

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Mwalok Pingelapese gather to celebrate entry of landmark year

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 2, 2012

Mwalok, Pohnpei, FSM—2012 is an important year for the community of Pingelapese people living in Mwalok on Sokehs island. The parade that they held this morning and the feast at their community house was not only to celebrate the New Year but also the 100th anniversary celebration of their coming to Sokehs Island in 1912.

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Breaking ground at Yap High School



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Moving is not an option



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Eye care specialists to visit FSM



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In an email inviting the editor of The Kaselehlie Press to be one of three judges for the parade event, Ludickson Edward, one of the event organizers explained a bit about the history of the Pingelap community in Mwalok and the importance of the event. He said that when the people of Sokehs were deported to Palau during the German Administration in 1911, the German Government needed to bring in people to live in Sokehs to assist with the copra production.

In 1912 a typhoon struck the outer islands and wiped out most of the crops including those in Pingelap. A Pingelap community was established in Sokehs in 1912. August 12, 2012 will be the 100th anniversary for the community.



Pwihn Keriau, first place winners

“This makes 2012 a special year for the Pingelap Community. So we will be celebrating New Year and at the same time welcome the special year,” he wrote.

Just like Pingelap itself, the community is divided into four geographic segments, Pwihn Keiou, Pwihn Keriau, Pwihn Kesilu, and Pwihn Kepahu. The parade carried the theme “Go Local.” Each of the four participating groups, one from each geographic area was asked to represent that theme through their costumes.

To help keep judging fair and democratic there were three judges for the parade; Ringlen Ringlen, Interim President of the College of Micronesia

FSM, Joseph Habuchmai COM-FSM’s Vice President for Administrative Services, and Bill Jaynes, Managing Editor of The Kaselehlie Press.

Groups dressed in taro, coconut, fern, and ginger leaves assembled adjacent to the Diamond Head Apartments in Mwalok and marched to their community house across the street from the Mwalok Church.

There they gathered for a massive feast and a traditional pig

See “Mwalok” on page 6



Pwihn Kesilu, second place winners



Pwihn Kepahu, third place winners



Pwihn Keiou, fourth place winners

Chuuk DPS completes investigation into allegations that officers beat a woman in police custody AG returns report to CDPS "for want of further information"

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 2, 2012

Weno, Chuuk—The Chuuk State Department of Public Safety (CDPS) announced in a press release on December 19 that they had completed their investigation into an alleged assault on Major Theresa Price, a now retired officer of the U.S. Armed Forces. Price filed a complaint in March of 2010 saying that she had been brutally beaten by police officers while she was in police custody. She was treated for her substantial injuries at the Chuuk State Hospital.

The officers she accused of beating her maintained that the majority of Price's injuries were self sustained and that they had used only the force necessary to detain her. Though the hospital report made no mention of the presence of alcohol in her system, the officers, including the former director of CDPS claimed that she was intoxicated at the time of her arrest.

CDPS filed no charges against Major Price.

The CDPS press release announcing the conclusion of the investigation seemed to indicate without sharing specifics that at least some suspects were not cleared by the investigation which has been on going on at least some level for over eight months. "The case file has now been forwarded to the Chuuk Attorney General for his consideration and potential filing of charges against a number of suspects," press release said.

However, according to an email Chuuk's Attorney General Joses Gallen sent to Major Theresa Price, Gallen sent the report back to the Department of Public Safety "for want of further information." The email said that Major Price's statement which was attached to the report was incomplete. It also said that several witness statements were missing from the CDPS investigation report.

If the December 19 CDPS press release is accurate, Chuuk's current Director of

CDPS Kerson Rizal will want to resolve the Attorney General's questions quickly. "Since taking my appointment as Director of DPS I have made inquiry a priority and to ensure the investigation was concluded in a thorough and exhaustive manner," Rizal said in the press release.

"The complaint has taken far too long to be investigated and I am committed to ensure that justice is served. Major Price can be assured that we have done everything in our power to ensure the investigation into her complaint has been done to the very best of our capabilities. The earlier handling of this matter by the DPS had not shown the DPS in a positive light and I am committed, on behalf of all the good men and women of this organization to ensure this is corrected," Director Rizal continued.

"The DPS will now be guided by the Office of the Attorney General as to whether arrest warrants will be forthcoming in respect of those suspected of having committed this assault," the DPS press release concluded.

But then the report was returned to CDPS for more information and the matter is once again in the air as CDPS answers the questions of the Attorney General's office and attempts to fill in the gaps.

On the day after the alleged attack against Major Price, CDPS released her with no charges filed against her and allowed her to leave the country. Though she has maintained contact with the office of the Attorney General for Chuuk she is not physically located on the island. According to Mr. Gallen that factor could present a problem for any case that he might file against any suspects. He asked Major Price in his December 28 email to confirm that she would be in Chuuk for any pretrial hearing or for a trial.

"Major Price is a very important witness and without her testimony, I have no case," he wrote in response to our questions regarding his response whether a trial would go forward if Major Price was unable to afford to return to Chuuk. "During pre-trial proceedings, as a matter of rule, the defense counsel may request to meet with her and talk about her statement in preparation for trial. And of course, she will be my first witness to call in this case to testify," he concluded.

When asked if it would be possible to depose Major Price in her own home town Gallen responded, "Deposition is possible in criminal cases as provided according to the Rules of Criminal Procedures. In this case, to depose Major Price, I will need to be there, the defense counsel or counsels are a must to be there. Costs wise for my office would be substantive if such deposition is taken outside in the US somewhere. We are also looking at the costs of productions of transcript and other fees. So I am not planning to do that. This case will be Major Price's words against at least more than three officers who may be charged so she would need to be appear in person to testify in front of the judge."

We asked him whether or not video teleconferencing was a possibility that would be legally accepted in order for Major Price's testimony to be entered in any court proceedings. "There is no option here for her to testify in person and this is my decision that she must be here," he responded.

He never responded to Major Price's question about whether or not there is funding available to reimburse her for travel expenses if she has to return for any pre-trial or trial proceedings.

In a separate email Major Price asked about how she would be protected if she did travel back to Chuuk for any court proceedings. "What could they offer me, 'police' protection?!" She wrote. "Ha!"

New computer donated to U Municipal Court

December 14, 2011

U, Pohnpei—On December 14, 2011, Secretary of the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs, Dr. Vita A. Skilling, donated new computer equipment to Honorable Antonia Amor, Chief Justice of U Municipal Court. The computer is to be used by the Honorable Chief Justice for data collection pertaining to court proceedings and social problems associated with alcohol use and illegal drugs in U Municipality.

Chief Justice Amor expressed her appreciation to Secretary Skilling and her staff for the donation saying, "it is a right time for a Christmas Present".

Along with the new computer, Secretary Skilling also presented some T-shirts to aid in the observance of the month of December as an Accident Prevention Month a program intended to encourage the public not to drink and drive.



Honorable Antonia Amor and Secretary Vita A Skilling

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Chuuk utility begins to provide 24 hour island wide power in Weno

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 26, 2011

Weno, Chuuk—Customers of Chuuk Power and Utility Corporation got an early Christmas gift this year. On December 21, CPUC began to deliver 24 hour power across the entire island of Weno for the first time in easily brought to mind history.

Mark Waite, CPUC Chief Executive Officer said that after the arrival ten days earlier of a generator that is not new but is new to Chuuk, the utility began to increase its generating times progressively until they hit the 24 hour mark.

“We’re not out of the woods yet as our two old generators are in pretty dire condition,” he wrote. “One is down with a timing problem but the other is hanging in there.”

Due to some construction and testing delays two brand new generators ordered by CPUC were delayed by three months. Waite said that those generators are due to land in Weno on the second day of the new year. By the end of January, Weno will “truly have generation security,” Waite said.

Besides the possibility that the one generator that is “hanging in there” could fail at any time, CPUC’s immediate problem is cash for fuel. Waite said that CPUC had been anticipating the release of some grant funds from Japan in October of this year. The grant would have provided enough money for CPUC to “get back to and beyond ‘break even,’” Waite wrote. He said that he believes that grant money will now be available on January 1. Based on that belief he negotiated a fuel credit agreement with FSM Petroleum Corporation for “around 9 days’ supply, during which time we (CPUC) can collect revenue to buy more fuel.”

“We’ve also gone to weekly billing of commercial accounts to get through the next few weeks,” Waite wrote. “I think we have a fighting chance of keeping the lights on ‘til the secure generation is in place.”

He said that CPUC’s new power manager, Roger Kitchingham is “doing good things and is working all hours to support the CPUC teams.” CPUC’s mechanics are working harder than they may have done in years and Waite said that he is very grateful for the work of the entire CPUC team.

