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China Town home incinerated along with two vehicles

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

March 1, 2011

Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM—A fire that was reported to the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety at 8:40 this morning completely incinerated a China Town home belonging to Tasero Ludwig. Two vehicles were also burned out in the inferno.

Pohnpei State Police Chief Joe Roby said that officers arrived on the scene within five minutes of the report. He said that the nearest fire hydrant was not in working condition and that the Department of Public Safety fire truck had to be refilled with water five times as officers worked to battle the blaze. He said that DPS requested the assistance of the Pohnpei Port Authority which sent its two Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting fire trucks and firefighters to assist in putting out the fire.

The fire occurred in the area next to the Protestant Church just a few dozen yards

from the Pohnpei Service Station gas station on the waterfront road. Though the Ludwig home was completely destroyed neither of the houses situated just a few feet away were burned.

Chief Roby said that the fire started when a kerosene stove which was being used for cooking at the house was knocked over which then ignited a container of gasoline that was being stored in the area.

“I’d like to advise the people of Pohnpei to exercise extreme caution when using kerosene stoves for cooking especially when there are other sources of combustion nearby,” Chief Roby warned.

“DPS submitted a plan for funding to improve fire services for Pohnpei some time ago but funding for those plans have not yet been found,” said Chief Roby. “We are very serious about improving fire services in Pohnpei.



FSM Supreme Court rules for preliminary injunction in Chuuk “CIP” matter

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

March 1, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM—On February 18 and 19, FSM Supreme Court Justice Dennis K. Yamase heard pre-trial arguments regarding the issuance of a preliminary injunction at the Chuuk State Trial Division of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia in the matter of Chuuk State parties versus the FSM national government, some of its officials, and Tolensom (To) Chuuk parties (2011-1000).

Chuuk State parties filed the lawsuit because the National Government bypassed the Governor’s Office and distributed Compact Infrastructure Program funds directly

to Chuuk municipalities. The suit, which contains 39 counts also contends that Amanto Marsolo is the rightful Mayor of Tolensom rather than Kisauo Esa. The National Government gave Tolensom’s share of the CIP funds to Kisauo Esa.

In a February 21 ruling Justice Yamase ordered that the lengthy list of defendants in the case are enjoined from any other expenditure of the Tolensom CIP funds which totaled \$115,183.14 and was remitted from the FSM national government as a deposit into a Bank of Guam account, “probably at its Pohnpei Branch.”

Plaintiffs are also arguing in their filing that the deposit of Tolensom funds in a bank not located in Chuuk is contrary to the Chuuk State Constitution.

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No background checks conducted for some highly paid FSM employees

Auditors suspect that at least one diploma may have been faked

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 23, 2011

Pohnpei, FSM—FSM Office of the National Public Auditor has determined that of 25 National Government employees who received Professional or Market Place premiums as part of their pay packet, 19 of them did not provide credential documents to support the assertions made on their applications or résumés.

Except in one case auditors stopped short of saying that the 19 employees were not qualified to receive a premium as part of their pay packet. Auditors said only that the documentation provided by those employees was insufficient to show their eligibility and that the FSM Division of Personnel did not do background checks to ensure that they were before they authorized the premiums.

Auditors did question the validity of one diploma submitted by an employee who is receiving a professional premium based on that higher degree and have referred that matter to the Compliance Investigation Division for further review. Depending on the results of that review the matter may then be referred to the FSM Department of Justice for possible legal action.

An FSM employee who has achieved advanced professional status in the field of law, engineering, accounting, or who has earned a doctorate degree in any field is qualified to receive a Professional Premium. Qualified employees receive a premium of 90% above the base salary for the position.

A Market Place Premium can be granted to an employee who is recruited in a location outside of the FSM, who is a noncitizen of the FSM, and at the time of original hire, a non-resident. The qualified person may be paid a premium based on labor market conditions in the place of recruitment and on the level of the base salary for the position.

The audit of Professional and Market Place premiums released in late January was the first of its kind in the FSM. Auditors say that not only is OPA mandated by law to conduct such audits, “informal communication was received by the Public Auditor that the selection and awarding of these premiums should be audited.” They did not say whether or not the tip came from the OPA’s fraud hotline. Regardless of the source the tip appeared to be accurate.

During fiscal year 2010 alone when the FSM’s entire Gross Domestic Product was just over \$300 million the 25 employees who received the two types of premiums were paid a total of nearly a million dollars. Of that, \$457,000 was awarded to 24 employees as a Professional premium. \$5,366 was awarded to one employee as a Market Place premium.

80% of the awardees had not provided credential documents to substantiate their backgrounds and the FSM Division of Personnel did not conduct background checks of credentials before making the awards.

The audit said that the Division of Personnel had previously been operating under the assumption that background checks were the responsibility of the hiring department. Auditors say that is contrary to the law.

The Division of Personnel told auditors that the market place premium was awarded to the current recipient because the prior employee in that position had received the premium.

The Acting Personnel Officer told the auditors during the exit conference on the audit that she was glad that OPA conducted the audit because it showed that the Division of Personnel may have relied on incorrect information especially in regards to whose responsibility it is to conduct background checks of potential FSM National Govern-

ment employees.

She told the auditors that the Office of the President is in the process of hiring a new Personnel Officer who will then be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the audit.

“This (the audit) may be a sign of the less than satisfactory situation that now exists at the Division of Personnel which prompted the President to make the decision to transfer the function out of the Department of Finance and Administration, to his office on a temporary basis,” wrote FSM’s Chief of Staff Kasio E. Mida in his letter in response to the audit. “He considers the status quo there as unacceptable and one way to make improvement was to place the operation in his own office until its credibility and effectiveness could be restored at which time it will become a separate and independent unit.”

Mida estimated that it could take a year or so to “change the culture at the Division of Personnel and make it an effective servicing arm of the government.”

OPA made five recommendations:

- 1) Conduct background checking of credentials prior to awarding the premiums to ensure eligibility;
- 2) Perform background checking of all current employees presently receiving the premiums to verify if the employee was eligible when the premium was awarded;
- 3) Consider action to recover/collect past premiums paid to current employees that were not eligible for the premiums;
- 4) Consider legal action against employees who intentionally asserted the attainment of degrees not earned;
- 5) Develop and implement any other necessary control activities. i.e. policies and procedures, to ensure that the professional and market place premiums are awarded only to individuals who are truly eligible.

FSM receives USD 1.5 Million in Grant Aid from China

FSM Information Services

February 23, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei - Today, Secretary Lorin Robert, Department of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Zhang Weidong, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Federated States of Micronesia, signed an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of FSM and the Government of PRC.

Pursuant to the Agreement, the Government of PRC will provide the Government of FSM with a grant aid of 10 Million Renminbi Yuan (approximately USD 1,519,000), to be used “for project(s) to be agreed upon between the two Governments.”

Secretary Robert thanked the Ambassador and the Government of PRC for being the first to come forward with an economic and technical cooperation proposal, in answer to the country’s needs highlighted during the National Economic Symposium which was held in Chuuk a few weeks ago.

Ambassador Weidong stated: “We will continue to develop our friendly and cooperative relationship to raise the standards of living for the people in this country, as we do in our country.”

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Rotary Club of Pohnpei supports another local school

By *Amber Ham*

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei recently donated a computer cataloging program, Small Library Pro Organizer, to Sekere Elementary School. Following a request by Amber Ham, the school's Peace Corps Volunteer, and school administration, the Rotary Club granted the donation at a meeting of both parties.

Improving the library has been a primary focus of Sekere Elementary for the past six months. In September, Ms. Ham, aided by the local community and school, revitalized the library's status as a center of learning. By October, Ms. Ham and her fellow teachers were implement-

ing a library-based curriculum to the student body. With the newly donated software program, the library will be digitally catalogued, which will allow students greater access to researching the library's inventory. Moreover, the students and teachers will be able to search for books, reference materials, and resources using the newly donated software. Searching by title, author, subject, and keyword are just a few of the many perks of the software. These skills will heighten children's skill set at researching subjects, thus making them stronger competitors upon entering higher education.

Sekere wishes to convey its sincere gratitude to the Rotary Club for its donation in furthering its development as an educational facility.



U.S. donates bus to COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

On February 23, the College of Micronesia-FSM hosted a handing-over ceremony for a new bus acquired through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) Economic Impact Initiative (EII) Grant. The \$44,715 award was the second EII Grant given to COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus under the USDA-RD Community Facilities Program. In 2003, COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus received a \$67,400 Community Facilities award to assist in the funding of the renovation of the Student Service Center, which is located in a section of the gym.

During the ceremony, COM-FSM Vice President of Administration Joe Habuchmai expressed "sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the United States of America, specifically the U.S. Department of Agriculture for [its] continuous support of the College of Micronesia-FSM."

In her remarks, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Lori P. Dando expressed delight that USDA Rural Development continues to assist COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus in enhancing its facilities and resources. Dando explained that the vehicle should be employed "to provide students a reliable means of transportation to class, to allow faculty transportation to bring a class to a site of current study, or permit administrators a vehicle to safely transport college community members to an educational event."

Highlighting Ambassador Prahar's commitment to education reform in the F.S.M., DCM Dando stressed that "facilities and resources are just one piece of the puzzle. As Ambassador Prahar has said time and time again, a good education also requires a strong, coherent curriculum, dedicated and professional teachers and administrators, and parents and communities that support and value education."

Before officially handing the vehicle key over to COM-FSM, Dando explained that "as members of the college community we realize how important a good education is to our lives. It is key to a life of opportunity and choice. It is key to ensuring the well-being of our families and communities. It is key to our self-respect and earning the respect of others."



(L-R) COM-FSM Student Services Specialists Yoneko Kanichy and Cindy Edwin, Vice President Habuchmai, Pohnpei Campus Director Penny Weilbacher, DCM Dando, USDA-RD Area III Director Gary Bloom, and Specialist Berley Araceley participate in the key handing over on February 23.

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AHEC-Funded program helps Pohnpei students

By Maureen Curtin

Monday, February 21, 2011 marked the beginning of a pilot program at the College of Micronesia – FSM Pohnpei Campus funded by an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) grant.

