohnpei Governor's Office has had a website. Former Governor Johnny David had one that can still be found online at www.fm/PohnpeiGov. The date of the last press release on that site was 2006.

The Pohnpei Legislature has a website (www.fm/PohnpeiLeg) as well but until today I had

no idea that its use had been diverted for use by the now adjourned Second Pohnpei Constitutional Convention that began in 2009. Before that time the last update of the Pohnpei Legislature website had been in 2005 as far as I could see.

The Kosrae Legislature has a website (<http://www.kosraelegislature.org/>) but I didn't see any updates on that site more recent than 2008. I did see a notice on the site saying that due to staff shortages the Kosrae legislature was behind in its updates of bills and other information. "We expect to have everything back to normal shortly," the webpage says. Apparently that function is the responsibility of John McKenzie, who as the Attorney for Kosrae's Legislature must be up to his neck in paperwork and has very little if any support staff.

I couldn't find a website for the Kosrae Governor's office. I also could find no governmental websites for Chuuk State.

By far, the most up to date and best produced State website I found for the FSM was the Yap State Government page (www.yapstategov.org.) It takes a while to load up on a dial up line but the information in it is practically up to the minute. Every link in it works. I was able to sign up for a daily news update from Yap State Government. Immediately after signing up I checked my email and there was a welcome message for the service for which I'd just signed up.

Larry Raigetel, who is in charge of Yap's Department of Youth and Civic Affairs said that the website was started two years ago, using Compact Capacity Building Sector Grant money for the startup. Garrett Johnson serves as the webmaster for the site.

Though the Yap webpage has a disclaimer similar to the one on Pohnpei's website I was able to find out how to apply for a foreign investment permit something that isn't on the Pohnpei State website. The only mention of Foreign Investment on Pohnpei's site is an incomplete sentence.

It would be petty to overly criticize a startup website because of typos or grammatical errors so I won't do it. I did, however, find the description of Pohnpei's economy to be quite informative even if I didn't really quite understand what was being said despite having lived here for nearly 10 years. "Pohnpei has a typical mixed economy consisting mostly of government, households and businesses. The economy can best be described as a blend of subsistence and economic dependency."

Perhaps in time, the Pohnpei Governor's site will be just as good as Yap's. They might have waited to release the site until it was fully functional but they didn't choose to do so. But then, there is a website and that's a very good start.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Letter to the Editor

School Lunch—can we learn from others?

Dear Editor:

Regarding the previous letters by Mrs. Singeo and Mr. Panuelo, in my opinion, both are correct. We need a nation of individuals dedicated to the premise of hard work. We also need a nation with a conscience that can reflect on the social needs of the underprivileged in our State.

Our young nation, aware of good western ways and practices, should strive to bring the best of our traditions and western ideas together to create a uniquely Micronesian State.

As Micronesians, we hold community to be of utmost importance. The individual has responsibility not only for himself but also for the welfare of other members of the society. Our traditions do not allow us to be callous to the sufferings of others but allow room for accommodation.

We do not know the life condition or familial situation in which some of these children are living. It may be that some are truthfully from parents who are ill and not able to provide for their children. The children are then left uncared for by other family members because of meager resources. Or it may be, as Mr. Panuelo suggested that there are irresponsible parents whose idea of life is to have as many children as possible and then to live off of the resources of those who have earned it by hard work. Both of these conditions are not only true in Pohnpei but also in many other countries of the world.

Nevertheless, these problems have solutions if solutions are genuinely sought. The fact is we have children as stated who go hungry in our public schools every day. The Government of Pohnpei, consisting of the Executive and the Legislative branches must bring their minds together to resolve this obvious situation. The people of Pohnpei and especially the children of Pohnpei attending the schools expect no less from their elected leaders. This will be the first step in resolving the issue.

Additionally, the effective enforcement of child neglect laws can also assist in improving the situation. We should be aware that other nations have faced these same challenges and have found successful solutions.