Because CPUC is now able to supply power for the entire island they have also been able to upgrade their sewer pumping schedules so that sewage should no longer backflow into the streets, at least as long as generation remains constant. CPUC has also been able to pump more water. Rehabilitation of Chuuk’s wells is still in process. Waite said that he expects that project to be completed by March or April of next year.

CPUC has long had a problem with collections and with illegal hookups, a situation that has contributed to poor performance of the utility. Additionally, some customers, both commercial and residential have been getting free power for years because of agreements made with previous management of CPUC, but during the last year good headway has been made on those issues.

Waite said that CPUC pulled in approximately \$140,000 in arrears and agreements are in place for another \$200,000 that is still outstanding. He said that the Chuuk State government is now “pretty much current.”

“We still have a bit of work to do on a couple of commercials but I think we will succeed there,” Waite wrote.

He said that he was quite surprised at the reactions of most of CPUC’s customers when faced with corrective actions. Most

See “CPUC” on page 6

Dengue fever outbreak update

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs

The number of dengue cases in the State of Yap has reached a total of 1,024 with 164 cases admitted to the hospital general ward as of December 29, 2011.

The number of cases is based on statistical records at the State Hospital and other reports received from Fais Island prior to the New Year celebration.

So far, 2 deaths have been reported as a result of the Dengue Fever type-2 virus outbreak since September of 2011.

The Department of Health said that there has been an ongoing test and treatment at the hospital for outpatients who are suspected of the dengue virus. This ongoing testing and treatment for

suspected cases are free of charges.

The symptoms of dengue are high fever, body ache, joint pain, and sometimes pain behind the eyes, diarrhea and vomiting. Anyone with these symptoms is encouraged to seek medical attention as early as possible.

The Department of Health has encouraged the people thru a statement to continue the cleanup activities in order to reduce the number of dengue cases in Yap.

In addition, the Department wishes to thank all the residents in Yap Proper and the Neighboring Islands for their active participation in the December 9, 2011 War against the Dengue Mosquitoes. The Department noted that the number of new suspected cases has decreased since the 3rd day following the D-Day.

KAMAGAR!

KINISOU CHAPUR!

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KULO MA LULAP!

Mahalo!

LYONS

Founder Frank Lyon mapping the Trust Territories in 1975...

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College holds 54th Commencement Exercises

The College of Micronesia – FSM

December 15, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei—The College of Micronesia-FSM celebrated its 54th Commencement Exercises at its National Campus on December 15, 2011. During the celebration, which was held at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center, the College graduated 172 students.

This figure does not include the number of graduates from Kosrae Campus since it has different reporting dates. According to the College's Office of Admissions and Records, the College is yet to verify 12 candidates for graduation from Kosrae Campus. In his welcoming remarks, Interim President Ringlen P Ringlen noted that 40 students graduated after completing their courses during summer 2011.

The theme for the commencement exercises was "Confronting Challenges and Breaking New Ground". In keeping with this theme, Interim President Ringlen said in his welcoming remarks that the "college will be taking a close look at the impact of instructional priorities on its physical infrastructure... [and] the current structure" of the College in light of potential revenue for the College. "The college will have also take into account JEMCO resolutions has reduced the funding available to the college by \$2.8 million over four years from the compact's Education Sector Grant and the freeze on infrastructure Development Plan funding until 2016," he said.

Interim President Ringlen also commented that "the most important issues to be addressed revolve around improving student learning, graduation and placement rates and the broader issue of long term sustainability of higher education in the FSM."

The College was also pleased to have welcomed His Excellency, President Emanuel Mori of the FSM as the commencement speaker. In his commencement remarks, President Mori congratulated the graduates and gave them words of advice on how to improve on what they have learned through the College of Micronesia-FSM. The FSM president also commented that the reduction of funding to the college will have "detrimental effects on the future operation of the college." However, he also believes that "the college can still make it with or without the \$700,000," he said.

President Mori further lamented that "millions of dollars have been expended to run the College and yet the manpower need of the nation is far from being met. The nation cannot continue to pour millions of dollars into the College without demanding in return for disciplined and productive workforce to sustain growth in the nation's economy," he said. The President challenged the graduates to be the disciplined and productive workforce that the nation needs.

Seventeen graduates under the University of Guam and the College of Micronesia-FSM Partnership Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education Program took part in the commencement exercises. For the first time, the UOG President, Dr Robert Underwood, took part in the celebration to accept the new graduates and present them their diplomas.

From among the COM-FSM graduates, the valedictorian was Christlynn Mary Sappa from Chuuk and the salutatorian was Neelma Pearl Skilling from Kosrae.

The 54th Commencement Exercises was attend by more than 400 people including Pohnpei traditional leaders, state and national government leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, parents, students and friends of the College.

Forum Secretary General welcomes lifting of the public emergency decree in Fiji

The Forum Secretary-General, Tuiloma Neroni Slade, has welcomed the announcement by Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama that the Public Emergency Regulation (PER) will be lifted on 7 January 2012. He said this is an important development and a step in the right direction, noting also the announced proposal for nationwide consultations on a new constitution for Fiji.

Secretary General Slade expressed hope for the earliest restoration of normality and legitimacy as a result of the lifting of the PER; and also for the broadest measure of inclusive national consultations as vital ingredients for free and fair elections.

He said that as Forum Leaders had done in their September 2011 meeting Communiqué, Leaders had consistently called for the "commencement of genuine, inclusive political dialogue in Fiji between parties without preconditions or predetermined outcomes". In doing so, Forum Leaders also "reaffirmed the underlying values of the Forum, namely respect for democracy, good governance and the rule of law".

The Secretary General also recalled the clear commitment "of all Forum members to encourage and support Fiji's early return to parliamentary democracy, including their standing offer of practical assistance in addressing the challenges faced by Fiji".

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D E A L

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION



Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on October 3, 2011 and October 25, 2011, 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. 007-E-01, land known as Daglip, situated in Rumuu Village, Fanif Municipality, Yap State, with an approximate area of 859 square meters, as described in the certificate of title issued on June 26, 2001 and registered as Document No. 3894 at the Yap State Registrar and as further described on cadastral plat no. 007-E-00 filed in Yap State Land Registry.

Parcel no. 031-F-02, land known as Makal, situated in Dugor Village, Weloy Municipality, Yap State, with an approximate area of 957 square meters, as described in the certificate of title issued on February 4, 2002 and registered as Document No. 4009 at the Yap State Registrar and as further described on parcel split no. 031-F-01 filed in Yap State Land Registry.

Parcel no. 046-B-01, land known as Ganabtagil, situated in Malon Village, Maap Municipality, Yap State, with an approximate area of 9,235 square meters, as described in the certificate of title issued on October 11, 2001 and registered as Document No. 3967 at the Yap State Registrar and as further described on cadastral plat no. 046-B-00 filed in Yap State Land Registry.

- There is no minimum bid amount. Bids may be submitted for one or more parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "February 23, 2012 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Ms Katherine Gisog at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Colonia, Yap on Thursday, February 23, 2012 between 2 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2012
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount for each parcel.
- The winning bidders 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 parcels are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to 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

United provides medical assistance to FSM through Pacific Islands Program

Much needed medical equipment provided by Australian overseas aid program

*United Continental Holdings
Press Release*

Dec. 15, 2011

GUAM—United Airlines, a wholly owned subsidiary of United Continental Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:UAL), announced its partnership with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a non-profit organization funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and part of the Australian government's overseas aid program. The partnership is under the Pacific Islands Program and provides assistance in the transport of medical equipment, supplies and volunteers, to deliver a range of specialty healthcare services and training to treat orthopedic patients in the Federated States of Micronesia.

A total of six volunteers and medical staff traveled between Chuuk, Pohnpei, Guam, and Cairns from November 25, 2011 through December 1, 2011. Transportation was provided by United Airlines, and included room for medical equipment to be used to treat patients and train medical staff in the Federated States of Micronesia.

"As we continue to grow in Micronesia, we are committed to taking part in programs to reach out to the communities we serve," stated Barry Bergmann, United's Managing Director for Micronesia and South East Asia. "We are proud to have an opportunity to partner with Australasia College of Surgeons and AusAID, and commend their continuous commitment and effort in lending a hand to the FSM community," he added.

PACIFIC PLAN ADVISER

The Secretariat seeks a suitably qualified and experienced person to fill the position of Pacific Plan Adviser. The adviser will be accountable to the Director of the Strategic Partnerships & Coordination for:

- Tracking and Report Implementation of the Pacific Plan;
- Policy Advice on the Pacific Plan;
- Managing the Pacific Plan Desk Officer Scheme;
- Fund Management – Pacific Plan Office and Non-State Actors Funding Window; and
- Management of Staff in the Pacific Plan Office

Applicants should have a post-graduate degree in international development, international relations or related fields with a demonstrated ability to undertake strategic planning at a high level and with extensive relevant work experience in international development and on regional issues, preferably in the Pacific region. Applicants with demonstrated understanding of dynamics of non state actors, regional integration and cooperation as it applies to the Pacific region would be desirable.