AHECs are academic and community partnerships found throughout the world and are located in regions where health care and health care education needs are not adequately met. The AHEC grant from COM-FSM is being used to run a 6-week camp for twenty-five high performing junior students from PICS high school. The goal of the camp is to increase awareness among young Micronesians about health career opportunities in the region and to inform them of the educational programs that can lead to these careers.



The camp is being run by WorldTeach volunteers Matthew Zuziak, Maureen Curtin, and Leora Feldstein. Zuziak and Curtin are Math and Science instructors at COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus and Feldstein teaches senior English at PICS.

There is no cost to the students, who are transported by bus to Pohnpei Campus at 4:30 pm from Monday to Thursday, where they receive three hours of instruction in health-related Math, Science and Language. Lessons in the career camp are generally more hands-on than the students' typical high school classes. By the end of the six weeks, students will have gained a plethora of new skills. They will be learning how to use blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes and blood typing kits in addition to hopefully becoming certified in First Aid.

On Saturdays, students participate in an additional three hours of class before exploring health careers in Pohnpei through field trips and guest speakers. Last Saturday, they toured the Pohnpei Community Health Center with Dr Paul Dacanay and were introduced to a physician, a lab technician, and a pharmacist. Eager students asked a variety of questions about these careers. Upcoming career sessions include touring Genesis Hospital and a less formal discussion with visiting Japanese medical students.

Former Ambassador Cox makes last stop at Pohnpei Public Library

By Amber Ham

Former Ambassador Susan Cox from the Australian Embassy made one of her final stops in Pohnpei at the Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library to donate her private collection of items. She greeted the library staff, board of directors, and patrons with boxes of books, magazines, videos, a laptop computer and carrying case, and a printer.

With the donated material stacked on the table, wide-eyed children watching and teenagers quietly gossiping about the Ambassador, the Vice-President of the Friends of Pohnpei Public Library, Phyllis Silbanuz, presented the Ambassador with a local handicraft, Pohnpei Pepper, and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Former Ambassador Cox, once a librar-



ian herself, believes that libraries are amazing institutions and Pohnpei is quite fortunate to have such a well-managed and dedicated library. The library and community want to thank Cox and the Australian Embassy for all that they have done for the library, from donated materials to grants for technology. The library is fortunate to have such a well-respected and dedicated group of individuals who continue to contribute to the library's mission.

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... Chuuk suit

Continued from page 5

That issue among others has not been decided and will not likely be decided for several months. Until then Justice Yamase has additionally ordered the freezing of any account opened for the benefit of Tolensom Municipality in terms of disputed CIP funds.

Yamase's explanation of his ruling says, "All parties agree that these funds (the CIP funds) are the property of the respective municipalities and not the property of the Chuuk State government or of the FSM national government."

"The plaintiff's complaint, although it contains 39 counts, raises two broad claims. First, the plaintiffs allege that the national government does not have the power or the legal authority to remit the residual Chuuk municipal CIP funds directly to the municipal governments but must remit those funds to the Chuuk State government for it to distribute those funds to the respective municipalities. Second, they allege that regardless of whether the national government must remit the former CIP funds to the Chuuk State government, a purported Tolensom municipal government headed by purported Mayor Kisauo Esa is not the proper and lawful Tolensom entity and mayor who are entitled to receive and appropriate those funds but rather that the Tolensom municipal government headed (by) purported Mayor Amanto Marsolo is. To further confuse matters, defendant Kisauo Esa and Tolensom Municipality (as a defendant-counterclaimant-cross-claimant) have counterclaimed against plaintiffs Amanto Marsolo, Governor Wesley Simina, and State of Chuuk and cross-claimed against defendant Federated States of Micronesia," Yamase wrote in his ruling granting in part the plaintiffs' application for preliminary injunction.

Defendants Kisauo Esa and the version of the Tol government that includes him as mayor have in fact filed a counterclaim and cross claims against Governor Wesley Simina, Chuuk State, Amanto Marsolo and the Federated States of Micronesia along with their response to the lawsuit.

Their response to the Marsolo and Chuuk law suit claims nine affirmative defenses including the fact that "issues have already been determined against the plaintiff or real party in interest in other cases, yet the plaintiff seeks to re-litigate these issues. Additionally, the Chuuk State Supreme Court in Civil Action Number 114-2010, has determined that it is inappropriate for the Office of the Chuuk State Attorney General to represent Amanto Marsolo, in his claim to be Mayor of Tolensom Municipality, and other State of Chuuk institutions."

Another of the affirmative defenses to the Chuuk law suit says that the Chuuk State Supreme Court has already issued orders invalidating Governor Simina's executive order of September 20, 2010, and determined that the presence of the Chuuk State Election Commission in Tol election was not authorized by law. It says that the plaintiffs in the FSM Supreme Court matter are seeking to re-litigate issues that have already been decided against them in another forum.

The response further argues that the plaintiffs have "unclean hands in their pursuit of this matter" and should be stopped from pursu-

ing relief in their complaint. It goes further alleging that the "plaintiffs have engaged in a six year scheme or plan to defraud the named defendants of their rightful positions."

Esa and Tol are asking for an accounting of CIP funds to determine why only \$2.3 million of just over \$5.9 million owed to Chuuk municipalities was available to be paid out. Particularly they want an accounting of why, of the original \$278,407 owed to Tol only \$108,475.80 plus interest was available to be paid out.

They claim that \$3.6 million that was in the possession of the FSM was already allotted to Chuuk State but that money was never distributed to the individual municipalities and that Governor Wesley Simina and Chuuk State converted the sum of \$169,524.42 that was due to Tol and used it for their own ends and purposes.

The counter claim also points out that Tol loaned Chuuk State \$460,365 in September of 2002 for an airport project and demands repayment of that loan plus interest at 5% which by September of 2005 had accrued to \$59,054.75 and had additionally accrued to \$123,982.71 beyond that figure by February 18 for a total of \$183,037.46. Interest on that loan is accruing at the rate of \$63.06 per day.

"The State of Chuuk is having enormous financial difficulties, and may be unable to pay all of its debts. Tolensom Municipality seeks to be repaid now, so that it can receive repayment from current Chuuk State funds," the counter claim says.

None of the counter or cross claims have yet been considered by the FSM Supreme Court.

In its February 21 ruling, the FSM Supreme court stopped well short of issuing an injunction that would enjoin the national government or its officers from releasing municipal CIP funds to the various Chuuk municipalities since no other municipality other than Tolensom is a party to 2011-100. Further since plaintiffs do not claim that the national government still holds any Tolensom CIP funds but claim that the entire \$115,183.14 has already been paid into a Tolensom held bank account there does not appear to be any possible future direct payments of CIP funds to Tolensom to restrain.

Where previous court rulings have ruled against granting an injunction if money damages could reverse harm done to a plaintiff, when the CIP funds in question are gone there are no other funds to replace them. "Irreparable harm would occur if these funds were spent and it later turned out that those expenditures were not made to satisfy the Tolensom municipal government's rightful obligations but were spent by an entity purporting to be the Tolensom municipal government for purposes not authorized by the proper Tolensom municipal government," the ruling said.

The question of "irreparable harm" is one of the benchmarks a court considers before it rules in favor of an injunction. "Public Interest" is another, and Justice Yamase ruled that public interest would strongly favor that Tol public funds be spent only for Tol public purposes.

"Balance of injuries" to the parties is another benchmark. Yamase reasoned that if the funds were frozen there would be no injury to the national government since they have already released the funds. He ruled that injury to Esa, Faraway, and Elias as officers in the purported Tolensom government that currently has those funds is not onerous since as purported municipal officials it is their duty to preserve municipal funds from unwarranted claims, and since, at worst, it may only delay payment of some Tolensom municipal obligations.

The fourth benchmark for a preliminary injunction is the plaintiffs' likelihood of success on the merits of their claims.

Yamase said that since the other three factors weigh strongly in favor of a preliminary injunction the plaintiffs' likelihood of success on the merits "does not need to be great in order for the injunction to issue." Therefore the court needed only to decide if there is some likelihood of success.

Justice Yamase said in his ruling that though the court doesn't know the details of the Chuuk State Supreme Court proceeding it "can perceive that there is a possibility that it could result in Marsolo being the Tolensom mayor (or even as a remote possibility, that neither Marsolo nor Esa end up mayor because the State court orders a new election and some unexpected third person is chosen mayor by the electorate.)"

The Chuuk State Supreme Court issued a ruling on preliminary matters on the case numbered 114-2010 on February 4, 2011, in which Amanto Marsolo, who the Chuuk State Executive Branch recognizes as the Mayor of Tol is challenging Kisauo Esa's claim to be the actual, legal mayor of Tol.

In that case, the plaintiffs have filed for an interlocutory appeal of its rulings in the pre-trial findings of fact and conclusions of law.

An interlocutory appeal (or interim appeal) is an appeal of a ruling by a trial court that is made before the trial itself has concluded. Essentially, if the court allows for an interlocutory appeal, as it will do only on "rare" occasions when an interim ruling is particularly prejudicial to the rights of one of the parties, nothing further is done on the main case until a third party judge rules on the validity of the ruling called into question.

The Chuuk State Supreme Court ruling that is the subject of the plaintiffs filing of a motion for an interlocutory appeal mentioned by Justice Yamase says:

- When Amanto Marsolo requested the Chuuk State Election Commission to assist and intervene in the interim Tolensom election on September 28, 2010 he didn't have the authority or standing to do so since the Tolensom Constitution prohibits any entity other than the Tolensom Election Com-

See "Chuuk (2) on page 6



"Mayor" Kisauo Esa says in a counter claim that Chuuk is "forum shopping," trying to re-litigate issues that have already been decided against them at the Chuuk State Supreme Court

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College Prep Program and EducationUSA team up on behalf of PICS students

By *Whitney Hoot*
World Teach volunteer

In January, the College Prep Program (CPP) welcomed three new PICS seniors to the group. With just a few more students, the program has blossomed into an even more productive learning environment, where the students are preparing for the one of the biggest potential adventures of their lives—attending college in the United States. CPP advisors have continued to focus on resume building, the college search process, finding scholarships and financial aid, and studying for the “dreaded” TOEFL exam. Four of the twelve students raised the \$160 test fee and will be sitting for the TOEFL—Test of English as a Foreign Language—on March 4th. They’ve been practicing tirelessly, coming in to my classroom during lunch to write 30-minute essays and to take sample multiple choice tests. Peace Corps volunteer Amber Ham, the other CPP advisor and co-founder, has met students in the library where they have free access to the Internet, allowing them to practice by using online testing sites.