Win E. Thomas

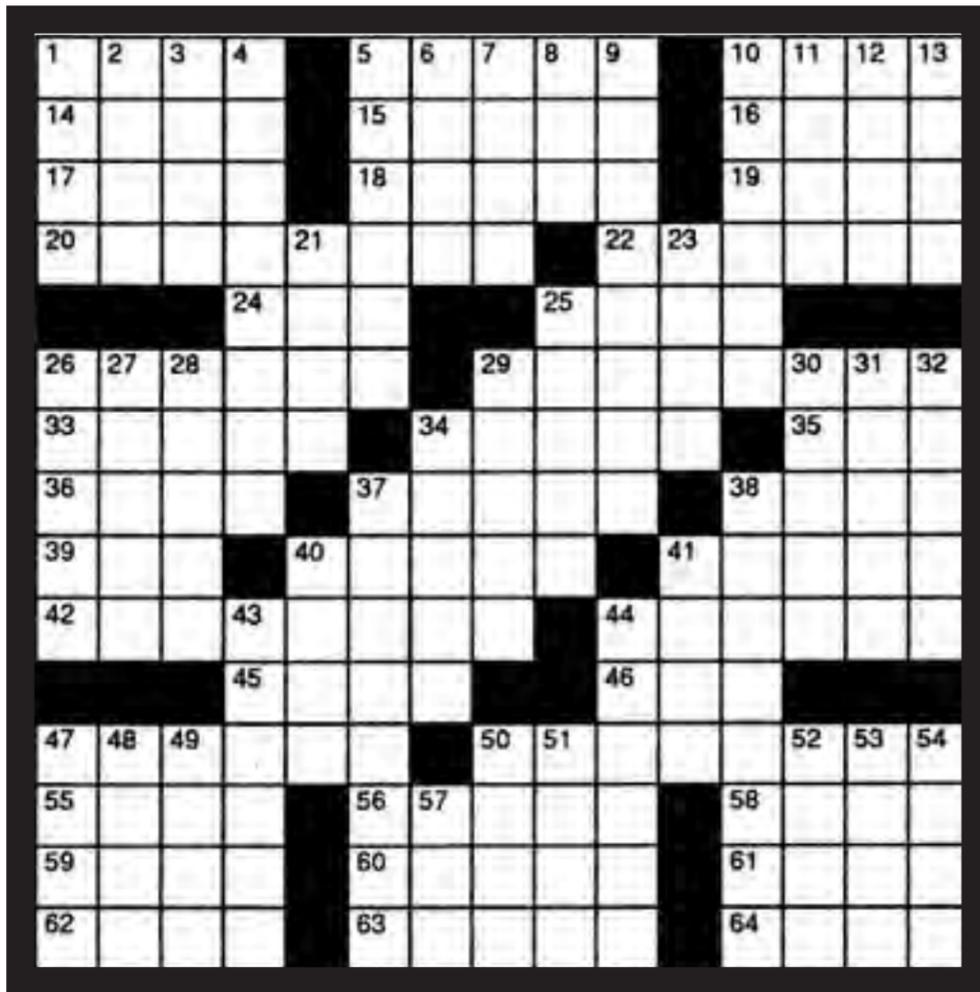
Crossword - I made it!

ACROSS

- 1. Things done
- 5. Overturn
- 10. Forfeit
- 14. Dinghy, e.g.
- 15. Explosive salt
- 16. Among
- 17. Butter bean
- 18. Genuflect
- 19. Sharp pain
- 20. Fundamentals
- 22. Come forth
- 24. Professional, for short
- 25. Wicked
- 26. Declare
- 29. Flight hazard
- 33. Trudges
- 34. Deteriorating
- 35. Soul (Fr.)
- 36. Peel
- 37. Caption
- 38. Attract
- 39. Untruth
- 40. Flock
- 41. Suit fabric
- 42. Signed up
- 44. Team-mate
- 45. Membership fees
- 46. Actor_ Holbrook
- 47. Ship steering part
- 50. Conceited ones
- 55. Lake or Canal
- 56. Anew
- 58. Nostril
- 59. Grows older
- 60. Brief
- 61. Excess
- 62. For fear that
- 63. Meaningless
- 64. Witnesses
- 25. In advance
- 26. Fall fruit
- 27. Killed
- 28. More tender
- 29. Carried
- 30. Ward off
- 31. Reflection
- 32. More recent
- 34. Spouses
- 37. Put up with
- 38. Transactions
- 40. Hint
- 41. Flat piece
- 43. Strangest
- 44. Bogus
- 47. Actual
- 48. Goad
- 49. Expires
- 50. Wyatt_; lawman
- 51. Meaning
- 52. Store event
- 53. Factual
- 54. Matched groups
- 57. Precious stone