The appointment will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR30,639 to SDR45,958 per annum. At the 1 December 2011 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD87,043 to FJD130,563.

For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. Interested applicants are encouraged to obtain an information package containing the job description and remuneration details, which are available at www.forumsec.org. To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country.*

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva and can be sent electronically to jobs@forumsec.org.fj. Applications should be received by close of business on Friday 3 February, 2012.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both men and women to apply.

...Mwalok

Continued from front page

slaughter. One of the organizers said that 62 pigs gave up their lives for the gathering.

One of the leaders of the community said that while many other communities including the neighboring community of Danpei celebrated their New Year's Day by banging on drums, acetylene tanks, biscuit tins and anything else that would make noise, the Pingelapese community jointly decided to honor Sunday with a day of quiet. Certainly the Mwalok noise ban was off by January 2 and the happy din of car horns, sirens, air horns, and drums was sometimes loud enough as to be painful. He said that since school was scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 4 the community had decided to allow the noisy celebration to continue through midnight on Tuesday night. He said that Danpei would likely celebrate for the entire week.

Each of the groups participating in the parade were excellent and it was obvious that each group had worked extremely hard on their presentations but as in all contests there are winners. The winners in today's event were Pwihn Kesilu, the blue team, in first place, bedecked in woven coconut leaves. Pwihn Kepahu, the yellow team was the second place winner in their costumes of fern leaves. Wearing ginger leaf costumes, Pwihn Kepahu, the red team won the third prize in the parade. Extremely creative taro leaf costumes earned the White Team, Pwihn Keiou the fourth place prize.

Corrections:

In the article written by Arlyne Chugen on the Yap Museum in the December 12 issue of The Kaselehlie Press a small mistake was made. James Lukan had not been the Director of YSPHO, rather, he had been the supervisor of the office.

Police Officer Orden Ohry said that his name was left off the list of the recipients of the "Top Five Award" in our article on the Police Academy recently conducted in Pohnpei. Pohnpei DPS did not get back to us with confirmation of that award by press time but Officer Ohry deserves the benefit of the doubt.

...CPUC

Continued from page 3

said, "Okay, we've had a good run. Maybe we should start to pay."

CPUC staff members have not been exempted from the management's corrective actions. Waite said that 12 staff members were found to have been stealing power. Six of those staff members were given final warnings, and six were lined up for dismissal. Waite said that all of the staff members scheduled for dismissal appealed to the CPUC Board which upheld one dismissal and commuted the rest to one month suspension without pay and a final warning.

He said that all staff members were fined \$500, a bill for back charges, and a \$50 reconnection fee as would any other errant customer.

"It was all quite painful but very worthwhile," Waite said.

CPUC joined the other FSM States when it introduced a fuel surcharge to the power rate in October. Just as in the other States, the fuel surcharge is linked to the price per gallon that the utility pays for diesel to power the generators.

Waite said that CPUC's losses last fiscal

year were down to 33%. Previous year's losses were at 44%. He said that the utility still has a long way to go but last month's losses were down to 23% and he expects the downward trend in losses to continue. He speculated that with the advent of 24 hour island wide power the utility should be able to begin to break even. The CPUC business plan forecasts an operating profit of about \$250,000 this fiscal year. CPUC had losses of \$630,000 last year which was not a surprise. They had forecast that loss in their business plan.

Waite said that within "a couple of years" CPUC should be properly self supporting including amounts for depreciation.

Plans for a new location for a power plant have changed. CPUC had planned on moving its power plant to the dock but a new study on the cost of staying at the existing site along with refurbishment of some of the old generators showed that it would be much less expensive to stay at the site of the plant's current location. The CPUC Board has resolved to refurbish the existing site and CPUC is in the process of sorting out land issues.

"I think that people see we are improving but until we get some long term generation under our belt it will still be difficult," Waite wrote. "We still have a huge amount of work to do before people will start to trust us but I think we are moving closer now."

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FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

The Forum Secretariat is looking to appoint a qualified person to the position of Financial Accountant. This job exists to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the financial system, reconciliation of the balance sheet and management of the Fixed Asset Register.

This position will be accountable for:

- Integrity and accuracy of the Finance System;
- Monthly Balance Sheet Reconciliations and Management Reporting;
- Management of Fixed Asset Register; and
- Other duties

Applicants should have a Degree in Accounting with at least 3 years of experience in a similar role and membership of a professional accounting body would be desirable.

Applicants must have experience with computerized accounting systems and have the ability to work with minimal supervision. Applicants must also have strong interpersonal and communication skills, strong analytical & problem solving skills, and a customer service focus.

The appointment will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR20,359 to SDR30,538 per annum. At the 1 December 2011 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD57,838 to FJD86,756. Interested applicants must obtain an information package containing the job description and remuneration details. This is available from jobs@forumsec.org.fj or at www.forumsec.org.

To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country.*

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva and can be sent electronically to jobs@forumsec.org.fj. Applications should be received by close of business on Friday 13 January, 2012.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both men and women to apply.

Holiday Greetings To All New Year Message From Ambassador Zhang Of China

December 20, 2011



*Ladies and gentlemen,
Kaselehlie maingko!*

The New Year's bell is about to ring, the year 2012 will soon begin. At this beautiful moment of bidding farewell to the old and ushering in the new, I am delighted to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, together with my staff of the Embassy in the FSM and in my own name, the most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the FSM people! May your holiday season and New Year be filled with much joy, happiness and success!

2011 has been an eventful year in the world and it will have a very unique place in history. Despite the various problems and challenges, peace, stability, cooperation and development have been the shared aspiration of the people all over the world and the trend of the times. In 2011, the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Federated States of Micronesia has gained new achievements. Mutual political trust has been further enhanced. Economic and technical cooperation has been deepened. Cultural exchanges have reached a new height. People-to-people's friendly relations have achieved new accomplishments. State-Province sister-ship has been improved further. Consultations, co-ordinations and cooperation in the international affairs have been successful.

We owe all these achievements to the close and efficient cooperation between the governments and peoples of our two countries. Please allow me to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all of those who have been involved for their kindness and support.

In 2012, China will continue to work together with the FSM side to write a new chapter in the history of our friendship. We look forward to the help from all!

2012 is the Year of Dragon according to the Chinese lunar calendar. In China, dragon is a legendary creature symbolizing power, strength, and good luck. I wish all of you good luck in the coming Year of the Dragon!

May the FSM enjoy prosperity and its people well-being!

May the friendly and cooperative relations between China and the FSM be further strengthened!

May all of you have a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

Zhang Weidong
*Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
Of the People's Republic of China to the Federated States of Micronesia*

Groundbreaking ceremony at Yap High School New vocational education building to be built

By Arlynn Chugen
The Kaselehlie Press

The 15th day of December 2011 would prove to be an historic date for Yap High School (YHS) and Yap State as the school held the groundbreaking ceremony for a new building - which marks the first step of implementing a master plan that would supposedly result in the construction of brand new high school facilities.

In attendance at the ceremony included Yap State Governor Honorable Sebastian Anefal, U.S. Ambassador His Excellency Peter A. Prahar, Lt. Governor Tony Tareg, Yap State Director of Education Vincent Parren, Yap State Director of Youth & Civic Affairs Ruotpong Pongliyab, Principal of Yap High School Domingo Techur, and high school staff and students.

In his speech, Ambassador Prahar began with recognizing the traditional leaders of Yap, Governor Anefal, Lt. Governor Tareg, Director Parren, and principal, teachers and staff of YHS. Ambassador Prahar emphasized the importance of having a vocational education building. Ambassador Prahar noted that the vocational education has not been a top priority in the educational system in all four FSM states. He emphasized the importance of vocational education in the lives of the young people as well as Yap state.

According to Domingo Techur who is the principal of YHS, the groundbreaking ceremony commemorates the beginning of a new era for the public high school. During an interview with him, Principal Techur said that beginning January 2012 the construction of the vocational education building- the first step to phase one of the Yap High School Master Plan- would officially start.

"I'm glad the groundbreaking ceremony happened because that's a sign that things are moving - it's no longer a dream, it's coming true," said Principal Techur.

Principal Techur said such plans for the high school had been discussed for awhile and it was not until 2009 when an engineer was contracted that such plans began to formulate. With funding from JEMCO, Techur continued, the first phase of the master plan is now possible.

Principal Techur said the vocational education building would include an auto mechanics shop, construction shop, classrooms, and computer labs for vocational education purposes.

Prahar in his speech reminded teachers of their responsibilities as educators in the classrooms.