In addition to the new students, CPP has made some other important changes this semester. Although the program goals remain the same—guiding the students through their college application process and preparing them for their academic futures—there is a new emphasis on collaboration. CPP is already an example of collaboration, combining the efforts of World Teach and Peace Corps volunteers, but there is a new player on the board: EducationUSA. EducationUSA is a network of over 400 advising centers around the world; Micronesia’s center is administered by COM. In January, CPP participants attended two very helpful information sessions hosted by EducationUSA. One session focused on financial aid, the other emphasized standardized testing. In February, EducationUSA representatives Michaela Corr, Lore Nena, and Mike Ioanis joined CPP participants at the public library to discuss the college search process. One of the most challenging aspects of CPP is getting the students excited about their prospective schools—unlike high school students in the U.S., they don’t get the benefits of college visits. EducationUSA came to show students how to continue their college search online using databases and printed materials. Right now, students are considering schools such as Coastal Carolina (South Carolina), University of Hawaii Hilo, and Chadron University in Nebraska.

Before long, these dedicated students will know the results of the TOEFL. Hopefully they will be able to encourage fellow CPP participants to sit for the next TOEFL exam in May. In the mean time, students and advisors will continue to meet weekly to work on Financial Aid for Students Applications, search for scholarships online, and writing personal statements that stand out

... Chuuk suit (2)

Continued from page 5

- mission from conducting elections there. For the same reason the Tol Election Commission didn’t have legal authority or standing of any kind;
- When Chuuk Governor Wesley W. Simina ordered an election in Tol to be held on September 28 he did so without lawful authority;
- Tol does not come within the purview of the State election laws and the election held on September 28 was not governed by its provisions;
- When Governor Simina allocated \$15,000 as part of Executive Order 04-2010 “for the purposes of preparing for and conducting the interim election of Tolensom Municipality” he did so without legal authority. The Chuuk State Court also ruled that the Governor did not have the lawful authority to order that the State Election Commission conduct the 2010 election in Tol;
- When Governor Simina ordered that reasonable nomination fees and other applicable fees be assessed for all candidates wishing to run for office he didn’t have authority for that either. Nor did he have authority to order the Chuuk Department of Administrative Services and the State Election Commission to identify and allocate Tol’s available funding, “from whatever source,” to be used for defraying the cost of administering and conducting the election, not to exceed \$15,000;
- Governor Simina didn’t have the authority to order that contests or challenges arising from the election would be resolved under the state election law contest or complaint procedures;
- Governor Simina didn’t have the legal authority to order that the State Election Commission, Attorney General’s office and other appropriate departments, offices and agencies of the Chuuk State Government assist in the conduct of the Tol election;
- Governor Simina did not have the legal authority to order that any person or persons causing the conduct of the interim Tol elections who were not authorized or recognized under Executive order 04-2010 be subject to remedies under the Chuuk State Elections Laws;
- When Governor Simina ordered that any resultant election prepared or conducted by any person or persons not authorized or recognized under the Executive order be “void ab initio” (not legally binding) and have no force and effect or be recognized by the Chuuk State government, he did so without lawful authority;
- Chuuk State Attorney General’s office, along with all of its trial counselors and attorneys has an unwaivable conflict and the court enjoined them from representing either Marsolo or the State Election Commission.

FSM Supreme Court Chuuk State Trial Division Civil Action No. 2011-1000 is only at the stage of very early preliminary hearings. It will be several months before the actual trial on the matter can begin.

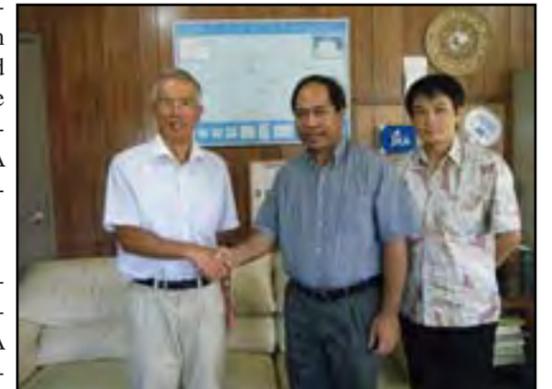
Implementing JICA Technical Project on Solid Waste Management in FSM

Japan International Cooperation Agency

JICA technical project on solid waste management namely J-PRISM (Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in the Pacific Island Countries) is kicking off in the Federated States of Micronesia this February of 2011.

Record of Discussion (R/D) for this project was signed on December of last year by Director Andrew Yatilman of Office of Environmental & Emergency Management (OEEM) and Resident Representative Naoyoshi Sasaki of JICA FSM. Mr. Sasaki said that fourteen countries in South Pacific area have adopted the Regional Cooperative Framework to promote the regional initiative on solid management. Pacific island countries and territories will adopt cost effective and self-sustaining solid waste management system that protects the environment, and thus promote a healthy population and encourage economic growth.

Mr. Sasaki added that in FSM the overall goal for the regional solid waste management strategy is from February 2011 to December 2015. He said that for the five years, the program targets on capacity building for solid waste management in each (FSM) State and be finalized on (FSM) National Solid Waste Management Strategy. Japanese experts are coming to FSM from JICA Headquarter thru JICA FSM regional office to back up this project.



JICA Resident Representative, Mr. Naoyoshi Sasaki, OEEM Mr. Andrew Yatilman, JICA Project Formulation Advisor Mr. Yasutoshi Sagami.

On his part, OEEM Director, Mr. Yatilman said that FSM is very thankful for the assistance given by JICA in the field of Solid Waste Management and in other projects that the people of FSM need.

Another 24 Chuuk Trainees to graduate from CME Guam

FSM Information Services

March 1, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei - On March 20, twenty-four trainees from Chuuk will be graduating from the Center of Micronesian Empowerment in Guam. “This Graduation will mark another turning point in the Guam-Chuuk relations,” explained Mike Ghiglione, Executive Director of CME, “as we graduate another group of Chuuk’s best and brightest.” As of today, 58% of the graduating trainees have obtained full-time employment in Guam.

“We are working very hard every single day to ensure that all 24 trainees are in full-time jobs before Graduation Day,” said Mike Ghiglione, Executive Director of CME. “Limus Setik, our most recent placement,” added Ghiglione, “is starting with a salary of \$15.00 per hour!”

In the upcoming months, CME hopes to be offering two new training programs: a 90-Day “Certified Nursing Assistant” program, open for 12 trainees, both women and men are encouraged to apply; and a 90-Day “Automotive Technology Mechanics” program, also open to 12 trainees. Both new programs are scheduled to begin on May 2.

Ghiglione underscored that not one of their trainees had been deported or arrested, nor do any of them have any kind of police record on Guam. “They are all doing well,” said Ghiglione, “I am bursting with pride for all of the 24 Chuuk trainees.”

Today, Secretary Casiano Shoniber, FSM Department of Education, and Assistant Secretary for Vocational Education Wilson Kephias, will be visiting the CME campus and meeting with some of the trainees.

CME is dedicated to training and placing local workers into full time paying jobs made possible because of the Guam military buildup. To date, CME, a private non-profit workforce development company, will have successfully placed 214 underserved residents from throughout Micronesia and Guam into full time employment. CME’s mission is to improve the quality and quantity of workers from the region to insure that the positive economic development effects of the Guam military build-up are realized for the residents of all of Micronesia.

Another library gets a facelift!

By *Amber Ham*

In December 2010, Mwoakilloa community with the assistance of Kate Fosdick, Peace Corps Volunteer, received a Direct Aid Program (DAP) Grant from the Australian Embassy to renovate the community library on the small atoll.

For the past several years, Peace Corps Volunteers serving on Mwoakilloa utilized the library as a classroom in addition to its primary function. However, over the past year and a half, since the arrival of Ms. Fosdick, the library has suffered considerable damage. Tropical humidity seeped into the library and accelerated the deterioration caused to the facility and its contents. Thus the provided funds will be used to purchase much-needed supplies of shelves, louvers, and paint. In addition, audio materials such as books-on-tape will be added to the library resources to enhance children's listening and thinking skills.

Repairs are scheduled to begin the third week of February. The planning committee includes Fosdick, Chairman; Romeo Joel, School Principal; Deedore Lebehn, PTA President; Landoe Edmond, Youth Group President; and Pedra Obed, Grant Treasurer. The Mwoakilloa Youth Group, consisting of young men and women ages 20-30, and the Mwoakilloa Elementary student body will provide all the necessary labor and assistance in executing the renovation.

The community-driven project is anticipated to stimulate local interest and investment in the library, thus creating a facility that will address the educational needs of Mwoakilloa as a long-term facility. Project leaders are also optimistic that in addition to serving as a service-learning lesson to its 8th graders, the project will also serve as a catalyst to the Pohnpei State Department of Education's enthusiasm for the welfare of libraries in Pohnpei and its outer islands.

The Mwoakilloa community expressed its appreciation to the Australian Embassy in making their project possible.

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Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on July 30, 2010 and December 6, 2010, public notice is hereby given that the parcel described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Lot No. 65189, land known as "Nemiror # 2", situated in Neauo Village, Weno Municipality, Chuuk State, with an approximate area of 2,500 square meters, as described in the Determination of Ownership issued on September 4, 1996 and registered as Document No. 4400 at the Office of the Registrar, Chuuk State Land Commission.

- There is no minimum bid amount for the parcel.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "March 17, 2011 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Ms Janet Sisam at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Weno, Chuuk on Thursday, March 17, 2011 between 2 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2011.

Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on September 6, 2010 and December 29, 2010, public notice is hereby given that the parcels described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 045-E-28, situated in Lohd-powe section, Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State, with an approximate area of 15,216 square meters, as described in the Certificate of Title issued on June 5, 2005 and registered as Document No. 20531 at the Office of the Registrar, Pohnpei Court of Land Tenure.

Parcel no. 068-D-16, situated in Mesihsou section, Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State, with an approximate area of 2,848 square meters, as described in the Certificate of Title issued on May 8, 1995 and registered as Document No. 14169 at the Office of the Registrar, Pohnpei Court of Land Tenure.

- There is no minimum bid amount for the parcels.
- Bids may be submitted for one or both of the parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "March 17, 2011 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Mr Ricky Jano at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on Thursday, March 17, 2011 between 2 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2011.

INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO ALL PARCELS

- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the bid.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount for each parcel.
- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the land, including all buildings, fixtures, equipment, and other improvements on the land, upon delivery of a cashier's check in the full amount of the bid payable to the "FSM Development Bank" no later than ten (10) days after notice is given. The winning bidder must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- If the winning bidder fails to remit payment within the required time, the award will be granted to the next highest bidder and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcel is offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to its condition whatsoever.
- Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Ricky Jano, Remedial Management Officer, email: rickyj@fsmdb.fm or Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-6533, website: www.fsmdb.fm

U.S. Ambassador participates in peace memorial ceremony, visits schools in Chuuk

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

From February 15 to 20, U.S. Ambassador Peter A. Prahara and his wife Amy Kit-Ling Choi Prahara visited Chuuk State. Their visit coincided with the 67th anniversary of Operation Hailstone and Peace Memorial Ceremony on February 18. Accompanying Ambassador Prahara was Rear Admiral Paul Bushong, the U.S. Defense Representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau. Also in attendance were Lieutenant Governor Johnson Elimo, Weno Deputy Mayor Pintas Kenneth, and World War II Veterans in Chuuk.

Although Operation Hailstone removed the Japanese military threat from Chuuk Lagoon, Ambassador Prahara explained that "[this ceremony] is not a commemoration of a great victory won by U.S. forces in the Pacific. It is, instead, a peace commemoration [meant to prompt us to] reflect on the war and its aftermath." With this reflection in mind, Ambassador Prahara noted that "coming out of the death and destruction of a terrible war was a commitment by the United States to help the people of Micronesia achieve a better life. In fulfillment of this commitment, the United States has been a development partner of the people of Micronesia – together, in partnership - for over 60 years – and still counting."

Following the remarks, Ambassador Prahara joined Chuuk State Lieutenant Governor Johnson Elimo and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer Takae Kasahara in placing memorial wreaths in Chuuk Lagoon.

On February 17, 1944 the U.S. Navy launched Operation Hailstone on Japanese forces harbored in Chuuk Lagoon. Over two days, 45 Japanese ships and over 270 aircraft were destroyed and thousands of Japanese servicemen died. Americans and Micronesians also died in the fighting.

In addition to Friday's memorial event, Ambassador Prahara met with education administrators and visited public and private schools and College of Micronesia-Chuuk Campus. On February 15 the Ambassador met with Chuuk State Director of Education Gardenia Aisek to discuss public school reform efforts. The following day Ambassador and Mrs. Prahara visited numerous public schools on islands in Chuuk Lagoon: Udot Elementary and Middle School, Fanapanges Elementary School, South Nomoneas Elementary School on Fefen, South Nomoneas High School on Tonoas, and Iras Elementary School on Weno.

On February 17, Ambassador and Mrs. Prahara participated in the Berea Christian School Field Day at Andersen Field in Weno. During his remarks, Ambassador Prahara asked the students to reflect on the crisis many of their grandparents faced during World War II. The Ambassador impressed upon the students the need for a good education now in order to be prepared for the challenges they will face in the future. Addressing the students, Ambassador Prahara asked them "to honor the memory of your grandparents by doing the very best you can to succeed in school so you can go on to become leaders of your families, leaders of your communities, and leaders of your country. Let me ask you to honor their memory by doing today what will make you successful tomorrow."

That afternoon, Ambassador and Mrs. Prahara also held a roundtable discussion with College of Micronesia-FSM Chuuk Campus Director Joakim "Jojo" Peter and COM-

FSM students to discuss education and economic reform in Chuuk State.

The following day, Ambassador and Mrs. Prahara continued their education outreach with a visit to Xavier High School faculty and students. After Ambassador Prahara encouraged students to "reach high and reach far" in their academic endeavors, he entertained questions ranging from the roles and responsibilities of an ambassador to how he met Mrs. Prahara.

To round out his five-day visit, Ambassador Prahara also toured the Chuuk State Hospital and met with the Chuuk State Division of Agriculture.



Ambassador and Mrs. Prahara congregate with students during the Berea School Field Day at Andersen Field on Weno, Chuuk February 17.

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Pohnpei Lions Club, "We Serve"

Lions Club of Pohnpei

On Tuesday, March 1, 2011, the Pohnpei Lions Club (PLC) presented to the Pohnpei State Hospital three infusion pumps at a small ceremony at Cliff Rainbow Hotel Restaurant. Present at the presentation were Pohnpei State Lt. Governor Churchill Edward and PLC member Director of Pohnpei State Health Department Dr. Elizabeth Keller, who were there to accept the donation from the Pohnpei Lions Club members on behalf of the Pohnpei State Government.

The infusion pump, a machine that infuses fluids, medication or nutrients into a patient's circulatory system, was identified as a need of the hospital and thus PLC members worked hard to fund raise and purchase the needed pump. Through the help of John Schroer of MAHI International, PLC was able to purchase three for the price of one. All three infusion pumps were donated to the Pohnpei State Hospital.



Front Row: Julia and Eden Skilling, Second Row: Rick Dereas, Penny Weilbacher, Lore Nena, Dr. Keller, Lt. Governor Edward, Ruthy Lebehn, Henry Tiongo

"We Serve" is the motto of the PLC and though the membership is small at only 16 members, the Lions have been roaring hard. Last year the Lions sponsored eyesight screenings in February at Kolonia Elementary school for young children and adults over 70 who were identified to need glasses. Free reading glasses were given to adults and young children who needed prescription. Last December, a Christmas drop-off was held at Temwen Elementary School where members of PLC donated needed school supplies to all the students.

This year, another eyesight screening is planned to be held in Kitti along with other small activities such as scholarships for elementary school graduates and others if requested by the community.

PLC members would like to thank all those who have contributed to the club's past and on-going projects including Do-It- Best Hardware, Dollar Up, Dr. Vita Skilling, House of Travel, Mr. Kasio Mida, Pacific Landscaping, Pohnpei Arts and Crafts, President Manny Mori, Ray and Dor's Enterprise, Senny's Enterprise, Scooby's, The Village Hotel, The Village Travel Agency, True Value, and VCS White Sand Construction Company.

The College of Micronesia-FSM Board of Regents will hold its meeting for the quarter in Yap from March 14 - 15, 2011. Board meetings are open to the general public. The following is the agenda for the meeting:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Call to order; opening prayer II. Reading of mission statement III. Roll call; IV. Declaration of Quorum V. Approval of minutes VI. December 8-9, 2010, regular meeting VII. Communications VIII. Regents' reports IX. President's report (summary of progress and concerns) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chuuk Campus 2. FSM FMI 3. Kosrae Campus 4. Pohnpei Campus 5. Yap Campus B. Instructional Affairs C. Student Services D. Cooperative Research and Extension (Land Grant) E. Administrative Services-Administrative Divisions F. Faculty/Staff Senate G. Student Body Association H. Accreditation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X. Old business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Responses to Chairman's letter B. Update on streamlining/conversion process XI. New business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction of required out-of-pocket contribution 2. Replacement of large value equity manager 3. Board budget shortfall B. Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revisions to Section VI Employment Contract policy C. Miscellaneous - Energy management policy XII. Executive Session - Evaluation of President XIII. Next meeting XIV. Adjournment |
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FSM endorses State and National Action Plans to revitalize its economy

FSM Information Services

February 18, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei - On February 11, the FSM National Economic Symposium (NES) proposed four key resolutions, via the endorsement of the following: State and National Action Plans, a National Long Term Fiscal and Economic Framework, the Reform of the FSM Tax Code, and the Amendment of State Infrastructure Prioritization Lists.

The State and National Action Plans each cover five distinct development areas: trade and industry, infrastructure; business, regulatory and logistics; transportation; and human resource and development. Each State Action Plan has been taken back to its respective State for further specification and finalization. All plans will be used to guide budgetary planning processes for FY2012.

In conjunction with these plans, the National Long Term Fiscal and Economic Framework (LTFF) specifically addresses the fiscal challenges raised by the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) at a meeting held in Hawaii, in September 2010.

JEMCO saw unsustainable growth trends in health and education expenditures, as well as in government wage bills; with, amongst other things, limited progress on broad-based tax reforms and limited increases in other revenue categories.

The LTFF Report recommends cost constraining measures, including the reduction of personnel, travel, consumable and other costs, as well as revenue reform measures, and as such will be submitted as a response to the JEMCO requirements.

The NES endorsed the passage of the Tax Reform Legislation currently before National Congress and State Legislatures. The major reform components of the legislation include: the establishment of a Unified Revenue Authority to replace the existing state and national tax offices, the replacement of the gross revenue tax with a net profit tax, and the replacement of the states sales tax with a value added tax.

The fourth and final resolution spotlighted that currently the US Office of Insular Affairs is largely limiting infrastructure funding to primary and secondary education capital projects and projects that directly affect health and safety, including water and wastewater projects, solid waste disposal projects, and health care facilities.

While the NES participants advised that they strongly supported strengthening infrastructure in the above-referenced areas, they also affirmed that broadening the scope of infrastructure projects to include the development of the private sector; the upgrading of the energy, transportation and communication sectors; and the emergency infrastructure needs, would certainly assist in revitalizing the FSM economy.

