

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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State and National Leadership Conference held in Pohnpei



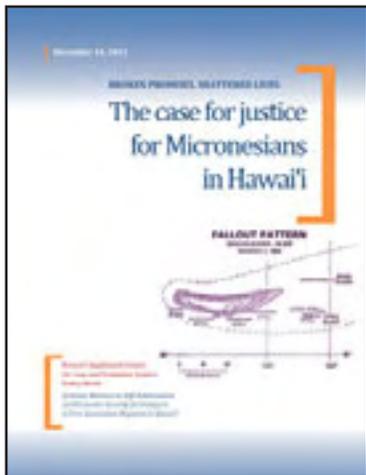
Photos by Nigel Jaynes



Leaders from Executive and Legislative Branches of each of the FSM State Governments and the FSM National Government began meetings on issues of FSM national importance at the College of Micronesia – FSM National Campus on February 1, 2012. At press time the meetings were ongoing and no information had yet been made public from the proceedings. The meetings will end on February 3.

(Editor's note: Though leaders from Kosrae and Yap were certainly present in force at the meetings our photographer was unable to get workable photographs for any of their delegations due to a technical malfunction. We apologize for that inconvenience and mean no disrespect to their delegations.)

Advocates report on Hawai'i's marginalized Micronesians



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 30, 2012 — In December, the financially beleaguered Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice produced a 20 page policy briefing on systemic barriers to self-achievement and economic security for Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants in Hawai'i.

The report is entitled "Broken promises,

each have separate Compacts of Free Association with the United States that allow their citizens to freely immigrate to the United States. The countries are geographically located within Micronesia.

The Appleseed Center report is based on legal and historical research along with interviews conducted with 21 individuals and is intended to educate and help to stimulate awareness, advocacy, and action to address the challenges faced by Micronesian migrants in Hawai'i.

Hard copies of the report were distributed to all of the legislative members and the Executive Branch of the Hawai'i Government as well as to each of the social service programs in Hawai'i. Approximately 500 hard copies of the report were distributed.

The briefing also went out in electronic format to the 900 members who receive the center's monthly "eblast" on their activities. The report can be accessed in PDF format on the website of the East-West Center at:

<http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/special/COFAReporFinal12-14-11.pdf>

shattered lives: The case for justice for Micronesians in Hawai'i."

See "Report" on page 7

The Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands

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J&GO holding hearings on bill for "Special Prosecutor Act"

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 1, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM— The committee on Judiciary and Government Operations (J&GO) is to hear testimony on a bill (C.B. 17-33) that would allow for the appointment of a special prosecutor to independently investigate and prosecute claims of alleged national felonies committed by government officials.

A hearing scheduled for yesterday afternoon was postponed when a hearing of the same committee with the candidate for Secretary for the Department of Justice went beyond its schedule. The J&GO committee hearing has not yet been rescheduled due to the meeting of the FSM's state and national leadership currently taking place at the College of Micronesia National Campus.

The bill would add a new chapter 18 to title 12 of the Code of the FSM.

Under the bill in its current incarnation, every two years the Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court would appoint three

Justices to a judicial panel for the purpose of appointing and supervising special prosecutors. The Chief Justice would fill any vacancy on the judicial panel for the remainder of the two year period in which the vacancy occurs. The Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court would serve as the clerk of the judicial panel.

The J&GO committee of the FSM Congress could request in writing that the judicial panel appoint a special prosecutor. The request should be based on:

- Information and belief that an individual may have committed a national felony while holding an applicable position in the FSM Government (an applicable position is defined as the President and Vice President and all positions appointed with the advice and consent of the Congress including individuals holding such positions in an acting capacity.)
- A finding of a conflict of interest or other specific reason that the investigation or prosecution of a matter could not be effectively conducted by the Attorney General or the Department of Justice.

The committee's request shall contain sufficient information to constitute grounds

for investigation, but need not specify a particular individual or violation.

The judicial panel would have 90 days to appoint as special prosecutor, a person who has appropriate experience, has no conflicts of interest, and who will conduct the prosecution in a prompt, responsible, and cost-effective manner.

The judicial panel would be responsible to define the jurisdiction of the special prosecutor ensuring that the person has adequate authority to fully investigate and prosecute the subject matter and all matters relating to that subject matter. The jurisdiction would also include the authority to investigate and prosecute national felonies that may arise out of the investigation or prosecution of that subject matter, including perjury, hindering prosecution, tampering with or fabricating evidence, and tampering with witnesses or informants.