"It's your responsibility to ensure your students master the material they need to learn in order to lead lives of economic opportunities and choice....," said the ambassador as he addressed the teachers of YHS.

Monalisa Layan who is the instructor for 12th grade Micronesian Studies and a member of the DOE Board of Directors expressed her delight over the soon-to-begin project. She hoped though that the project would do well to foster improvement in the educational system as a whole.

Ambassador Prahar also encouraged the students to "study, study, study" and to "take away as much as possible from this [YHS] school."

In addition to the vocational building, the first phase would also consist of a new computer lab building and a new classroom building of six rooms. The new classroom building would primarily be used for Home Economics classes and elective classes.

The second phase of the master plan, as Principal Techur revealed, comprised of a new science building that would be equipped with the appropriate equipment.

The third phase would include the construction of a parking area with students' walkway and a turnaround for school buses.

The Yap High School Master Plan itself recognizes the immediate needs of the school, which includes but not limited to upgrading the unpaved road leading from the school to the main road, refurbishing existing buildings, and other pertinent concerns.

The Director of Education Vincent Parren also gave a short speech in which he echoed Ambassador Prahar's encouragement to the students, teachers, and staff of the school. Director Parren also expressed his gratitude to the construction company GPPC which will be working on the project.



*Governor Anefal, Lt. Governor Tareg,
Principal Techur, Ambassador Prahar,
Director of Education Parren, and a guest*

With such a project underway, Ambassador

US-Palau relationship affirmed in 2012

US Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C. - The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2012, signed into law by President Obama on December 23, 2011, includes continued funding for the Republic of Palau. Palau will receive \$13,147,000 in fiscal year 2012 for its government operations.

Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Anthony M. Babauta said the appropriation demonstrates the continuing commitment of the United States to Palau under the Compact of Free Association. "Although we would prefer that Congress enact S 343

approving the results of the fifteen-year Compact review, the commitment of the U.S. Government to the Republic of Palau is firm. The 2012 appropriation continues financial assistance to Palau at the same level it received in 2009, the last year of funding under our first agreement."

Babauta also added that consistent with the provisions of the 1994 Compact of Free Association, Palau has exercised its sovereignty in accordance with the principles of democracy and in a firm alliance with the United States.

United States Ambassador to Palau Helen Reed-Rowe stated "Palau is a strong ally and we welcome this good news."

Palau meets a key milestone for the Micronesia Challenge

Innovation, strong partnerships drive success

Micronesia Challenge Press Release

December 15, 2011

Koror, Palau – More than 75 dignitaries and conservationists celebrated a milestone in sustainable financing for the Micronesia Challenge, an ongoing, region-wide commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine and 20% of the terrestrial resources across the region by 2020. The Micronesia Challenge is supported by the conservation efforts of partners in the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam.

A ceremony held at the Palau Royal Resort celebrated the completion of Palau's formal funding commitments with The Nature Conservancy entered into in 2006, at the launch of the Micronesia Challenge. Russell Leiman, Asia-Pacific Managing Director for The Nature Conservancy, praised work of partners, "We're so inspired by the leadership of Palau's conservation community, which is building the practical framework for lasting investments in conservation that recognize the critical connection between a sustainable environment and a healthy society."

In recognition of this groundbreaking initiative, The Nature Conservancy originally pledged \$3 million toward an endowment to sustainably finance the Challenge. Conservation International pledged an additional \$3 million, and in 2010 the Global Environment Facility approved a \$6 million regional grant to help meet funding requirements. As part of these agreements, Micronesia Challenge member states Palau, FSM, and RMI committed to matching pledged funds 2:1, making substantial progress to establish protected areas networks guided by standards set forth in the United Nations Convention on Biological

Diversity (UNCBD), and developing local income generating mechanisms to fund continuing conservation activities under the Micronesia Challenge.

Palau has shown great leadership in fulfilling the ambitious goals set out in the Micronesia Challenge. To date, Palau has raised \$4 million in matching funds, and has six sites in the nationwide Protected Areas Network (PAN): Ebiil, Ngarchelong; Olsolkesol, Ngiwal; Ongedechuul SCA, Ngardmau; Ngardok Nature Reserve, Melekeok; Mesekekat, Ngchesar; Helen Reef; with 4 areas recently accepted: Medal Ngediull, Airai; Ngerderar Watershed Conservation Area, Aimeliik; Kerradel Network, Ngaraard; Ngelukes, Ngchesar; Ongedechuul Conservation Area System, Ngardmau.

Palau's innovative Green Fee, established by legislation in 2009 provides a model for sustainable conservation funding. Fees collected from departing visitors continue to provide robust support for the maintenance of the PAN so important to Palau's natural environment and tourism industry. Further demonstrating its leadership, in 2009, Palau established the first-ever shark sanctuary to protect sharks in the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), encompassing a 240,000 square mile area.

The Micronesia Challenge ceremony showcased the formal handover of The Nature Conservancy's remaining funding commitment. Russell Leiman, Asia-Pacific Managing Director for The Nature Conservancy, provided the \$1 million check to His Excellency President Johnson Toribiong and Micronesia Conservation Trust Chair Lee Webber. It will be deposited along with Palau's remaining \$1.4 million match into Palau's endowment subaccount. The Micronesia Challenge Regional Office and Palau Conservation Society assisted The Nature Conservancy in hosting the event.

FSM ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Open: December 27, 2011

Close: January 27, 2012

POSITION: FSMACC Executive Director

Salary:

\$15,000-\$18,000 Depending on qualifications.

This is an initial one year contract.

Duties (Illustrative Only):

The Executive Director duties and responsibilities:

- Follow-up and implementation of decisions taken by the Board of Directors of the FSMACC;
- Supervision of the preparation of meetings of the FSMACC Board, and provide the necessary technical services;
- Prepare budget and annual work program of activities of the FSMACC and supervise required implementation upon approval by the FSMACC Board;
- Seeks, upon approval from the Board of Directors of the FSMACC, technical and financial assistance from donors and partners to enhance the development of the private sector in the FSM;
- Oversees the implementation of the FSMACC 'road map' activities, including an 'Outreach' program and, as far as is practical, participating in such activities;
- Works to establish the FSMACC as a self-directed, autonomous organization that works closely with both the government and the private sector;
- Coordinates the dissemination of information to State Chambers of Commerce and other relevant stakeholders on issues of interest;
- Performs clerical duties as necessary and,
- Undertake all other duties as determined by the Board of Directors from time to time.

In the conduct of duties, the Executive Director shall follow sound management, administrative and financial procedures and keep accurate financial records of funds made available and disbursed for FSMACC activities.

Location:

FSMACC Secretariat's Office will be initially located in the Department of Resources and Development at the National Government, Palikir, Pohnpei.

Reporting:

The Executive Director reports to the President of the FSMACC Board of Directors, but must also respond to other board member inquiries and requests from all Officers.

Required Knowledge, skills and experience:

- Possess an AS or BA Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Political Science or similar fields is desirable, but not required; work experience can be considered as an alternative;
- At least 3 years of work experience in dealing with private sector, business and private sector development;
- A detailed knowledge of the private sector in the FSM;
- A good working knowledge of FSM business laws will be an advantage;
- An excellent command of both spoken and written English, including an the ability to prepare clear, precise briefs and other papers for consideration by the Board of the FSMACC;
- An ability to produce high-quality work under time constraints and work to strict deadlines;
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, and Microsoft Access; and
- Possess a pleasant personality, hard working, result oriented, team player,
- Proficiency in public speaking is very helpful.

Contact:

For interested applicants, please submit your resume with three (3) Letters of Reference to:

Mr. Philip T. Ranganbay
Secretary, Board of Directors at pranganbay@gmail.com

OPA finds deficiencies in FSM tax collection procedures

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 28, 2011

Palikir, Pohnpei—An audit of the FSM Division Customs and Tax Administration (CTA) released on December 9, 2011 concludes that “the practices of CTA are lax especially in Pohnpei and Chuuk, and do not assure the citizens of the FSM that the tax and revenue laws are being uniformly enforced or complied with throughout the FSM.”

“The CTA management response indicates a lack of ownership of the field office operations, which, until corrected, holds little hope for progress,” Haser Hainrick, the FSM’s National Public Auditor concluded in his executive summary of the audit.

The Division of Customs and Tax Administration which is authorized to have 44 full-time positions, is a Division of the FSM Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and has two main functions as the title of the Division clearly states: customs administration, and tax administration.

Customs administration includes inspection at ports of entry for sea and air, assessment of tax filing, and collection of taxes on goods and merchandise imported in the FSM. The section includes a Customs Specialist and Customs Analyst and the Main office, nine Customs Officers, and 11 Customs

Inspectors located at the various field offices in the FSM.