DOWN

- 1. Skilled or efficient
- 2. Tight curl
- 3. Subdue
- 4. Wild rush
- 5. Solve
- 6. Half quart
- 7. Saints (Fr.)
- 8. Before (poet)
- 9. Air on TV
- 10. Collar Sections
- 11. Persian poet
- 12. Make music
- 13. Rim
- 21. Strays from good
- 23. Land measure



Crossword POULTRY INCUBATORS

WORD LIST:

- AMNION, BEAKS,
- BLASTODERM,
- BLOOD, BRAIN,
- BROOD, CAPABILITY,
- CHICKENS, CLAW,
- DEVELOPMENT, EGGS,
- EMBRYOLOGICAL,
- EYES, FARM, FEET,
- FORMATION,
- HATCHABILITY,
- HEAD, HEALTHY,
- HEART, HEAT, LIDS,
- MACHINES,
- MOUTH, OPAQUE,
- ORGANS, PELLUCIDA,
- PERCENTAGE, PORE,
- POULTS, SCIENTIFIC,
- SOMITES, THROAT,
- TIME, TURKEY,
- VESSELS, YOLK

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

K Press Puzzle Pleasure

K.P. Krazy Korner
Me Time:

I'm schizophrenic -- and so am I.

THINK ABOUT IT: **What happens if you get scared half to death ... twice?**

Computer Corner

Do computers cough when they get a virus?



Island Inspiration:

English 101: I'm so adjective
I verb nouns

Lies are like roaches-- where there's one, there's a lot more

Math 101

Why does "fat chance" equal "slim chance"?

It's hard to make a comeback when you've been nowhere

Papa Says:



Mama Says:



It's never too late to have a happy childhood



ANOTHER CLASSIC
LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TRASHBUSTERS

To manage to keep up a brain,
It's no easy job, it is plain;
That's why a great many
Don't ever use any,
Thus avoiding the care and the strain.

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION
SERVICE IN KOLONIA, U, NETT, & SOKEHS

PLEASE HELP KEEP POHNPEI ISLAND
CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL

CALL ☎ 320-3868 or 320-5058

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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

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

- 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 5:45pm at the Spanish Wall. All levels welcome! Call 320.2439 for more details

Yap legislature acts on smoking bill and discusses secession legislation

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 8, 2010

Colonia, Yap—A daily press release provided as a news service of the Yap State Government web page said that the Yap Legislature overrode a Gubernatorial veto of Legislative Bill number 7-99 that proposed to regulate smoking in all public places in order to promote, protect and advance the health and welfare of the people of Yap State.

The Committee on Government, Health, and Welfare was assigned the task of reviewing the Governor's veto of the bill and in their committee report concluded that the Governor's concern that "The Bill is laying down more restrictions than necessary" in order to achieve a consistent level of basic protection from sec-

ond hand smoke was not convincing or compelling.

The Yap State press release also said that during today's session a resolution was introduced that would urge the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia to enact appropriate legislation that would allow for secession from the FSM.

The resolution said that the FSM was historically established as a loose union of states vested with their own individual sovereignty and will, to work collectively towards the development of the nation. It said that the determination and the free will of the states should be inherent in the laws governing the nation.

The Yap legislature deferred action on the measure to tomorrow's session.

First "Let's Go Local FUN RUN"

By Michelle Hanson

More than 300 people appeared at Pohnpei's Palm Terrace shopping center on July 3, 2010 for the first Let's Go Local fun run, sponsored by Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) and the FSM National Olympic Committee. Registration was free, and participants who walked or ran were given a colorful Let's Go Local T-shirt. Participants walked or ran 5 km through Kolonia town.



The fun run is an amusing way for the community to come together to learn about health, and also to get some great exercise. Participants included members of the College of Micronesia-FSM, Upward Bound students, local members of the high school track teams, and others. The event was opened by Moses Pretrick, IFCP Vice Chairman.

Pohnpei State Lieutenant Governor Churchill Edward presented the prizes, along with Moses Pretrick. Fun Run winners were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Overall Winners: | Male: Rendy Germinaro |
| | Female: Mary Linda Alexander |
| Master Division: | Male: Gary Bloom |
| | Female: Elena Yamada |
| 12 years and under: | Male: Richen Jacob |
| | Female: Mary Linda Alexander |
| High School/ Upward Bound: | Male: Yoshimi Saimon |
| | Female: Janet Abraham |

There were four categories of winners, who received prizes such as shovels, spades, and machetes used for growing food. There were also ten raffle drawing winners who happily received prizes such as Karat, Daiwang, and other bananas, taro, and live mangrove crabs. The prizes were in line with the theme of IFCP, which is to "Go Local." The message encourages people to eat more local foods and fewer imported items.