All resolutions have been executed by President Mori, Governor Simina of Chuuk State, Lieutenant Governor Sigrah of Kosrae State, and Governor Anefal of Yap State. Final execution by Governor Ehsa of Pohnpei State is pending.

Letters to the editor

Arguments FOR dual citizenship

In the prior Kaselehlie Press my esteemed colleague and Regent Professor at the College of Micronesia-FSM noted his opposition to deletion of section 3 of article III of the FSM Constitution which forbids FSM citizens from becoming citizens of another country.

My children are dual citizens, born here on Pohnpei. Their mother is an FSM citizen, their father is a citizen of the United States. My children are dual citizens and were so at birth. They did not become citizens of another country, they were born citizens of two countries. Under current FSM law, they must renounce one of their citizenships at the age of 18.

Contrary to the example cited by my colleague in the prior newspaper, my children have not taken and need not take any oath to either nation. They were dual citizens at birth, no oath required. Their existence does not violate any pillar of sovereignty, nor for that matter does the existence of other dual nationals impinge on sovereignty.

In being forced to renounce one or the other citizenship, dual citizen children are being asked to symbolically reject one of the parents, to deny one of their heritages, one of their cultures. They are forced to choose between their mother and their father. In a nation that rightly prides itself on family unity, forcing this choice is, as my students might phrase it, "against the culture."

Please support the constitutional change to permit dual citizenship.

Dana Lee Ling

A lawyer's point of view on Dual Citizenship

Regarding the upcoming vote on the dual citizenship issue, and the discussions thereto, I want to add the following commentary:

As long as FSM law contains no provision penalizing or removing citizenship from a citizen who takes an oath of allegiance to a foreign nation for the purpose of serving in the military, then there is no penalty here in the FSM for taking such an oath, nor is there a loss of citizenship from that act of taking the oath. In other words, to say it more generally, FSM citizenship is a matter of FSM law, and FSM law tells us how we obtain or lose that citizenship.

What is more urgent about the dual citizenship issue is the fact that every year, so many dual FSM citizens lose the right to inherit land in the FSM when they turn 21 years of age. Before they are 21, they may inherit (i.e. obtain title to) land in the FSM, but on their 21st birthday, they lose that right according to the FSM constitution. It seems especially unfair that most of them have no idea that it has happened to them.

Mary Berman, Esq.

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Letter to the editor

Education reform in the FSM

In 2004 I became Principal of Kosrae High School. I had one goal: to make KHS the best High School public or private in the country. In 2007 I became State Director of Education and expanded our reforms to the whole state. Thanks to the hard work of many, many people, Kosrae has seen quite a bit of improvement in our Educational system. Here were the two main rules we had in Kosrae:

1. If it doesn't work, STOP doing it. Often, when I asked teachers and principals why they were doing something a certain way their response would be "we have always done it this way". For example: our best students were being forced to take vocational classes when what they needed was more English and Math before going to college, while those students who had no interest in college were being required to take Algebra II and Chemistry. Students were bored, frustrated and unhappy and from that we decided to start our multi track system which allowed a certain freedom in curriculum for different students.
2. Feel free to try ANYTHING new. If the system is broken, be creative. A new idea can't make things any worse than they already are and might instead bring about improvement. In Kosrae the month of December is filled nightly with practice for Christmas marching. This often led to both teachers and students at the High School sleeping through class the next day. We decided to extend Christmas break from the first week of December for almost a whole month. This meant our first "semester" was a week or two shorter than our second "semester". But this experiment addressed the issue that while students were having "contact hours" no real learning was taking place. Now December is a month set aside for local customs and celebrations without detracting from school.

From these two simple rules we were able to implement a number of reforms which benefited the students of Kosrae. Here is what we learned:

1. **TEACHING IS THE KEY!** Education is easy - it's teaching that is hard. For too long the myth has persisted that anyone can be a teacher. Too often I have heard people say "it is better to have a bad teacher in the classroom than no teacher at all". This is just plain not true! Until the FSM recognizes that teaching is a difficult job that requires a high level of training and **INCREASED PAY** for qualified teachers, all attempts at reform will fail. For too long the states of Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap have underpaid their teachers. The few young people who do return to the FSM with college degrees are being asked to teach at salary levels of below \$5,000 a year. Feeling disgusted, they immediately start searching for other work, or join the military or leave the country. I congratulate Secretary Shoniber for enforcing Teacher Certification Requirements. Island leaders need to stop searching for

excuses to ignore this rule. No one would want to fly on a plane with an unqualified pilot, or have surgery from an unqualified doctor. It's time we stop penalizing our children with unqualified teachers. For those teachers who meet or complete certification requirements a pay raise should be awarded. The simple fact is this: fill our classrooms with devoted, qualified and happy teachers and our Education Departments will not need to spend so much money on other programs.

2. Communities should run schools, not Central Offices. Our Central Offices of Education are overstaffed and overpaid. Specialists, nutritionists, chiefs, assistants etc, all of whom are being paid much more than teachers, spend their days in air conditioned offices far away from the classrooms where the real work of education is being done. Local communities should run the schools. They should be in charge of yearly schedules; they should have input to budgeting, hiring and disciplining of teachers and they should be writing yearly improvement plans. Too often Central Offices control every aspect of budgeting, school scheduling and the placement of newly hired teachers. These are all decisions in which the community should be allowed to play a role. An active community presence is key to improving schools.
3. Failing Schools must be addressed- The College of Micronesia Entrance Test (COMET) has had to come up with a 4th category for student scoring. Students who fall into this 4th category, have scored so low on the test, that they are denied admission into any COM program, including State Remedial, Vocational or Certificate Programs. In 2010 there were 3 schools that had over 85% of their 12th graders fall into this 4th category. Two of those schools had over 95% fall into the 4th category. That means that 95% of the students in those 2 schools had completed 12 years of school yet were unable to perform at a 5th grade level in Language or Math. Schools that are failing this badly need to be put on an immediate 1 year probation. Failure to dramatically improve performance should result in closing the school. I have learned that whenever I use the phrase "close a school" people get upset. The fact is when 95% of 12th graders can't do 5th grade level work this is NOT a school just as a hospital that has 95% of its patients die isn't a hospital. Close these schools down until the local communities are willing to enforce daily attendance of teachers, and require that real education is taking place.
4. Set up a Multi-Track Education System- Too often we require all students to take the same things regardless of their future interests or academic abilities. I recommend each state establish a 4 track system:

- 1). College Prep Track- This track is to prepare a graduating 12th grader for freshman level College classes. This track should emphasize Lan-

guage, Math, and Science. Seniors ought to be able to pass classes in Public Speaking, Advanced Mathematics (Algebra II, Calculus), and Advanced Science (Physics). They should be trained to be fluent in a second language and be able to break away from the "shyness" that affects many of our young people when they leave the island.

- 2). Vocational Track- These students, by 11th and 12th grade, should only be spending 2 classes a day at school for Language and Math. The rest of the day they should be job shadowing, apprenticing or studying their chosen vocational field. "School" does not need to take place in a classroom. Students wanting to study nursing should spend half the day at the State Hospital observing and learning. Students wanting to fix cars should spend half the day at various car repair places learning by doing. The Military Build Up in Guam will require almost 40,000 workers in all areas. There are a number of good training opportunities through the Center for Micronesian Empowerment, Guam Trades Academy and Guam Community College that can help build a large local work force.

- 3). Military Prep Track- More and more of our young people are entering the military. The military requires a High School diploma has a recruitment test. The MP track could reach out to High School drop-outs and be a two year program emphasizing physical fitness, basic math and English and ASVAB practice sessions. The ASVAB test is a test administered by recruiters. Upon completing this two year course the students could receive a High School diploma.

- 4). Life Skills Track- There may be a number of young people, especially on the far outer islands who have no interest in leaving their home for college or military. They should still take a 1-2 year program after 8th grade that teaches basic business skills, first aid, and family living skills.

These 4 learning tracks will prepare all of our young people for a productive and safe future whether they stay in the FSM or pursue their dreams elsewhere.

I would like to finish with one thing. The young people of the FSM are among the smartest in the world. Many of them speak 3 languages. They are creative, polite and eager to learn. Like young people anywhere though they need to be pushed. Schools like Xavier and Calvary Christian are successful simply because they believe their students can do anything. There is no reason that in the FSM our students can't finish High School fluent, not only in English, but also in the 3 other main languages of the FSM. Wouldn't it be nice in the future if these

young people could meet, everyone speaking their own language knowing that they are understood by everyone else?

I always hear people say "our young people are our greatest resource". Then let's stop talking about reform in education and start carrying it out. Parents get as involved with your children as you are with your church, community group or extended family. Leaders, make sure our teachers are both qualified and paid well. If we are depending on our young people to lead us into a better future then let's prepare them for that future.

Paul Hadik

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K Press Perspective

A long way to go and a short time to get there—FSM Economic Development

Economically speaking something has to be done and done quickly in the Federated States of Micronesia if this nation is to survive as a united whole. As things currently stand, the FSM is faced with packing into just over a dozen years work on many levels that probably should have been done by now over the last two dozen years.

Since 1986 the FSM has received payments from the United States of America related to the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and the FSM. U.S. payments related to the Compact are designed to benefit the FSM though the end of fiscal year 2023, one dozen and just a smidge less than seven months from now.

As I see it, it just flat doesn't matter whether the U.S. payments are rental payments that provide the U.S. with strategic deniability in the Asia Pacific region or whether those payments are just charitable donations with teeth newly installed in 2004.

The United States government, whose millions of citizens have suffered foreclosures on their homes, higher rates of unemployment than they have experienced in decades, and a government that many of those citizens are sure is spending them into oblivion has definitively said that there will be no "Compact III." And that, my friends; my brothers and sisters, is that.

Even the term "Compact III" is a misnomer because there was never a "Compact II." The Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the US is a treaty that was signed between the two countries in 1986 and was amended in 2004. The treaty which continues in perpetuity even after payments stop in 2023 was amended in 2004 to allow for further U.S. payments to the FSM that will continue on a declining scale until the end of the 2023 fiscal year which ends on September 30th of that year.