The task of tax administration is divided amongst three branches, Compliance, Document Processing, and Collection Branches.

The Compliance Branch is responsible for planning and conducting annual audits of taxpayers’ records for compliance with customs and tax code and determining the accuracy and completeness of taxpayers’ Business Gross Revenue (BGR) tax returns.

The Document Processing Branch is charged with the responsibilities of controlling, safeguarding and monitoring the central office files on tax returns and tax refunds and the compilation of statistical data provided through tax returns.

The Collection Branch is responsible for the collection of taxes on Wages and Salaries, BGR, Import Duties, License Fees, Penalty and Interest on a daily basis.

Customs and Tax Administration records indicated that during fiscal year 2008 through 2010, total tax revenues were approximately \$74 million. In Fiscal Year 2010 GRT taxes accounted for 30 percent of all revenue collected that year. CTA reported collections of \$26.6 million in 2010. Import taxes and Wage and Salary taxes each amounted to 29 percent of the total collections. Other fees such as fuel, cigarette, license fees, penalty and interest and bank charges amounted to 12 percent of CTA tax collections in 2010.

Auditors concluded in their first finding that CTA has “poor internal controls over the system of manual cash receipts and as a result, compliance and tax revenue collection is diminished.”

Finding two said that “the tax rolls (lists of active businesses) are incomplete and as a result, compliance and tax revenue collection is diminished.”

Their third finding said that “unpaid or unreported taxes by businesses in Pohnpei are not followed up and in Chuuk, they were followed up only when visited by a special task force.”

Finding four said that “the accuracy of payment of import taxes is not verified by CTA and the inspection of freight containers is haphazard, not formalized and seldom performed.”

In the fifth and final finding auditors concluded that “CTA employees are not trained in the proper handling of potentially unethical situations including how to maintain independence with local businesses. In the absence of a CTA Code of Ethics, independence with local businesses is not specifically required.”

Regarding finding one, auditors pointed out that a key official at one of the CTA field offices told them during an interview that one previous employee had been asked to resign because of problems with receipts.

The official said that the employee allegedly issued obsolete receipts without reporting the amount of tax collected. The matter was discovered when, in subsequent quarters, taxpayers provided proof of prior payments. The matter was referred to the FSM Department of Justice and subsequently the employee was requested to resign.

Auditors said that the potential for similar types of potentially fraudulent activity still exists. They did NOT say that further theft has occurred but that due to the lack of controls over receipt stock the potential for fraud or for the appearance of fraud is high. They said that this is most especially true since, when receipts are discovered to be missing no follow up is conducted by the CTA main office regarding any missing receipts.

In 2010, 39 receipts were missing; in 2009, 37 receipts weren’t on the books, and in 2008, 19 were missing.

While CTA’s main office in Palikir generally controls the ordering and printing of new official receipt books for distribution to the field offices one field office ordered receipt books locally without authorization by the CTA main office. Those receipts were later issued to taxpayers.

The audit said that unused receipt stock is not secured and receipt stock inventory is not monitored which could give rise to potential abuse.

Regarding finding two, auditors found that CTA does not actively identify new taxpayers but instead uses a listing of taxpayers who made payments in the prior year. At the beginning of each calendar year, the businesses that filed returns and paid taxes in the prior year were listed in a spreadsheet, referred to as the “Tax Roll.” Auditors said that CTA Revenue officers did not canvas their respective States to spot new taxpayers or those who have closed. They said that other procedures were not performed to identify new taxpayers who are not filing returns.

Local CTA offices reported that they do not have the time to obtain listings of active businesses from other government entities for the purpose of identifying new businesses. They also said that vehicles are seldom available for the purposes of conducting observations to identify new businesses.

The audit team found that notices were not issued to businesses located in Pohnpei State at any time during the period of the audit (fiscal years 2008-2010). It said that more than 40 percent of businesses listed in the official tax roll for Pohnpei State are not filing BGR tax returns and not making payments yet no demand notices were issued. “While it is possible that some businesses on the list have closed, new businesses were not included,” the audit said.

Demand notices to businesses located in Chuuk State were only issued when a special task force visited.

Auditors concluded that as a result, significant amounts of revenue for the Nation were not collected.

Regarding customs tax collection, auditors said that the accuracy of payment of import taxes is not verified by CTA and the inspection of freight containers is haphazard, not formalized and seldom performed.

It said that CTA personnel did not routinely verify that the goods and amounts declared on the unfortunately named “SAD” form (Self-Assessment Declaration on import taxes) agreed with the supplier invoices attached to the SAD.

The audit also said that container inspections claimed to be conducted by CTA Pohnpei were not documented.

As example auditors said that CTA Pohnpei records indicated that 17 containers were inspected from January through June of 2010, just under three per month. However, only four of those inspections were documented.

As their fifth and final finding auditors said that CTA employees are not trained in the proper handling of potentially unethical situations.

“CTA employees, as the tax and revenue collections agents for the Nation, are constantly faced with situations that are vulnerable to bribery, or other unethical conduct,” the audit said. “Every CTA employee is involved in some aspect of collecting taxes or other duties from businesses, businesses which naturally and rationally desire to minimize or not pay taxes. It is likely that no other government activity is as directly vulnerable to unethical conduct as the agency that collects and maintains the records over businesses paying taxes.”

“We agree with this statement as to the level of vulnerability,” wrote Rose Nakanaga, Acting Secretary for the FSM’s Department of Finance and Administration in her October response to the draft audit. “However, we feel that the issue of integrity and ethics is one that should be addressed across all offices and agencies of Government as there are other agencies that also collect other revenues for the Government and other agencies that if their responsibilities are compromised, it will be detrimental to the operation and well being of the Government. We are addressing the ethical issue when we do job interviews where we discuss scenarios that will likely put employees in vulnerable situations where there may exist a conflict of interest,” she wrote.

Acting Secretary Nakanaga essentially agreed with all of the findings and made commitments for the department to make changes to increase tax enforcement and collection, and committed to looking for training resources regarding ethics for employees of CTA.

The complete audit including responses can be found at www.fsmopa.fm.



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NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION



Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on January 6, 2011, December 8, 2011 and December 22, 2011, public notice is hereby given that the parcels described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidders under the following terms:

Parcel no. 035-K-33, land known as Finanpes, situated in Lelu Municipality, Kosrae State, with an approximate area of 1,366 square meters, as described in the certificate of title issued on August 17, 2011 and registered as document no. 15493 at the Kosrae State Registrar and as further described on cadastral plat no. 035-K-04 filed in the Kosrae State Land Registry.

Parcel no. 055-D-14, land known as Kinakapw, situated in Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State, with an approximate area of 10,112 square meters, as described in the certificate of title issued on April 10, 2003 and registered as document no. 19416 at the Pohnpei Court of Land Tenure and as further described on cadastral plat map no. 055-D-02 filed in the Pohnpei State Land Registry.

- Bids for the Kosrae parcel shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "March 1, 2012 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Mr Teroa George at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Tofol, Kosrae on Thursday, March 1, 2012 between 2 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Bids for the Pohnpei parcel shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "March 1, 2012 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 1, 2012 between 2 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- There is no minimum bid amount for either parcel.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2012.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount.
- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the parcel, 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 parcels are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

*Questions concerning this auction may be directed to
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*

President Mori appoints "acting" Secretaries for the Department of Justice and the Department of Finance and Administration

FSM Information Services

December 19, 2011

Starting on December 12, Assistant Attorney General Steve Y. George and Mrs. Rose Nakanaga were designated by President Manny Mori as "acting" Secretaries for the Department of Justice and the Department of Finance and Administration for the a duration of sixty days.

President Mori wrote in a December 12 memorandum to all departments, offices and agencies that the designations for Assistant Attorney General George and Mrs. Nakanaga were made due to vacancies for each position "whose appointment is subject to advice and consent of Congress".

The denied nominations for the highest roles at the two departments have gone through two consecutive sessions of Congress but fell short of getting required votes from that

legislative body, prompting the appointment of the "acting" capacities for sixty days or shorter, base on the President's discretion, pursuant to law.

Acting Secretary Nakanaga graduated from the Central Michigan University in the United States with a B.A. in Business Administration, majoring in Finance. She has been with the department since 1980, starting out in the Treasury Division until her appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Division of Investment. She has intermittently served as Acting Secretary since November 2010 after the then Secretary, Mr. Finley Perman, resigned.

Assistant Attorney General George has been with the Department of Justice, Division of Litigation, since January 2009. He had graduated from the South Pacific School of Law in Vanuatu in 2003 after getting his B.S. degree in Political Science from the University of Hawaii – Hilo.

If the sixty days duration is not cut shorter, the appointment for Acting Secretary George and Acting Secretary Nakanaga would end on February 10, 2012.