The judicial panel may expand the jurisdiction of the special prosecutor if the special prosecutor discovers or receives information about additional possible violations of criminal law.

A special prosecutor would have full power and independent authority to exercise all investigative and prosecutorial functions and powers of the Department of Justice and the Attorney General.

Upon appointment of a special prosecutor Congress would appropriate funds for the operations and expenses of the special prosecutor relating to the specific matter under investigation. The judicial panel would authorize the disbursement of those

funds as necessary for the performance of the special prosecutor's duties.

The J&GO committee would have oversight duties with respect to the official conduct of any special prosecutor.

Every six months a special prosecutor would be required to file with the judicial panel a report which identifies and explains expenses incurred during the six month period, and estimates future expenses.

A special prosecutor would be required to report annually and upon termination of his or her appointment. The report would need to include a description of the progress of any investigation or prosecution, omitting any matter that in the judgment of the special prosecutor should be kept confidential, but still adequate to justify the expenditures that the prosecutor has made.

A special prosecutor would be required to advise the Congress of any substantial and credible information that person receives that may constitute grounds for an impeachment.

Upon completion of an investigation or termination of a special prosecutor all documents would be required to be turned over to the judicial panel and retained until the relevant statute of limitations for any alleged felony has expired.

The rest of the bill deals with the termination of a special prosecutor's appointment.

The FSM's J&GO committee has already held some hearings on the bill in FSM states.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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Australia's Ambassador Martin Quinn hosts an Australia Day celebration at the Australian Embassy Housing Compound in Pohnpei. Though Australia Day is on January 26, the public celebration was held in Pohnpei on the following day. Amongst the guests were local and visiting Australians, FSM Vice President Alik Alik, Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa, members of the FSM Congress and the Pohnpei State Legislature, some members of the Pohnpei and FSM Executive branches, and members of the diplomatic corps.

President wants changes in Senators' official expense allowance accounting

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 28, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—FSM President Manny Mory has requested that the FSM Congress consider legislation he submitted through Floor Leader Florencio Singkoro Harper that would impose changes in the way that official expense allowances are handled by members of Congress.

“I have noticed a pattern of practice by some members of Congress who regularly submitted affidavits, in lieu of written contracts or receipts, as supporting documents of official expense allowance. While current national law allows an affidavit, its use on a regular basis leads to inconsistency in our practices and undermines transparency in government,” his official transmittal letter for the bill said.

“You will recall that the Financial Management Act requires supporting document to

justify every obligation incurred by the national government. The supporting document would normally be in the form of a written contract or receipt,” his letter said.

In addition to requiring that official expense allowance expenditures be backed up by a written contract or receipt the bill inexplicably would make all of those expenditures subject to a Senator’s personal national income tax.

The bill’s title says that its purpose is “to do away with submission of affidavit as supporting document of expenses from representation and official expense allowance, and for other purposes. However, the bill, numbered CB 17-183 would, if passed in its current form, still allow representation expenses to be accounted for by the use of an affidavit. As the bill is currently worded it would exclude the current legally acceptable practice of advance payments of official expense allowances while allowing advance payments of representation expenses.

The bill would be an amendment to section 224A of title 55 of the code of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Simina proposes salary increases for high government officials

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 31, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—On the 23rd of January, Senator Wesley Simina submitted three bills to the 17th Congress of the FSM dealing with salaries for high officials within the FSM Government.

Simina’s bill, C.B. 17-91 proposes that the salary of the Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court be increased from \$45,000 per year to \$60,000 per year. It also proposes that the salaries of Associate Justices of the Supreme Court be increased from \$43,000 per year to \$50,000 per year.

Simina’s bill, C.B. 17-92 proposes that the salaries of Members of the FSM Congress be

increased from \$27,000 per year to \$35,000 per year. It also proposes that the salary for the Speaker of the FSM Congress be increased from \$30,000 per year to \$40,000 per year.

Simina’s bill, C.B 17-93 proposes that the salary for the FSM President be increased from \$32,000 per year to \$50,000 per year. It proposes that the salary for the Vice President be increased from \$30,000 per year to \$45,000 per year.

Senator Dohsis Halbert, chairman of the Ways and Means standing committee of the 17th Congress raised his eyebrows and said that he doesn’t think the bills have much chance. Senator David Panuelo, chairman of the Judicial and Governmental Operations standing committee of the 17th Congress when asked about the bills’ prospects in his committee shook his head and walked away chuckling to himself.