Many other countries, knowing that foreign investors are not beating down their doors to establish businesses in their countries, are spending money like mad to pursue foreign investors. Other than in lip service, the FSM, on the other hand seems to be closed to the idea of foreign investment.

This nation is spending next to no money at all even on the noble venture of attracting tourists to these beautiful islands much less on attracting potential foreign investors. Pohnpei's Legislature is in its fourth year of trying to revise its foreign investment policies after the restrictive foreign investment bill of 2006 was passed. The 2006 bill actually cost the State money that could have been used to fund Pohnpei tourism development activities.

Did you know that the entire budget for tourism development at the National Government is \$150,000 including the salary of the one person running that program? \$150,000, really?! Please say it isn't so!

Meanwhile the Guam Visitors Bureau sends a weekly stream of emails to the Kaselehlie Press talking about tourism development activities in which they have participated in China, Japan, and the Philippines among others and that have netted them numerous tourists from every country in which they have promoted the island as a tourist destination. They present statistics on just exactly how many tourists those efforts have actually brought to their island. I mean, they actually know how many.

Meanwhile "we" talk about how difficult it is for a tourist to travel to the FSM because of flights that require tourists to pass through a U.S. airport where they must meet US Immigration requirements before they can even get here. Guam doesn't seem to be having those problems and Guam is one of the places a potential tourist must currently fly before they get to the FSM.

I certainly don't think that tourism development is the be all and end all of economic development in the FSM. I don't believe that like Kevin Costner's Field of Dreams, "if we build it they will come."

Pohnpei's extended runway which helped to create a nice little short term spike in the FSM's economy particularly in the construction sector will be nice when it is completed. More than anything that extension will really just make it safer for the planes that already fly into Pohnpei and passengers won't have to have their noses smashed into the seat back of the passenger in front of them as the plane comes to a screeching halt.

It will be a nice added bonus if it also brings in some tourists but consider the case of the Phoenix Dive operation in Pohnpei and in Kosrae. That company booked tours through agents based right in Japan where Japanese tourists could pay all of their expenses right up front. But Japanese tourists stopped booking dive packages and Phoenix has gone the way of the dodo. Perhaps like its mythological namesake Phoenix will one day rise up from its own ashes but I'm don't see that happening any time soon. I don't think that tourists who currently aren't booking flights to Pohnpei will hear about the opening of the runway extension and think to themselves, "Okay, that's what I was waiting for!" They're not coming because they want the most bang for the few bucks they still have and they aren't finding it here.

While there certainly could be more done to develop tourism as an FSM industry, tourism will not be the stand alone economic savior of the FSM.

But it is clear that some changes need to be made. Someone said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. The status quo just won't work. It hasn't worked since 1986 and it's not going to work between now and 2023.

Someone else said that necessity is the mother of invention. Yet another said that desperate times call for desperate measures. If those desperate measures include listening to sources outside the FSM for even small nuggets of truth that may apply here instead of immediately assuming that those outside sources have got it all wrong and that they just want to impinge on the sovereignty of the FSM so much the better.

For instance, we all know that whenever organizations like the Asian Development Bank or the World Bank conduct economic studies of the FSM some of what they say and recommend just won't work within the FSM's unique structure. Some of their analyses and recommendations look a lot like they didn't take FSM's unique circumstances into account at all. And yes, I know full well that most of those analyses and recommendations are viewed with significant skepticism by FSM citizens.

But what if the World Bank ranks the FSM at 141 out of 183 countries in terms of the ease of doing business as it just did do? What if that ranking shows that Kuwait was ranked at 74 in the world, and Tonga was at 70, and Pakistan was at 88 and every other Pacific nation was ranked higher than the FSM? What if the lowest ranking Pacific Island nation besides the FSM appeared 21 places higher on the list? What if that report said that in about 85% of the 174 economies ranked in the last five years, doing business is now easier for local firms and that the FSM is not one of those countries? What if that report showed that the FSM slipped in the 2010 report from 125 to 127 and then down to 141 in the 2011 report not because it became more difficult to do business here but because nothing changed at all; no reforms were made while other countries were making reforms that made it easier to do business? If a World Bank report said all of those things and more; and it did, shouldn't people in the FSM be saying to themselves, "Holy Toledo, brother! We'd better roll up our sleeves and start digging ourselves out," instead of, "It's a faulty report."

Of course it is! All reports are faulty but most reports have at least some nugget of truth to them.

But wait, there's more. What if a Heritage Foundation report came out that ranked those same countries in terms of Economic Freedom measuring things like business, trade, and fiscal freedom, government spending, monetary, investment, and financial freedom, property rights, freedom from corruption and labor freedom? What if the report rates the economic freedom of countries with scores of 80-100 defined as free, 70-79.9 as mostly free, 60-69.9 as moderately free, 50-59.9 as mostly unfree, and 0-49.9 as repressed. What if the FSM was rated at 50.3 with a ranking of 145 out of 179 countries, just behind Ethiopia? What if Egypt, whose citizens just went on the rampage in protest against their government, was 96 on that list? Would you say, "Okay, that report is completely screwed up," or would you say, "Okay, it's going to be tough but we can do this thing. The FSM is just too important to give up on?"

I know that it is delicate for me, a citizen of the United States to quote the words of the U.S. Ambassador to participants in the recently concluded National Economic Symposium

in Chuuk but, like the World Bank and the Heritage Foundation report he has some good points even if he is not from the FSM. "Rather than quibble with the methodology and the persistently low rankings of the FSM—which sadly is perfectly consistent with the below 'dismal' economic performance results of the recent period—why not use the methodology to provide a scorecard and an action plan upon which to base reforms for positive change?"

Ambassador Prahar then went on to address six areas where reforms are possible in the FSM: tax reform, land registration and titling reform, operation of public utilities on a commercially sustainable basis, maintenance of public infrastructure, liberalization and harmonization of foreign investment regulations coupled with and active search for legitimate investors, and improvement in education to develop a skilled workforce in and for the FSM.

Ambassador Prahar described those issues of reform as issues subject to human choice and as far as that goes I believe he is completely correct. The people of the FSM have a right to choose and an obligation to choose amongst the many choices it must make which are the right choices for the people of the FSM to choose.

In all of the choosing and deciding don't forget that there are nations and people outside of the FSM who care about you and are rooting for you.

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

FSM-Nebraska Poison Center Change of Telephone Number

Effective immediately,
the new number to
reach the Nebraska
Regional Poison Center
is:

**288, then wait
for operator,
then 888-222-4516**

The Nebraska Poison Center, which provides poison control advice to anyone in FSM on a toll-free basis, has changed its number. Fortunately everyone in the FSM will still have toll-free access to their poison center for advice on suspected poisonings, including food poisons as well as for advice when accidents with medicines occur.

Educational brochures and telephone number stickers/magnets with the new poison center number are currently being printed and will be distributed soon.

Please let the Hospital and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, at the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs know if you have any questions or require assistance with the telephone number transition by calling 320 8300.

FSM endorses State and National Action Plans to revitalize its economy

FSM Information Services

February 18, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei - On February 11, the FSM National Economic Symposium (NES) proposed four key resolutions, via the endorsement of the following: State and National Action Plans, a National Long Term Fiscal and Economic Framework, the Reform of the FSM Tax Code, and the Amendment of State Infrastructure Prioritization Lists.

The State and National Action Plans each cover five distinct development areas: trade and industry, infrastructure; business, regulatory and logistics; transportation; and human resource and development. Each State Action Plan has been taken back to its respective State for further specification and finalization. All plans will be used to guide budgetary planning processes for FY2012.

In conjunction with these plans, the National Long Term Fiscal and Economic Framework (LTFE) specifically addresses the fiscal challenges raised by the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) at a meeting held in Hawaii, in September 2010.

JEMCO saw unsustainable growth trends in health and education expenditures, as well as in government wage bills; with, amongst other things, limited progress on broad-based tax reforms and limited increases in other revenue categories.

The LTFE Report recommends cost constraining measures, including the reduction of personnel, travel, consumable and other costs, as well as revenue reform measures, and as such will be submitted as a response to the JEMCO requirements.

The NES endorsed the passage of the Tax Reform Legislation currently before National Congress and State Legislatures. The major reform components of the legislation include: the establishment of a Unified Revenue Authority to replace the existing state and national tax offices, the replacement of the gross revenue tax with a net profit tax, and the replacement of the states sales tax with a value added tax.

FSM adopts comprehensive trade policy

FSM Information Services

February 21, 2011

The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Tuiloma Neroni Slade has congratulated the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) for adopting a ground-breaking National Comprehensive Trade Policy.

"This is a major policy undertaking by the people and Government of the FSM and I want to recognize their commitment because it is an area that the Secretariat has been assisting the fourteen Forum Island Countries on and to have the FSM adopt their own Comprehensive Trade Policy marks a new chapter in this effort which we hope will encourage other countries to work earnestly toward completing their own National Comprehensive Trade Policies," says Mr Slade.

He added that beyond this, the FSM can now look forward to benefitting from opportunities presented by clearer and predictable Government actions on trade-related activities.

"The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has placed a priority on strengthening economic development through trade and the adoption of this new comprehensive national trade policy paves the way for fulfillment of this aspiration," said Mr Slade

The comprehensive trade policy, described by the Government of FSM as a 'historic achievement,' was developed with the assis-

tance of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat through the Commonwealth Secretariat's Hub and Spokes Project.

"Trade policy has the potential to transform lives by supporting increased private sector activity, encouraging trade and investment, and ultimately creating jobs and livelihoods for communities in Pacific island countries," said Mr Slade.

The trade policy was formulated through the National Trade Facilitation Committee, which is comprised of representatives of the national government, the Four States, the private sector and non-state actors. The Committee was chaired by the FSM Vice President, the Honorable Alik Alik.

Mr Slade added: "The Secretariat is pleased to note that the trade policy contains an implementation matrix, which identifies the technical and financial assistance required to help FSM to address its trade and development needs and priorities."