Special thanks to all participants and to the US Forestry Go Local Project, the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Program and SPC Healthy Pacific Lifestyles, and the FSM NOC team for all their support.

Let's Go Local!



Mary Linda Alexander accepts a spade after winning both the overall female and the 12 years and under categories.



Astronomical Tide Prediction July 12 - July 25, 2010

	Pohnpei				Chuuk							
Monday	07/12	03:26AM	4.6	07/19	02:51AM	1.8	07/12	02:32AM	2.5	07/19	01:08AM	1.2
		10:21AM	0.1		07:49AM	2.3		10:48AM	-0.5		10:21AM	0.0
		04:11PM	2.7		02:08PM	1.3		04:35PM	0.3		11:03PM	1.5
		09:29PM	0.7		09:52PM	3.0		06:52PM	0.2			
Tuesday	07/13	04:05AM	4.6	07/20	06:02AM	1.7	07/13	03:05AM	2.5	07/20	10:11AM	-0.2
		10:55AM	0.1		09:23AM	1.8		11:14AM	-0.4		11:53PM	1.7
		04:47PM	2.9		03:02PM	1.5		04:50PM	0.4			
		10:12PM	0.7		11:34PM	3.2		07:40PM	0.3			
Wednesday	07/14	04:43AM	4.5	07/21	07:58AM	1.4	07/14	03:34AM	2.4	07/21	10:14AM	-0.3
		11:28AM	0.2		01:05PM	1.7		11:36AM	-0.2			
		05:23PM	3.0		04:51PM	1.6		05:09PM	0.5			
		10:54PM	0.8					08:23PM	0.4			
Thursday	07/15	04:43AM	4.5	07/22	12:48AM	3.5	07/15	03:58AM	2.1	07/22	12:28AM	1.9
		11:28AM	0.2		08:36AM	1.0		11:50AM	0.0		10:21AM	-0.4
		05:23PM	3.0		02:13PM	1.9		05:32PM	0.7			
		10:54PM	0.8		06:25PM	1.5		09:04PM	0.5			
Friday	07/16	05:57AM	3.8	07/23	01:39AM	3.7	07/16	04:10AM	1.8	07/23	12:59AM	2.0
		12:31PM	0.6		09:03AM	0.7		11:49AM	0.2		10:26AM	-0.4
		06:41PM	3.1		02:46PM	2.1		06:01PM	0.9			
					07:24PM	1.3		09:45PM	0.7			
Saturday	07/17	12:26AM	1.2	07/24	02:18AM	3.9	07/17	04:02AM	1.5	07/24	01:28AM	2.1
		06:32AM	3.4		09:28AM	0.6		11:28AM	0.2		10:27AM	-0.3
		01:02PM	0.8		03:13PM	2.3		06:42PM	1.1			
		07:27PM	3.1		08:08PM	1.2		10:27PM	1.0			
Sunday	07/18	01:23AM	1.5	07/25	02:51AM	4.1	07/18	03:17AM	1.2	07/25	01:55AM	2.2
		07:08AM	2.8		09:50AM	0.5		10:51AM	0.2		10:24AM	-0.2
		01:33PM	1.1		03:37PM	2.5		07:56PM	1.2			
		08:26PM	3.0		08:46PM	1.0		11:29PM	1.1			



Rendy Germinaro accepts a spade after winning the overall male category



Edelinda Sproy won a live mangrove crab and Daiwang bananas as a raffle drawing prize

Strengthening food safety and compliance in the Northern Pacific

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

The European Union- Facilitating Agriculture Commodity Trade (EU-FACT) team of trainers in Food Safety Standards and Processing, Mrs Apiame Cegumalua and Mr Manasa Katonivualiku, under the Land Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community spent the month of June, 2010, in the Micronesia Island groups

creating awareness and building capacity in the Food Safety Program and Compliance in the food processing operation.

The training project was funded by the European Union-Pacific Regional Economic Integration Programme (PACREIP) under the Forum Pacific Islands (FPIs). The training is a timely follow up to the EU-FACT funded program and Development Sustainable Agriculture Projects (DSAP, Pohnpei) on capacity building in Food Processing and Product Development carried out in September and October, 2009 which covered the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Pohnpei and Palau.