KAMAGAR!

KINISOU CHAPUR!

KALAHNGAN!

KULO MA LULAP!

Mahalo!

LYONS

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

...for the privilege of “Improving Island Life” since 1961...

Simina proposes new requirements for Joint Trust Fund Committee reps

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 1, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—Senator Wesley Simina has submitted a bill (17-95) that would change required credentials and the number and length of terms served of Federated States of Micronesia representatives on the Joint Trust Fund Committee.

As U.S. sector grant funding contributions under the Compact of Free Association decrease on an annual basis, U.S. contributions to an FSM Trust Fund increase in an inversely proportional way. The trust fund is designed to replace sector grant funding when the economic provisions of the Compact expire in 2023. Under the terms of the Compact, the FSM would be able to draw down annual interest earnings from the Trust Fund after that time but if it ever touches the principal it would forfeit the entire Trust Fund. Since the first deposit into the Trust Fund it has never performed satisfactorily and that matter was only worsened with the economic downturn of recent years.

Trust Fund decisions are handled by Joint Trust Fund Committee with representatives from the United States and two representatives from the FSM.

The law currently says that two FSM representatives are selected by the President and each require the advice and consent of the FSM Congress. The President must select

one representative from a position within the FSM National government related to law or finance. The other nominee is to come from the private sector and must have at least five years of working experience in financial management and investment.

The law has limited terms of representatives to three years each and a representative may be reappointed to office for not more than two consecutive terms. Both representatives must be FSM citizens.

Airen Palik, of Kosrae has been the Private Sector representative to the Joint Trust Fund Committee. Palik is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Islands Development Bank and had extensive experience with the Bank of Hawaii before that time. President Mori has nominated Kembo Mida, Jr. as the private sector representative for the next term on the Joint Trust Fund Committee. Mida is a well known and accomplished young lawyer but does not have the credentials to meet the terms of the law.

Senator Simina's bill, if it is passed in its present form would change the qualifications for a representative of the Joint Trust Fund Committee to say that a representative must have five years of working experience in law, financial management OR investment. It would also change the term for a representative from three years to four and would remove any limit to the number of consecutive terms.

The bill also would remove the requirement that one representative must be from a position within the FSM National Government related to law or finance, and the other one will be from the private sector. If his bill is passed anyone with the new qualifications, whether they a part of the public sector or the private sector could be a representative on the Joint Trust Fund Committee.

Congress resolution would declare FSM EEZ as marine sanctuary

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 30, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—Congress is considering a resolution that would request the President of the FSM and the four State governments to take action to declare the FSM exclusive economic zone as a marine sanctuary.

In the Western and Central Pacific Ocean the FSM EEZ is second in size only to the EEZ of Kiribati. It is a huge area of ocean comparable in size to the entire land mass of the Continental United States.

The resolution, which has not yet come to a vote in the FSM Congress, would be a Congressional declaration that the FSM EEZ is a marine sanctuary for sharks, rays, dolphin and, whales. It would urge President Mori to take necessary action to create the sanctuary and for the Governors of each FSM State to do the same for each of their 12 mile zones within the FSM EEZ.

The resolution was sponsored by former FSM President, Senator Joseph Urusemal of Yap.

The resolution recognizes the important role that sharks, rays, dolphins, and whales play in the ocean's ecosystem, as well as a significant part of the FSM's cultural heritage and tourism throughout the FSM.

It says that international agencies have indicated that the populations of sharks, rays, dolphins, and whales are in a worldwide decline. "Despite efforts to educate the public as to the disruption to the ocean's equilibrium, sharks, rays, dolphins, and whales are still in decline," the resolution says.

If the FSM passes the resolution it would join "the international community in its commitment to ensure that sharks, rays, dolphins, and whales do not become extinct.

Last year the Republic of Palau declared its waters to be a shark sanctuary and banned shark finning, in their EEZ.

Resolution to the people of North Korea tabled indefinitely

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 30, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—On two session days in Congress significant conversation revolved around an ill fated resolution regarding the death of Kim Jong-II and best wishes of the future of the Democratic People under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong-un. The resolution (C.R. 17-97) was submitted to Congress by Speaker Isaac V. Figir on January 16.