Ophthalmology Specialist Team to visit the FSM

WHEN: 16 – 26 January 2012

WHERE: Pohnpei State Hospital, Pohnpei, Micronesia (16 – 22 January 2012)
Chuuk State Hospital, Chuuk, Micronesia (23 – 26 January 2012)

TEAM: Surgeon: Dr John Kearney, Southport, Australia
Optometrist: Mr Michael Hare, Southport, Australia

Optometrist: Ms Natasha Hayward, Robina, Australia

Nurse: Ms Barbara Anderson, Southport, Australia

ABOUT THE VISIT:

- Ophthalmology teams perform cataract surgery and other eye operations, to restore sight to blind children and adults, where appropriate. Optometrists also work closely with local eye care nurses and technicians to test eyesight and distribute spectacles as required.
- Service will be provided free of charge. Please contact your local health care centre or health care worker to be referred to see the visiting team.
- The team aims to work as closely as possible with local doctors and medical staff to help develop their skills so that they will be able to continue to provide these types of medical services in the future.
- All program participants volunteer, without being paid for their time.
- The program would like to thank Qantas and Continental/UNITED Airlines for their assistance with the transport of the equipment and supplies used by the Ophthalmology team.

Find out more details by contacting:

Pohnpei State Hospital Chuuk State Hospital
Surgical Department Surgical Department
Dr Johnny Hedson Dr Kennedy Remit
Ph: 320 2214 Ph: 330 2216



Emergence of deep-sea mining in the Pacific Islands region



“With a project as significant and exciting as this, we expect that there will be misunderstandings and misinformation, especially through those using the media.

“But we also know that it is important that any confusion related to this project must be addressed to ensure clarity and transparency in all aspects of the work.”

So said Akuila Tawake, Deep Sea Minerals Project Team Leader of this European Union (EU) funded project.

Mr. Tawake explained that the Deep Sea Minerals Project is administered by SOPAC, a division of SPC, and is developing a regional legislative and regulatory framework for deep-sea mineral mining.

“This will help ensure that sustainable resource management will bring tangible benefits to Pacific Island Countries and their people,” said Mr. Tawake,

Mr. Tawake was responding to a story that appeared on Pac News that questioned the motives of those involved with the project. In the story it stated, “that the Deep Sea Minerals Project of the SPC (SOPAC) disenfranchises indigenous people and promotes the interest of big mining companies at the expense of local communities.”

“Since the Project was conceived as a result of a number of Pacific Islands Countries requesting the SOPAC Division for advisory assistance and technical support relating to seabed minerals, it is difficult to understand who is being disenfranchised.” said Mr Tawake.

He said that the Deep Sea Mineral Project is not only being supported by the SPC member countries, but by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, as well as the EU.

The overall objective of the project, he said, is to expand the economic resource base of Pacific ACP States by developing a viable and sustainable deep-sea marine minerals industry.

He said the specific objective is to strengthen the system of governance and capacity of Pacific ACP States in the management of deep-sea minerals.

“This can only be achieved through the development and implementation of sound and regionally integrated legal frameworks, improved human and

technical capacity and effective environmental monitoring systems.”

Mr. Tawake said that to date there is only one potential deep-sea mining project in the Pacific region and that is scheduled to become operational in 2013.

It is the Solwara 1 project in the Bismarck Sea in Papua New Guinea. The mining company, Nautilus Minerals has been working with the Papua New Guinea government since 1997 to explore seafloor massive sulphide deposits with the option to develop those mineral resources if feasible.

“While the project is unique in the sense that it will become the world’s first deep seabed mine, the lease arrangements to develop and operate it are a reflection of the evolving legislative and regulatory process in Papua New Guinea since the 1970’s.

This will enable us to avoid past experiences on land from the OK Tedi and Bougainville Mines,” said Lyndah Brown-Kola, Senior Technical Assessment Engineer with the Papua New Guinea Mineral Resources Authority,

Mr. Tawake emphasised that the SPC/SOPAC as the implementing agency of the Deep Sea Mineral Project is only responsible for providing relevant information and appropriate assistance and advice to participating countries.

“Each participating country as a sovereign nation makes its own decisions after reviewing the advice we provide as well as information from other sources.”

Mr. Tawake said that the Papua New Guinea government has taken 14 years to make the decision to allow Nautilus Minerals to develop the mine. It is expected to be operational in late 2013.

“The financial risk of even exploration is entirely that of the mining companies and the costs are substantial, far in excess of US\$50 million. In addition to the costs, government approval as well as physically developing a mine will take many years - it has taken Nautilus 14 years.”

“In addition to the regional framework, the Deep Sea Mineral Project requires the four years to develop with the participating countries, national legislative and regulatory frameworks for deep-sea mineral mining that encompass environmental concerns, and assist and support capacity building and environmental monitoring initiatives,” he said.

Mr. Tawake said that SPC/ SOPAC is grateful for those who have expressed their concerns about deep-sea mining and “we invite them to contact us for any information they require to help clarify any issues relating to deep sea mining in the Pacific region.”



Akuila Tawake

The Deep Sea Minerals Project is currently being implemented in the following fifteen island countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, East Timor, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

\$1.02 Million for FY12 Supplemental Budget signed into law

FSM Information Services

December 30, 2011

Congressional Act 17-28 was signed by President Manny Mori on December 5 to become Public Law 17-28, amending Public Law 17-19 which governs the fiscal year 2012 operational funding for the entire FSM National Government and subsidies for programs and other obligations to the national government.

Prior to the start of the November 17–24 Special Session of the 17th FSM Congress, President Mori submitted a supplemental budget request that proposes an increase of \$3.17 million to FY12 budget of \$44,251,617. The requested amount includes investment subsidies to the FSM Trust Fund for \$1 million and the FSM Social Security Program for \$800,000 dollars. Additional operation expenses of approximately \$5,716 dollars for the FSM Insurance Board and \$10,000 each for the COM-FSM Board of Regents and the Department of Justice were also requested but denied by Congress.

Resulting from Congressional deliberations, what is compiled as supplemental budget in this public law allocates a total of \$1,025,436 deriving from recent Compact Grants Awards received by the FSM

Government pursuant to JEMCO review and approval and from locally generated revenues. The approved supplemental funding include \$121,321 from local revenues directed to the Department of Health and Social Affairs; \$335,172 from local revenue directed to the Department of Education; \$360,000 from Compact Grants for infrastructure sector earmarked for a project that would enable the extension of Telecom’s ADSL internet connection to some public schools throughout the nation, \$200,000 from local revenues to be used to conduct a survey of FSM citizens’ impacts upon and contributions to certain United States jurisdictions where they are residing; \$10,000 from local revenues to help fund the December 10-12 Micronesian Chief Executive Summit in Kosrae State; and \$15,000 also from local revenues to be used for election ID card project undertaken by the FSM National Election office.

According to the Ways and Means Standing Committee Report No. 17-73, an amount of \$3.07 million in domestic revenue along with \$360,704 from Compact grants were available for appropriation before the start of the session. This is based on information provided in a communication from the Acting Secretary of Finance and Administration received by Congress on November 15.

After the passage of this supplemental budget during the recently adjourned session, at least \$2.4 million dollars remains available for allocations when Congress comes to its January regular session or in any subsequent session.

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K Press Perspective

New Year hodgepodge...

Happy New Year to all of our loyal readers!

I can't help but feel that we owe you an explanation for the recently missed issue of The Kaselehlie Press.

The factors that contributed to our completely missed publication on the 26th of December boil down to two distinct and nearly concurrent events: the Holiday Season, and the issuance of long overdue tax refunds to taxpayers of Guam under the Governor Calvo government. Recipients of the tax refund included long time Guam residents with FSM ties.

Both the Holiday Season and the issuance of tax refunds in Guam are good things for the economies of Guam and the FSM. But what the confluence of those two events meant for us is that due to high freight and passenger volumes on United Airlines, our printed copies of "The Kaselehlie Press" were not delivered to Pohnpei in anything approaching an "on time" basis. Had we not paid an additional freight fee I'm not at all certain that the December 12 issue would be here even now due to high freight traffic to the FSM on the airline. As it is, the December 12 issue did not arrive until December 25, Christmas Day.

I'm skeptical regarding the on time delivery of the newspaper that carries the January 9 dateline and "The Kaselehlie Press" which publishes on a bi-weekly basis, has built in "freshness issues," even without freight delays.

Just the same, though it pains me to say so, I can't blame United Airlines or Continental freight. The airline has been hammered with a huge amount of postal freight bound for the FSM since the issuance of the Guam tax refund.

According to a United Airlines official, Asia Pacific Airlines was contracted to carry more than 14 tons of postal freight on just one flight to Chuuk during the week of December 12. This was postal freight above and beyond what United had already carried on its regularly scheduled flights. That official told me that the airline's priorities are passengers, passenger baggage, human remains, postage, and their own freight services, in that order. Our freight was the lowest priority and it bumped over and over again.