He further added that where necessary this will be supported by Forum initiatives to help countries identify and secure Aid for Trade and promote aid effectiveness.

The Forum Secretariat Secretary General also acknowledged the assistance that has been provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat (through the Hub and Spokes Project), on trade policy formulation and capacity building for Forum Island Countries and looks forward to continue working with partners to provide similar assistance to other countries.

The fourth and final resolution spotlighted that currently the US Office of Insular Affairs is largely limiting infrastructure funding to primary and secondary education capital projects and projects that directly affect health and safety, including water and wastewater projects, solid waste disposal projects, and health care facilities.

While the NES participants advised that they strongly supported strengthening infrastructure in the above-referenced areas, they also affirmed that broadening the scope of infrastructure projects to include the development of the private sector; the upgrading of the energy, transportation and communication sectors; and the emergency infrastructure needs, would certainly assist in revitalizing the FSM economy.

All resolutions have been executed by President Mori, Governor Simina of Chuuk State, Lieutenant Governor Sigrah of Kosrae State, and Governor Anefal of Yap State. Final execution by Governor Ehsa of Pohnpei State is pending.

Secretary Robert meets with Commander for US Pacific Fleet

FSM Information Services

February 24, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei -

Yesterday, Secretary Lorin Robert, Department of Foreign Affairs, with Cabinet members, Secretary Francis Itimai, Secretary Maketo Robert, Deputy Secretary Jane Chigiyal, Chief of Staff Kasio Mida, and representatives of other

government departments and offices, met with Admiral Patrick Walsh, Commander for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Admiral Walsh was himself accompanied by his staff and by Ambassador Peter Prahar of the U.S. Embassy in FSM, Deputy Chief of Mission Lori Dando, and Lynn Pangelinan, Political and Military Affairs Assistant. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the FSM Government representatives to meet with the leadership of the upcoming Pacific Partnership 2011.

Secretary Robert warmly thanked Admiral Walsh for his visit to Pohnpei. "In our view, our relationship with the U.S. is strong," said Robert, "and we take great pride in it." He took the opportunity to emphasize that many FSM citizens serve in the U.S. military, and stated that the FSM also hopes to contribute to the Guam Military Build-Up by taking advantage of the economic opportunities resulting from it.

In connection with the Pacific Partnership project, Secretary Robert recalled fondly

Photo provided by the Embassy of the United States of America



Secretary Robert greets Admiral Walsh at the FSM National Capital in Palikir, Pohnpei February 23.

that when the USNS Mercy came to Chuuk for the 2008 Pacific Partnership, the residents were very impressed as it was likely one of the biggest ships to have ever anchored in Chuuk lagoon.

"We did have a terrific visit in Chuuk," confirmed Commander Walsh. He stated the Pacific Partnership is "an extraordinary mission [...] which brings another dimension to the role the navy can play."

"We also recognize the role that your sons and daughters play in our forces," he stressed, "it is a unique and extremely important role, as we do not have enough recruits on the mainland."

Pacific Partnership 2011 is the name given for the U.S. mission arriving onboard the USS Cleveland to the FSM, from July 2-15, to provide assistance for humanitarian and civil action projects. The mission team is comprised of members of the U.S. Navy; volunteers from World Vets and from other NGOs.

Where's the Puzzles page?

We apologize to fans of the puzzles page. Sometimes we receive more "news" items than we have space to publish and sacrifices have to be made. The editor pulled two of his own news articles from this issue for later publication because of the lack of room. Tell us whether or not you think pulling the puzzles page is a mistake. We'd like to hear from you at our email address: kpress@mail.fm or by phone at 320-6547.

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 phone to: (691) 320-6547
 Pohnpei, FM 96941 email to: FSMKpress@yahoo.com

- 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 Kia's 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

Pacific voters not tuned in to nation's interest

Aussie academic say self interest hampers progress



Radio New Zealand

February 17, 2011

WELLINGTON, New Zealand - A speaker at the Resilience in the Pacific conference in Wellington says Pacific voters have to learn the difference between self-interest and electing the best leaders of their country.

Professor Graham Hassall from Victoria University's School of Government in Melbourne, Australia

He says that the traditional system prevalent in the Pacific of voting only for people in one's family or community is not based on leadership of their electorate or country.

Professor Hassall says it is one of the factors hampering the sustainability of democratic systems in the Pacific.

"If this system of favoring one's relative had been so effective then we might have seen more change at the local level across the Pacific but it hasn't occurred. So it might be time to look at a system in which you may vote for somebody who is not your personal kin, hasn't given you a gift or promised you anything, then we can see if that's a more effective way of getting services delivered to people."

Astronomical Tide Prediction March 7, 2011 - March 20, 2011

	Pohnpei				Chuuk			
Monday	03/07		03/14		03/07		03/14	
	04:23AM	3.8	10:59AM	3.1	03:16AM	1.6	11:06AM	1.6
	10:24AM	0.8	07:36PM	1.5	09:19AM	0.3	08:26PM	-0.1
	04:23PM	3.8			03:14PM	1.6		
Tuesday	10:31PM	0.6			09:15PM	0.2		
	03/08		03/15		03/08		03/15	
	04:45AM	3.9	01:49AM	2.2	03:32AM	1.7	12:12PM	1.8
	10:50AM	0.9	05:31AM	2.0	09:46AM	0.4	08:23PM	-0.1
Wednesday	04:43PM	3.5	12:34PM	3.5	03:26PM	1.4		
	10:48PM	0.7	07:47PM	1.1	09:20PM	0.2		
	03/09		03/16		03/09		03/16	
	05:08AM	3.8	01:47AM	2.6	03:50AM	1.8	12:52PM	2.0
Thursday	11:17AM	1.1	06:54AM	1.6	10:15AM	0.5	08:29PM	-0.1
	05:02PM	3.2	01:23PM	3.9	03:31PM	1.2		
	11:04PM	0.8	08:09PM	0.8	09:24PM	0.1		
	03/10		03/17		03/10		03/17	
Friday	05:33AM	3.7	02:08AM	3.1	04:12AM	1.8	02:48AM	1.0
	11:48AM	1.3	07:42AM	1.2	10:46AM	0.6	06:42AM	0.8
	05:21PM	2.9	02:03PM	4.2	03:23PM	1.0	01:27PM	2.1
	11:20PM	1.0	08:34PM	0.6	09:25PM	0.1	08:38PM	0.0
Saturday	03/11		03/18		03/11		03/18	
	06:03AM	3.6	02:34AM	3.5	04:37AM	1.8	02:36AM	1.2
	12:26PM	1.6	08:23AM	0.8	11:26AM	0.8	07:30AM	0.5
	05:37PM	2.6	02:40PM	4.4	02:41PM	0.9	02:00PM	2.0
Sunday	11:36PM	1.2	09:00PM	0.5	09:21PM	0.1	08:47PM	0.1
	03/12		03/19		03/12		03/19	
	06:42AM	3.4	03:02AM	3.9	05:07AM	1.7	02:42AM	1.5
	01:31PM	1.9	09:02AM	0.5	09:06PM	0.0	08:13AM	0.4
Sunday	05:42PM	2.2	03:15PM	4.4			02:31PM	1.9
	11:45PM	1.4	09:27PM	0.4			08:54PM	0.2
	03/13		03/20		03/13		03/20	
	07:53AM	3.1	03:32AM	4.2	05:49AM	1.6	02:56AM	1.7
Sunday	10:21PM	1.7	09:39AM	0.4	08:43PM	0.0	08:55AM	0.3
			03:48PM	4.3			02:57PM	1.6
			09:54PM	0.5			08:57PM	0.3

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COM-FSM Ethnobotany Class Learns about the "CHEEF" Benefits of Local Foods

By Dana Lee Ling

On February 22, 2011, the College of Micronesia-FSM SC/SS 115 Ethnobotany class visited the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP). IFCP Local Food Educator Emihner Johnson gave a presentation on the need to Go Local and the "CHEEF" benefits of going local!

In a nation that is number two globally for obesity and a state where the diabetes rate among adults is 32%, Ms. Johnson led the students through the "CHEEFbenefits" framework. The letters of "CHEEF" refer to Culture, Health, Environment, Economics and Food security and safety.

Ms. Johnson noted the need to support local Culture through the growing of traditionally valued crops. She noted the Health benefits of local foods, especially the high beta-carotene content of particular varieties of local bananas, taro, and pandanus.

Local foods have a lower Environmental impact than foreign foods. The environmental impact of foreign foods that is seen here on Pohnpei includes that of the improper disposal of packaging. Yet that is only the tip of an invisible ice berg. Foreign foods are typically energy intensive in their production, and mass production techniques often degrade the environment. The destruction of vast swaths of tropical rain forest for the production of palm oil is but one example of the environmental impacts of foreign foods that are not directly observed by the consumer. Done correctly, using traditional agro-forestry techniques, local foods can be grown in harmony with the environment of these islands.

Ms. Johnson noted the Economic benefit of local plants. Local plants can provide food

and save people from having to buy foods and can provide income to local farmers. Foreign foods are simply the export of money directly off island. There is no economic multiplier for money spent on foreign food. For local food, that is money kept on island and in circulation.

Food security and safety is the F in "CHEEF". Food prices are up by 28% with cereals up 44%, there is an emerging food crisis. Local food is food security, foreign food is food insecurity.

Local foods are not processed foods that are often loaded with salt, monosodium glutamate, sugars, artificial coloring, and preservatives. Processed foods also have been refined so that they are often low in fiber, vitamins and minerals. Local foods have been safely eaten for over 2000 years, the same cannot be said for highly processed snack foods. Mr. Lee Ling pointed out "the ants that live in my car will eat anything... but some highly processed potato chips were scattered in the back seat. Even after a week there, no ant would come near the chips. Clearly they are not a food product."

After the presentation the class toured the collection of bananas and soft taro plants. The Island Food Community of Pohnpei has developed into a valuable living herbarium and a center for display of different varieties. The class owes a debt of gratitude to the Island Food Community and to Ms. Johnson for the presentation, tour, and, more importantly, the work being done to improve the health of all served by the IFC. Kalahngan!