Observers said that the debate amongst Senators on the Congress floor on the fourth day of the third regular session, Thursday, January 19, 2012 was unusually heated. According to the Congressional Journal for Day 5 Speaker Figir ordered the statements on resolution 17-97 to be stricken from that day's journal because "there were statements made inappropriately because we did not follow our Rules of Procedure. Indeed the Congressional Journal for day 4 of the third regular session contains no mention that Senators ever mentioned the resolution at all. Action on the resolution was deferred on Day 5.

It was not until Monday, January 30, day 15 of the third regular session that the resolution was on the Congressional Order of Business for action again. Amongst the materials for that day was an amendment to the resolution that would have been submitted by Senator Wesley Simina if the opportunity had presented itself. That amendment would have, in addition to correcting a typographical error, added a wish for the people of North Korea not only for peace, prosperity, and freedom but also for democracy. But Senator Simina never had an opportunity to present his amendment.

Senator Tony Otto made a motion to defer action on the resolution indefinitely; to table the resolution. Division was called on the first voice vote on Senator Otto's motion. To resolve the division Speaker Figir then asked for a show of hands for "yes" votes to the motion. Two senators raised their hands and Speaker Figir, in an apparent moment of confusion declared the motion passed having never asked for opposition votes. That fact was pointed out to him and in order to resolve that problem he asked for a roll call of members. Only four members voted against Senator Otto's motion and the resolution essentially died on the floor.

Immediately afterward, Senator Peter Christian made a motion to skip to the "Miscellaneous Business" agenda item, which passed. He expressed sadness that Congress had not passed the resolution which would, he said, simply have expressed condolences on the passing of North Korea's "chosen" leader. He pointed out that the U.S. has been working hard to bring peace to the area and that the FSM prays that the effort will bear fruit. He said that his hope in passing the resolution would have been to wish the people of North Korea well and to show that there are countries that want to help with the peace effort. "This will not help the peace effort," he said.

Senator Yosiwo George said that he voted to table the resolution not because he didn't want to seek peace for the region but because of the message it sends to the world would be questioned. "We are a sovereign nation and we choose our partners," he concluded.

Senator Christian rhetorically asked what kind of message it is when the U.S. send humanitarian aid to North Korea. He said that kind of message makes him proud to be associated with the U.S.

Senator Simina said that his amendment would have changed the tune of the resolution to something more optimistic; a wish for democracy for the people. He said that the FSM should be more sensitive to the people of North Korea at this time of mourning.

Senator David Panuelo said that the FSM's foreign policy should be more proactive and more defined. "Relations do matter. Who we align ourselves with should matter," he said.

Speaker Figir concluded the miscellaneous business discussion of the tabled resolution. He said that the Preamble of the FSM Constitution makes him emotional when he thinks about it, particularly when it speaks of the FSM having been ruled. Referring to Kim Jong-II, Figir said that despite what he did when he was alive he holds out hope that that his son Kim Jonh-un may realize that his father may not have necessarily done the right things. He hoped that the resolution would help to inspire reform and a realization that aggression doesn't bring peace.

He concluded his statement by saying that he couldn't sleep the night he heard that Kim Jong-II had died. Any of their missiles could hit us, he said.

EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY



The FSM Petroleum Corporation is a progressive State Owned Enterprise that values diversity, inclusiveness, and is committed to harnessing the local talent of FSM Citizens. The company employs some of the best people in the industry, and has a mission to develop and train our people to be the best at what they do in the Region.

We offer an exciting career development opportunity to a suitably qualified and experienced professional based at our Head Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

The company has a network of computers that support key operational and financial software enabling the enforcement of core controls across the business for the management of sales, inventory, safety and risk management. The network comprises eight locations across the four States of the FSM and Guam. In general our system includes the following:

- a) a main server cluster located in Pohnpei with four physical servers, and 11 virtual servers;
- b) four location servers complete with UPS systems;
- c) eight local area networks;
- d) sixty laptop and desktop computers;
- e) sixteen laser printers

Reporting to the ICT Manager, your principle responsibilities will include frontline phone support, physical support, training and maintenance of operating systems, networks and applications.

We are seeking an individual that works well under pressure, is able to juggle several projects at once, is outgoing and comfortable meeting new people. Due to the nature of the work they must be accurate, flexible, enthusiastic, and responsible.

Tasks and Duties: Our Technical Support Officer (TSO) will need the ability to work as part of a team and as an individual and be able to effectively communicate with all team members, ICT clients and consultants.