United Manager Art Day said that in the past the high volume of passenger and postal volume slows down by mid January but no one can predict what will happen this year when Guam residents have more disposable income than they have had in years past.

According to Mr. Jack Jack, FSM's Assistant Postmaster, FSM's total postal freight volume for all States from January through November was just over 600 tons. 2010 freight volume figures were just slightly higher for the same period

of time. The FSM Postal Service did not provide freight volumes for the month of December but anecdotally it must have been a very high number.

We will be sending the paper to print on time as planned. The PDF subscriptions will go out on time just as they did on December 12. We skipped the December 26 issue entirely because we had a commitment to our advertisers most particularly the Bank of Guam and the Bank of the FSM who are required by law to post their lists of inactive accounts as widely as possible in the FSM.

It was an extremely stressful holiday season for The Kaselehlie Press as we worked to find ways to resolve the shipping problem. Indeed, news gathering has been a difficult task during this particular holiday season. In Pohnpei, the runoff election butted right up against the traditional holiday party season and people I am usually able to contact were either just too busy or were missing in action entirely.

Hanging on my wall in front of my desk is a white melamine board where I write news story ideas for follow-up. That board has been filling up since just after I emptied it for the December 12 newspaper. The list keeps getting bigger and bigger and today, the day after my deadline for submissions I still can't wipe much off of it.

Seven of the news items still require substantiation from the Pohnpei State Police department and some of them have occupied my story board since nearly the beginning of December. The Police Department does have a public information officer, Bronson Martin. Bronson is extremely helpful and is usually able to provide me with the details that I need in order to do fact based news articles. However, DPS needed every available officer during this holiday season and Bronson was temporarily assigned to Kittiti. Apparently the full contingent of officers was still were not quite enough to do much in the way of crime deterrence particularly violent crime.

To his credit, Chief Joe Roby contacted me this morning and promised me details on the seven story leads I asked him about. It remains to be seen whether I will then have time to actually write the stories, get the newspaper laid out, and off to the printer in time but I will certainly try.

What I do know because of vague police confirmations with no detail whatsoever other than what I have heard as rumor is that early in this month a 17 year old male was arrested in Pohnpei for the rape of a four year old girl. My understanding is that the suspect was taken into custody. Since he is legally a minor I'm not sure how the department has detained him. Both municipal and State police officials have previously told me that law enforcement is difficult when the perpetrator is a minor because there are no facility to safely jail them separately from the adult jail population.

The Police department has had its hands full. In the early morning hours of New Year's Day police arrested a suspect or suspects in a stabbing incident in Sekere a few blocks from my home. Three people were admitted to hospital in that incident. Police have not provided any details in that incident either.

Police have verified the basics of Adam Thompson's story who said that on his way to do laundry he passed two obviously inebriated men at the top of the Rumors driveway next to the Ocean View Hotel. He said that when he came back ten minutes or so later one of the two men was severely injured and laying on the driveway. He was told that the man had been hit by a car. Thompson said he went to his apartment to get a first aid kit and called the police and an ambulance.

He said that he returned to the scene and administered first aid. The man had a head injury, a broken arm and several large cuts on his arm. He didn't think that the injuries looked consistent with a hit and run auto accident. He said it looked more like he had been in a fight and had been cut by a knife.

The injured man succumbed to his injuries after his arrival at the hospital and died sometime in the next 24 hours.

Police detectives conducted an extensive investigation and

according to this morning's email from Chief Roby a suspect is now in custody for the murder.

I know also that there was a tragic fatal accident on the Dekehtik causeway in mid December and that alcohol was involved.

Alcohol consumption seems to have figured strongly in each of the above tragedies. "We need stronger laws regarding alcohol use," Chief Roby said. "It's been a rough season this year."

According to Sam Gallen, early in the month of December, construction crews employed by SHK Company were doing excavation on the pathway that leads from the College of Micronesia Pohnpei Campus classrooms to the Daini ball field and gymnasium. Workers uncovered two World War II era bombs during their excavation. Police were notified and the work site was shut down for at least a week while the bombs were removed and metal detectors were used to search for the possibility that more might be buried in the area.

See "K Press Perspective" on page 13

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Because moving is not an option

By Matt Miller

As I traveled around the islands of Micronesia, I repeatedly heard people voice the same words: **Moving is not an option.**

The often-tiny islands of Micronesia—and other other Pacific chains—are populated by people with diverse cultures, cultures shaped by the land and water over the centuries and even millennia.

Today, with ocean levels rising and fish stocks disappearing, they are facing the most serious threat to their cultures, their traditions and, indeed, their lives. And moving is not an option.

Water Is Rising

I visited two islands in the Federated States of Micronesia, Yap and Pohnpei. On Yap, large stone “money”—huge limestone disks larger than I am—are still used for ceremonial transactions. **Village life remains the central part of Yapese culture**, and they still rely on reefs for their livelihood and sustenance.

On Pohnpei, I hiked around huge ruins—rivaling what I saw at more famous sites like Machu Picchu and Tikal—built on top of artificially constructed islands that extend a mile onto the reef. Nan Madol, as this area is known, began construction in 500 BC. Today, Pohnpeians practice a rich and traditional form of agriculture that incorporates seamlessly into the forest.

Thousands of islands in the Pacific are still home to thriving human communities. People have worked out ways to balance the reef and the forest. But forces beyond their communities could shape the future of these islands.

There’s an old cliché that there are no atheists in foxholes. In that same spirit, perhaps it could be said that **there are no climate change deniers on islands.**

As people in the United States seem intent on arguing whether or not climate change

is real, **islanders are seeing sea levels rise and land disappear.**

A group of performing artists from Pacific Island nations recently toured the United States with their show, *Water is Rising*, telling stories of climate change as faced by their communities.

But the threats to islands don’t end with climate change: Coral reefs put fish on the plate for millions of people. But around Micronesia and other islands, fish stocks are being depleted.

No food. No land. No place to go.

The islanders deserve better.

Traditional Knowledge, Cutting-Edge Science

Fortunately, many communities are leading efforts to ensure that they will continue to have fish on their plates, viable jobs and places to live.

They value self-sufficiency. Willy Kostka, director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, put it this way: **“If I can keep the food relief agencies out of this region, then I’ve succeeded.** If the Red Cross is here, we’ve lost. To me, conservationists are in the front line of self-sufficiency.”

Communities recognize the importance of protecting marine areas to sustain fisheries. A locally-led initiative called the Micronesia Challenge—which includes the five governments, local communities, and local and global organizations (including the Conservancy)—has a goal to **protect to protect 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources** across Micronesia by 2020.

These are the reefs that keep fish on the table.

Such local efforts are complemented by cutting-edge science, such as sophisticated models of climate change impacts that can direct conservation efforts and help communities plan for the future.

“We don’t take our islands for granted,” says Kostka. “Every day I feel so lucky I was born here on Pohnpei. I feel very privileged to live here.”

The people of Micronesia are hopeful. They believe they can shape their own future.

A difficult truth is that some factors—climate change, depletion of fisheries—are generated by countries far from the Pacific islands. The Micronesians are doing their part. **Can we do ours?**

There is much hope, but the water is rising. And moving is not an option.

...K Press Perspective

Continued from page 12

Not long after the work site was reopened and employees went back to work they uncovered yet another unexploded bomb. “This is where students walk back and forth all the time,” Gallen said.

The Police department has provided no details on the disposition on the unexploded ordinance or how they will safely dispose of it.

Early in the month of December the “security focal point” for the United Nations and for the International Organization for Migration released a warning regarding reports of supposedly reported crimes in the Kolonia area. “There have been recent reports of a gang of youth in the Kolonia town region using obstacles to block the road, once the occupants leave the car to clear

the road the occupants are attacked,” the email said. It went on to advise motorists about what they should do if they find the road inexplicably blocked.

After verifying the source of the email and that it was indeed a security warning issued by a credible source we contacted the Pohnpei State Police for information about such reports and whether any arrests had been made in connection with any type of crime of the nature reported in the email.

Neither Chief Roby nor the Department’s press officer was able to provide any evidence of such reports. Neither of them seemed to know anything about any reports that had been made in that regard.

At the absolute limit of “holding the presses” the Pohnpei State Police still had not provided any details on any of the above cases.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor
The Kaselehlie Press

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© Matt Miller

Villagers on the Pacific island of Yap perform the stick dance.

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: kpress@mail.fm

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome.
- 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

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Jane Austen, novelist (1775-1817)

.....
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Do well or do not.

Each choice makes us purposeful gamblers.