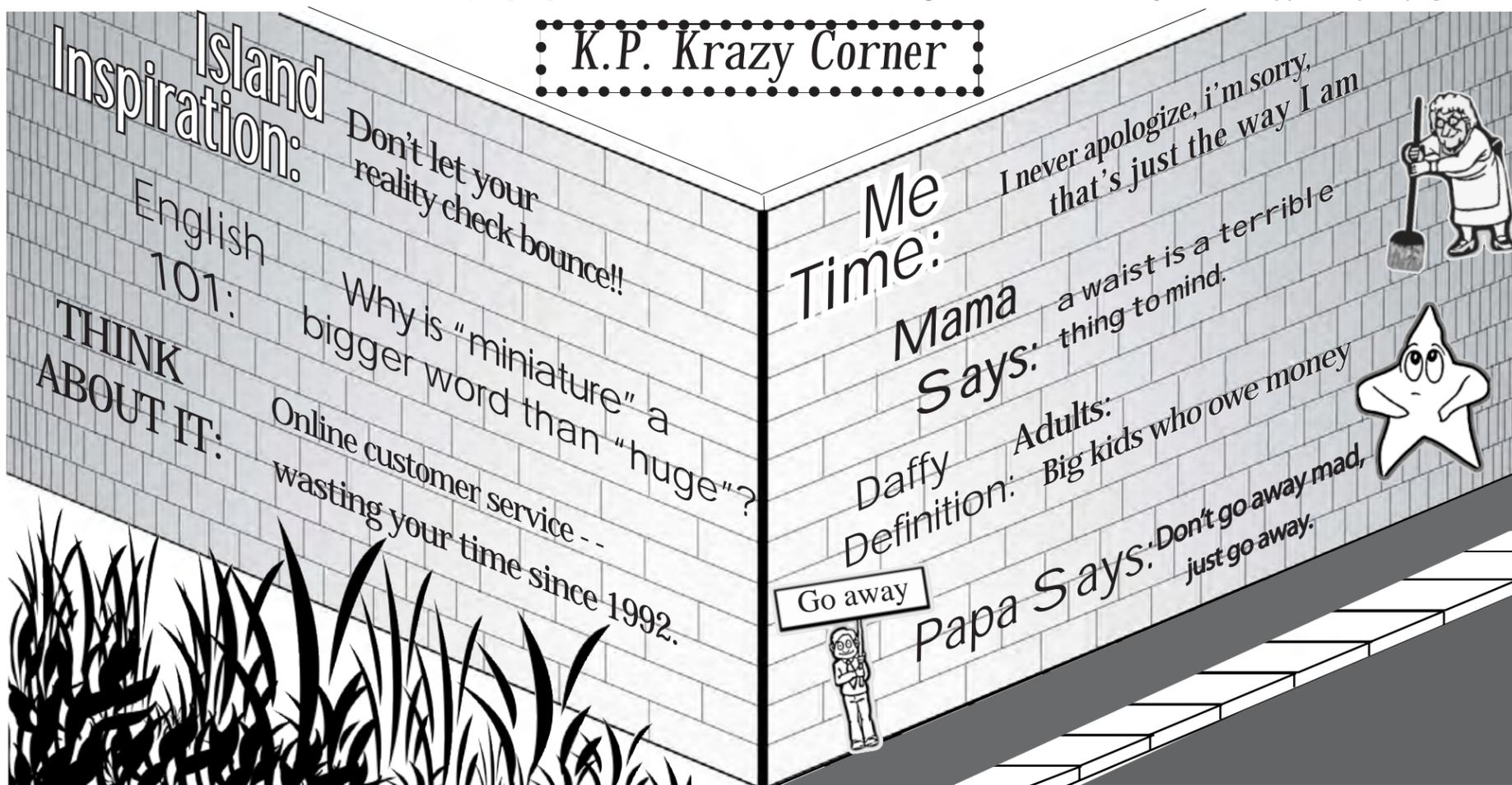
See also Mr. Lee Ling's colorful blog with photographs and IFCP posters at: <http://danaleeing.blogspot.com/2011/02/island-food-community-of-pohnpei-visit.html>



Quiz Answers to What You Know about Pohnpei Local Foods and Nutrition

1. What is the State Banana of Pohnpei? KARAT
2. What Pohnpei banana has the most beta-carotene? UTIN IAP
3. What color indicates that the flesh of a banana or other food is rich in beta-carotene and other carotenoids? YELLOW OR ORANGE
4. Which Pohnpei banana has more beta-carotene, Mangat or UtinMenihle? MANGAT
5. Name five diseases or disorders against which beta-carotene and other carotenoids protect you. (see our IFCP posters for the answer). VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY DISORDERS, ANEMIA (WEAK BLOOD), CANCER, DIABETES, HEART DISEASE.
6. Eating Karat banana causes the urine to be yellow. What is the vitamin in Karat that causes this? RIBOFLAVIN.
7. What mineral is important for our blood and carries oxygen around the body, giving us energy and strength? IRON.
8. How much beta-carotene does rice contain? NONE.
9. What are two main causes of the diabetes that is so common now in Pohnpei and other parts of Micronesia? LACK OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND POOR DIET
10. What is the name of the banana variety for which a photo of the ripe bunch is presented here in this article? UTIN IAP

Note: We had no quiz submissions, but we hope that some of you had fun trying!



Pohnpei Fishing Club started 2011 season successfully and safely

By Scott Campbell

Sunday the 23rd of January saw the Pohnpei Fishing Club have its Annual General Meeting. It was reasonably attended with many members signing up for another year of fishing and friendship within the club. 2010 was a good year for the fishing club with the 2010 board doing a great job of keeping the tournaments running and improving the safety aspects of the club.

As is always done the awards for the 2010 season were presented at the AGM with the following results.

Walden Weilbacher	Angler of the year	413.5 pounds
Mary Tretnoff	Lady Angler	229 pounds
Damian Lohn	Junior angler	13.5 barracuda
Boat Alex Tretnoff	Boat weight	733 pounds

On conclusion of the annual awards the fishing club called for nominations for 2011 board members. There were four positions available and eight people were nominated. It was great to see that it was a relatively close contest proving that the fishing club is a pretty close knit organization. After the voting was tallied the results saw Stephen Finnen and Kumer Panuelo be re-elected to the board and also saw Konrad Englberger and Scott Campbell join the board.

The new board met later in the week and elected officials for the 2011 season.

1. Konrad Englberger-President
2. Scott Campbell-Vice President
3. Stephen Finnen-Secretary
4. Aminis David, Jr.-Treasurer
5. Willy Hawley-Member
6. Kumer Panuelo-Member
7. Paul Thomas-Member

As always the Pohnpei Fishing Club could not survive without the generous support of our tournament sponsors. The club is more than happy to bring new sponsors onboard whether it be for an individual tournament or for partial tournament sponsorship. When Glenn Hurry from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Tuna Commission) was approached about sponsoring a tournament he immediately responded positively. In very little time Glenn confirmed sponsorship of the first tournament of 2010 and a very generous prize pool of \$1500.

February 19 saw the Tuna Commission Tournament be run on a very rainy day in Pohnpei. The weather saw the newly elected board have to earn their positions immediately when they decided to delay the start of the tournament by one hour. 'Safety First' being the priority. After the sun was a little higher in the sky the board had a short meeting and made the decision to allow the tournament to proceed advising all contestants to be extremely vigilant in the adverse weather conditions. As it turned out there was very little wind and even though the swell was seven to eight foot it was glass-like conditions at certain stages during the day. The major factor was the relentless rain, which made most anglers cold from being wet all day. In the end sixteen boats entered the competition with quite a lot of fish caught.

The generous prize pool allowed the PFC board to allocate several prizes. The major prizes were for the three biggest fish caught, but there was also a Lady Anglers prize, a biggest Skip-Jack prize, a biggest Mahi Mahi prize and a prize for the sorriest boat. The results were as follows:

- 1st. Biggest fish went to Jula Porter with a 38 lbs Barracuda
- 2nd. Biggest fish went to Scott Campbell with a 22 lbs Wahoo
- 3rd. Biggest fish went to our Sponsor, Prof. Glenn Hurry with a 20 lbs Barracuda

The lady's prize went to Ms. Whitney Hoot with a 20 lbs Barracuda.

The Biggest Skip Jack went to Joseph Artuis on Pakin III with a 13 lbs fish.

The Mahi Mahi (10 lbs) prize was split between Damian Oswald, Gino Relio, Frank Ditchen and Patterson Lawrence.

The sorriest prize was awarded to Dennis Gerhard on 'Saucerful of Secrets'.

Despite the conditions there was still a good turn-out at the weigh-in. Just a reminder for all boat captains to return the PFC Safety Bags prior to weighing your fish. Also please attempt to remain at the weigh-in; especially if you are a potential prize winner to allow some photos of you with our generous tournament sponsors and to collect your prize money.



Our next scheduled tournaments are the 'Do It Best' on 19 March and 'BMC' on 16 April, with registration occurring the Friday night before from 6-7pm at PCR. Do It Best have confirmed a prize pool of \$1500 for the 19 March tournament. Club membership is still an extremely low \$15 so come on down and be a part of the Pohnpei Fishing Club in 2011.

**Pakair Sang
Kempahn Roson
Mwahu**

**Dahkot: Doken silasil
oang soumwahu aska
oh samwpwo, iangahki
sawas en vitamin A oh
wini en mwahs**

**Kahrepe: Irehdi oh
katikala soumwahu
aska oh samwpwo
nan FSM; katikala
souitar en vitamin A oh
soumwahu en mwahs**

**Ansou: Sang Mahs lel
April 2011**

**Wasa: Wasa
koasondihkan nan ehu
ehu wei**

**Ong: Seri koaros sang
sounpar 1 lel 6**

*"Kumwail ketkihdo
sapwelimamwail
serihkan ren
iang ale sawas
pwukat!"*



**Mah mie iren
kalelepek eker:
320-3144 de 3652**