They will need to enter tasks into the helpdesk and appropriately assign and prioritise these tasks. They will deal with a wide range of people from all levels of the organization. They will provide prompt assistance and training to users with a diverse range of computing skills and work with external consultants on projects and support matters.

Skills: Our TSO will need to have:

- excellent communication skills (both written and oral)
- good time-management and organizational skills;
- flexibility given the number of locations, systems and users supported;
- computer, desktop publishing skills;
- creativity to communicate in different ways;
- excellent interpersonal skills;
- the ability to form and maintain relationships through teamwork and networking;
- provide frontline support;
- track all tasks assigned to yourself from request to resolution;
- undertake day-to-day ICT maintenance duties;
- have sound knowledge of Microsoft operating environment

Education/Experience: The job requires a college degree in Computer Science or a related field. Though tertiary qualifications are important, we will consider individuals with extensive work and job experience relative to this field and train them accordingly.

Salary: A competitive benefits package will be offered to the successful candidate.

Applicants are invited to submit a Letter of Interest with a completed Employment Application Form, a Resume and three Referees. Employment Application can be picked up from any of the FSMPC Offices in all four States.

Email applications can be sent to ltiegmai@fsmc.com, or mailed to Administration Manager, P.O. Box 1762, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941 in a sealed envelope marked "Technical Support Officer", and addressed no later than 20th February 2012.

Christian introduces Telecom liberalization bill

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 2, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—On January 27, Senator Peter Christian, chairman of Congress committee on Transportation and Communications has introduced a bill (C.B. 17-96) which, if passed would open up competition in telecommunications services.

The changes Senator Christian has proposed are few but they are significant. The current wording of the enabling legislation establishing and defining the duties of FSM Telecommunications, Incorporated (FSMTC) says that their power and responsibilities are: "To operate as the sole provider of all telecommunications services, except radio and television broadcasting, within the Federated States of Micronesia..."

Senator Christian's changes would change the law to read: "to provide telecommunications services, internet services, cellular services and radio and television broadcasting, within the Federated States of Micronesia..."

The bill would also completely remove the responsibility for FSMTC "to represent the Federated States of Micronesia with regard to telecommunications matters in such international organizations and for a (sic) in which the Federated States of Micronesia is represented, subject to the policy guidance of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia."

On January 28 Speaker Christian made a statement during the Miscellaneous Agenda item that dealt both with CB 17-96 and the resolution he introduced earlier recommending early termination of the Compact of Free Association. His statement is as follows:

"Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to repeat something I know you

already know, and most of the Members already know, is that a bill being introduced in the 17th congress for its consideration, and the purpose of that bill is to liberalize the Telecommunications services currently held by the FSM Telecom, and its purpose is well stated, I think well stated in the bill. The purpose of the bill is to invite the Telecommunication services to a round table discussion on their ability to continue as sole provider and at the same time provide quality and efficient service to the customers in this country.

"I know that, like in the bill that was introduced seeking early termination of the Compact of Free Association, this bill is almost probably not going to go anywhere; as sad as I am that it is taking time for the question of termination of the Compact to be brought to the people so that I, the introducer could be judged on my move; the suggestion that this nation reconsider its current relationship with the United States.

"The Telecommunication bill is the same thing. I'd like to know what the people of this country think about the current services of Telecom. And I hope that Telecom and recipients of their services will bring to Congress their wisdom to guide Congress on whether or not to liberalize the services of Telecommunications or leave it the way it is today.

"And so Mr. Speaker, I thank you and I understand that the Chairman of Foreign Affairs has custody over the bill on the early termination of the Compact of Free Association. It is his prerogative to do what he wish(es) with that bill, but I do make this request of him that at least make the bill available to the States, so that at least in the State of Pohnpei, and for that matter, in the other States, people can make comments to tell me that I am wrong in thinking that way.

"Thank you very much."

Yap's second annual Homecoming Festival

"Celebrating the Yapese spirit by reuniting friends & family"

VisitYap.com

January 26, 2012

Colonia, Yap, FSM—Yap's Second Annual Homecoming Festival is scheduled for June 16, 2012. The festival is a one day gathering in Colonia and will feature the Chamorro History of the island.