Bill Jaynes

Secret of Taro

By *Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP)*

Nutritional values of Taro, in particular giant swamp taro, *Cyrtosperma chamissonis* (mwahng), have been misunderstood by the people. Many people have heard and thought that taro is “just starch.” However, the nutritional values of taro have been revealed by research. All varieties of taro are rich sources of essential minerals, vitamins, and fiber which are all important for maintaining good health.

Essential minerals which are particularly high in all types of taro are iron and calcium. Iron is needed for building strong blood, and calcium is necessary for strong bones and teeth.

Pohnpei *Cyrtosperma* cultivars are also rich in zinc which is important for fighting infection.

Mwahng contains almost 10 times the level of these minerals as compared to rice, the common imported food.

The varieties more yellow in flesh color such as *Cyrtosperma* cultivars are also found to be rich in carotenoid. Yellow-fleshed cooked Six-moon and Simihden cultivars contain as high as 1700 and 1651 μg (micrograms) of beta-carotene in 100 grams (about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup), respectively.

Kepinle Church is Going Local for Christmas!

By *Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP)*

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) is happy to share the photos of local Christmas decorations at the Kepinle church, Kolonia, Pohnpei. Christmas tree is decorated with ornament made with pandanus and coconut leaves and hibiscus fibers. There are many local handmade Christmas wreaths as well.

IFCP keeps encouraging people to “go

local” for coming New Year. Use locally made decorations, prepare local food and/or use, for example, local coconut leave dishes for your family, school and community events.

Local food contains lots of vitamins, minerals and fiber which protect you against diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, vitamin A deficiencies and anemia.

If you are planning to “go local” partially or fully in your New Year gatherings or activities for your families, schools, and communities, please give IFCP a call at (320)3259.

IFCP will go to your events and take a photo of your group “going local.” A photo and a story of your family, school, or community event may appear in the future Kaselehlie Press.

IFCP would like to wish everybody a wonderful and happy New Year.

Let's Go Local!



Local Christmas wreath with makers



Kepinle church is decorated with local handmade Christmas ornaments.

Consumption of foods rich in provitamin A carotenoids, including beta-carotene, helps protect against vitamin A deficiency disorders and anemia. These and other carotenoids helps protect against chronic diseases, including cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. All *Cyrtosperma* cultivars (and other taro types) are superior to rice in respect to carotenoid content, as all types of taro contain at least some beta-carotene, whereas rice contains none.

Mwahng could significantly contribute to an adult's estimated daily requirements of these minerals and vitamins along with a consumption of four cups per day.

Taro, in particular, *Cyrtosperma*, is also rich in fiber, which helps control diabetes. Fiber appears to reduce the absorption of glucose (sugar) from the food that is consumed.

Giant swamp taro (mwahng), which has been incorrectly believed as “just starch,” has turned out to be one of Pohnpeian rich nutrition treasures. The high nutritional values of taro are the secret of a strong body of ancient Pohnpeians.



Contents of beta carotene in 100g (about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup) of giant swamp taro and rice

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PROTECTING YOUR COMMUNITY DURING A DROUGHT

STEP 1

Be aware of drought warning signs, such as an unusual rise in temperature or humidity; low water levels in rivers; dry soil; and dry, brown plants.



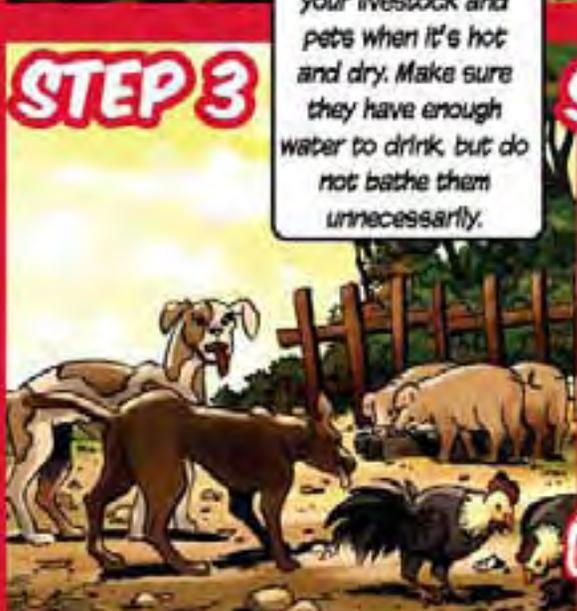
STEP 2

Stay informed by listening to the TV or radio and tell others to do the same.



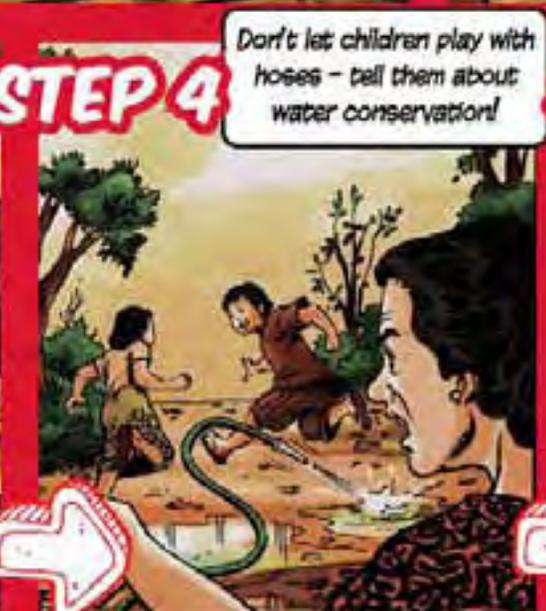
STEP 3

Take good care of your livestock and pets when it's hot and dry. Make sure they have enough water to drink, but do not bathe them unnecessarily.



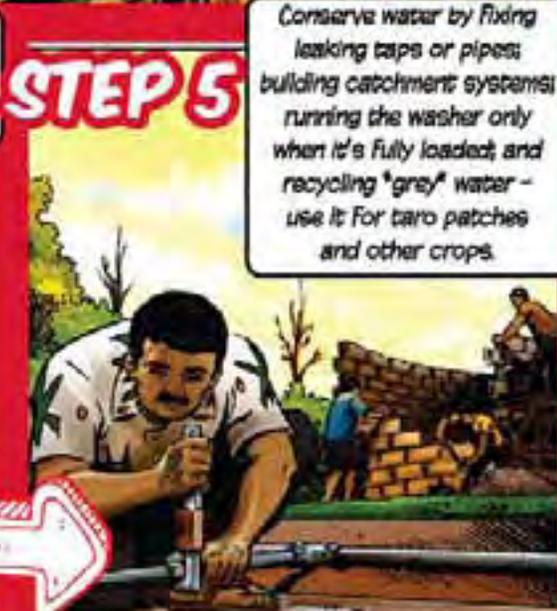
STEP 4

Don't let children play with hoses - tell them about water conservation!



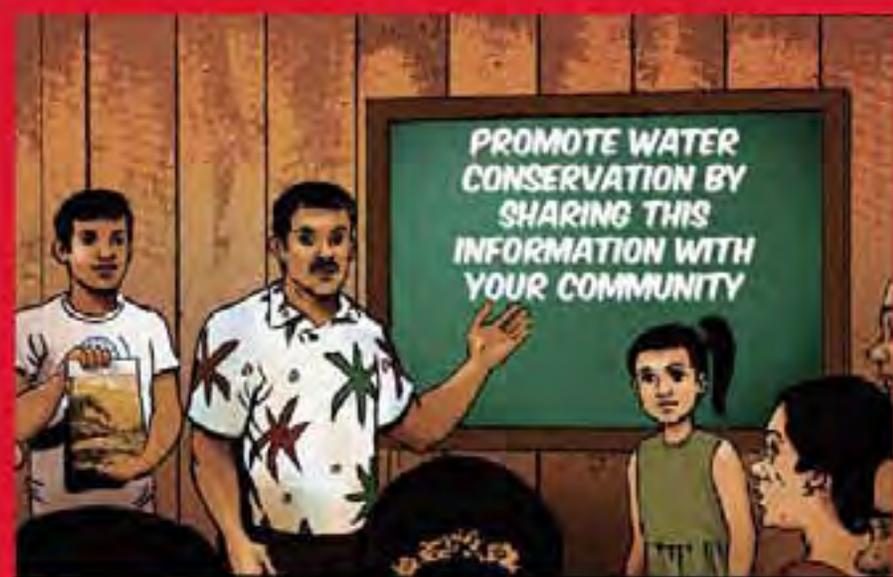
STEP 5

Conserve water by fixing leaking taps or pipes; building catchment systems; running the washer only when it's fully loaded; and recycling "grey" water - use it for taro patches and other crops.



Visit your local IOM office or access our online resources to learn more about how to protect yourself and your community during a drought. Contact us at micronesiaenquiries@iom.int or visit www.iom.int

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