The one week training in each Island state under the EU- PACREIP Funding which now included Kosrae state,

generated a lot of interests not only from those involved in food processing but particularly those who are involved with food inspection, monitoring and implementation and have the authority to provide Food Handling Certificate or permit or licence to operate, a huge benefit to this EU PACREIP funded training project. This training has been successful through the collaboration of the SPC office based at Pohnpei.

The training complimented well towards the Food Safety Authority in

FSM, now they have a grasp of their roles in food inspection and monitoring of processing premises before Food Handling Permits are issued to processors.



Group work presentation

Briefly at RMI, pandanus baby food development continued for the EU FACT Enterprise Robert Reimers Ent (RRE) and the GMP for the pandanus process re-emphasised. For the island state of Kosrae, the training activity was a follow to the EU FACT work carried out in March 2010 on the taro flour processing for export. More emphasis on GMP with taro processing and identifying local produce for export. For Pohnpei, the active participation and contribution by the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs), Health officials, the Small Business Enterprise Centre and the CETC graduates was a highlight to the training. The week's training at Pohnpei facilitated the integration and interlinking of relevant stakeholders for food safety standard development and compliance. In the state of Palau, another enthusiastic group of small

business entrepreneur and trainers keen to adapt the GMP in their operation.

It is anticipated that small business entrepreneurs attending the training in these island states at FSM and RMI and Palau will now produce safe food not only for consumers but will from now on promote food safety with their counterparts for exports. It is envisaged that more training is to be carried out in the future as funding permits, for those involved with issuing Food Safety licensing or permits.

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The training comprised of lectures, practical exercises and developing of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) of their individual process for better understanding.



Group work on GMP plans



Youth in Agriculture Strategy consultation begins

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

This week begins the three-week consultation phase for the Youth in Agriculture Strategy, developed by SPC Land Resources Division (LRD).

Adopting the participatory approach, a consultancy to develop the strategy was conducted in November 2009 with visits to three countries – Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati – talking to young people about the constraints they face in undertaking agricultural ventures and their suggestions and those of other stakeholders about actions on the ground that could encourage more young people to view agriculture as a worthwhile undertaking.

The development of the Youth in Agriculture Strategy is in response to a resolution in 2008 by Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry requesting LRD to, 'Develop, with relevant partners, a strategy to promote agriculture among young people'.

Pacific youth (aged 15-24) comprise about 20% of the total population of PICTs and their proportion is projected to grow at an annual rate of 2.2%. This rapid rise in the number of young people will increase demands for essential social services such as education and health, and for employment opportunities.

The family, the community, the church and the state were the most significant youth support groups identified in the study. Each provides an enabling environment for active and increased participation of young people in agriculture. The church, the state and NGOs as actors in the development sector must constantly monitor and evaluate their roles and use of resources to more effectively support the development of young people.

The youth in agriculture strategy is being developed to identify actions and initiatives that all stakeholders can pursue to encourage the active engagement of youth in agriculture across the region. Time and resource constraints allowed field work to

be conducted only in the three countries. While not necessarily representative of the entire region, young people surveyed had a good understanding of the importance of agriculture in their lives. The rural-based youth surveyed were more aware of the role that they as young people could play in the agriculture sector while urban-based youth felt that agriculture was less interesting as a career. Young people in rural areas were more aware of the importance of agriculture to household food security, than young people in urban areas, for whom the link between agriculture and food security was not as strong.

Social customs (e.g. some traditional values), lack of support mechanisms and access to capital were obstacles identified to youth participation in agriculture. In certain contexts, structural impediments (institutional and governmental) severely limit opportunities for youth. Most importantly, because youth numbers are growing faster than the rate of job creation, there are too few reasonable employment opportunities available for the vast numbers of youth pursuing them. Youth are up to three times more likely to be unemployed than older people. Many are underemployed, with work only available seasonally or for a few hours a week. Those who do find employment may have to work long hours for little pay.

Following the three-week region wide consultation, the finalised version of the Youth in Agriculture Strategy is targeted for adoption at the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry meeting in Fiji in August 2010. The strategy and action plan will provide a framework outlining key activities that SPC and partners can undertake to support young people in their agricultural initiatives.

The Pacific Agricultural and Forestry Policy Network (PAFPNet) of SPC Land Resources Division is coordinating the development of the Youth in Agriculture Strategy in partnership with SPC Human Development Programme. CTA funds supported the consultancy.