The purpose of the festival this year is to highlight the history and contributions of the Chamorro population in Yap. The Spanish era (1686-1899), during which they first came, will be highlighted. There will be rare archival photos on display and related activities that will not only entertain, but educate the public about the Chamorro history of Yap. The Chamorros came to work as teachers and government officials and helped to establish the first church. They settled along a major bay in Colonia which is named after them. During the celebration there will be food and game stalls set up in Colonia. Traditional dances, sailing canoes and other exhibits will be on display at the Yap Living History Museum which is located in the heart of Colonia.

Photo by William Hoffman - Paradise Media Pohnpei



Talented painter, Dominador "Juhn" Clavecilla, a long time employee of R.S. Roque Commercial Arts works on his "masterpiece" on the wall outside of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in Pohnpei. R.S. Roque was commissioned to hand paint several species of fish and sharks on the wall. The result has been astounding.

Cuthbert supplies internet conectivity for WeiPat High School

Cuthbert Project

In January 2012 a fully functional, internet connected, computer lab was set up at WeiPat High school on the island of Onoun in the Naomnuito Atoll of Chuuk State, FSM. In a partnership between The Cuthbert Project and Guam Community College, funded by the Department of the Interior this project labeled "WeiPat 2012" is the first of its kind in Micronesia.

A 20 foot shipping container was loaded on Guam with every piece needed to complete the project such as lumber, cement, rebar, windows, doors, a complete electrical system, paints and all necessary tools and accessories. In addition, almost 8,000 lbs of donated books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, school supplies and paper were included in the shipment. This container was then shipped to Weno where it was unloaded and repacked aboard a small chartered motor vessel for shipment to Onoun 120 miles NW of Weno. In Weno a satellite dish and modem were added to the shipment.

After a 26 hour passage to Onoun the contents were off loaded into small outboard motor boats and taken ashore where everything was then hand carried from the beach to WeiPat High School several hundred yards away and then construction began in a leaky and abandon concrete room.

On the first day a temporary internet connect was established and at noon on January 22 the island of Onoun sent its first email. The dish was later installed on

a permanent mount on the roof over the computer lab.

In 3 days the students of WeiPat and the residents of Onoun patched the concrete roof, re-plastered the interior, removed concrete walls, installed new windows and doors, installed a new subpanel and circuit breakers, ceiling fans, lights and duplex plugs. The entire interior and exterior were then given a new paint job and the roof was sealed to prevent future leaks. At the end of the third day new tables and chairs were installed, the existing computers, as well as the new computers were set up, plugged in and turned on. The island has a large photovoltaic array set up by the European Union in 2008 so power is not a problem. On the first night a screen was set up and using a digital projector and sound system provided by the project, the children of Onoun were treated to a movie entitled "Midnight at the Smithsonian." They were enthralled.

The Cuthbert Project has been operational at WeiPat High School since 2009 but with limited resources so, most of the 200 students have had limited access to computers. Now with 28 new computers to be added to the existing equipment the lab can accommodate 35 students per hour or 280 student hours per day.

The motor vessel, after off-loading at Onoun, continued on to the other 4 islands in the Namonuitoes, which have elementary schools, to deliver the balance of the donated school supplies. These islands are Magur, Ono, Onori and Pisara. Operating in the outer-islands of Micronesia is difficult. Communication is by short wave or satellite phone, there is no regular

boat service to or from anywhere and on a project like WeiPat 2012 everything must be included in the shipment. If you don't bring it, you won't find it out there.

The Cuthbert Project was founded to give the kids in the outer-islands a chance, which they do not now have, to good education. There are some good minds out there and they will be lost without an opportunity to learn.



C L A S S R O O M B E F O R E



C L A S S R O O M A F T E R

...Report

Continued from front page

The Appleseed Center has three staff attorneys, none of whom are Micronesians. "We do all our work with private lawyers who are willing to help on a pro bono basis. One of those lawyers is Micronesian," Victor Geminiani, the executive director of the Appleseed Center wrote in an email response to our questions.

The mission of the Appleseed Center is to help their clients "gain access to the resources, services and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self achievement and economic security."

"In recent years, the presence of COFA migrants in the Aloha State has become controversial," the policy brief asserts. Politicians have decried the so called, "Compact Impact" of Micronesian families using public services while comments in the media has urged them to 'Keep these leeches off our island.' Not surprisingly, as the state's economy took a downturn, the amount of negative stigma associated with this community has increased...Only Hawai'i has targeted the Micronesian immigrant population, declaring it responsible for the State budget deficit."

"It is time to remove institutional barriers to assimilation, reject stereotypes that demonize the migrant community and adopt policies that support assimilation," the briefing challenges.

"COFA residents make many significant positive contributions to the U.S. economy and national security, yet they receive very few government benefits. They are legally eligible to work in the U.S.—and to pay state and federal taxes—but unlike all other immigrants and U.S. citizens, COFA residents are excluded by law from ever receiving federal benefits, such as Medicaid. All legal immigrants, refugees, victims of domestic violence, trafficking victims, immigrant victims of crime and asylum seekers are all eligible to receive these benefits, but COFA residents are not," the briefing says.

It also points out that FSM citizens serve in the U.S. armed services at approximately double the per capita rate of American citizens.

The brief's analysis of the historic relationship between the Freely Associated States and the United States pointed to a 1963 Report by the U.S. Survey Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, more commonly known as the Solomon Report as a "demonstration of America's strategic colonialism in the Pacific." It said that the Solomon Report "outlines a political strategy to ensure that after the trusts were dissolved the islands would be permanently politically bound to the U.S."

"Today, these island nations remain poverty-stricken and dependent upon U.S. aid," the brief says. "Thus, migration to Hawai'i has increased steadily. The main reason for migration is the need for health care unavailable in the home islands, followed by a desire for better education and better job opportunities. In other words, COFA migrants are not unlike other immigrant groups in U.S. history," it concludes.

"Challenges to COFA migrants in Hawai'i fall largely into three categories: language barriers,

cultural barriers and social barriers," the report claims.

For readers who operate under the utopian and false idea that racial discrimination and bigotry is a thing of the past in the United States the policy brief is nothing short of shocking.

- "They call us cockroaches," said a ten-year-old Chuukese girl asked how Chuukese students are treated at school by other students..."
- "One Chuukese woman said, one morning while she was driving with her young daughter, she tuned in a local radio station asking how Chuukese and cockroaches are the same. She listened long enough to hear the punch line—"They both multiply"—before switching the station to prevent her child from hearing more..."
- "A former teacher said she has heard other teachers call Chuukese students 'stupid' and 'no good...'"
- "A Chuukese man said that when he was searching for an apartment, landlords would tell him on the telephone that a unit was available. When he met them in person, it became unavailable..."
- "One (service) provider said when he calls other service providers on behalf (of) a Micronesian client, it is not uncommon to hear a response such as 'Oh those [expletive] Micronesians, they're just awful, I can't stand it.' Another said she heard a caseworker say of Micronesians that their problems are caused by too much inbreeding..."
- In a recent article "Discrimination in Hawai'i and Health of Micronesians," Dr. Seiji Yamada quotes a doctor purportedly telling a medical student, "We shoulda just wiped the islands off the earth when we had the chance..."
- "The Republic of Marshall Islands Consulate repeatedly has received hate messages reading, '[Expletive] Micronesia. Kill all Micronesians...'"

The examples in the briefing are numerous and equally shocking to those above.

"In education, health care, employment, housing, and law, mutual cultural misunderstanding contribute greatly to migrants' difficulties attaining self-achievement," the brief says.

"...For example, COFA migrants may maintain the strong cultural value of giving family needs top priority, which can conflict with employer expectations."

"COFA migrants come from community-based societies and often have difficulty understanding and adopting our westernized individual-based systems. This can affect their ability to find and keep housing. A study conducted at a transitional shelter in Hawai'i in 2007 found the number one reason for homelessness amongst Micronesian residents was eviction due to overcrowding. Several interviewees corroborated this finding: one homeless shelter director even said he has seen Micronesian migrants jeopardize their chances of receiving public housing because of a refusal to separate family members."

The Appleseed brief says, "Micronesians

disproportionately find themselves in Hawai'i's court system in part because of a lack of understanding of Hawai'i laws, interviewees said. They also said language barriers decrease the likelihood that migrants will be let off with a warning for small offenses and social stereotypes contribute to racial profiling."

As part of his response to our questions and without making commentary, Geminiani sent us a copy by email of a January 28 news report from the Honolulu Star in which a 30 year old Chuukese man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for fatally stabbing his cousin after a night of drinking to celebrate the new year on January 20, 2010.

Peter David said that he stabbed 27-year-old Santhony Albert in self-defense as Albert, David's cousin was beating him. Both of the men had been drinking. While the victim's blood alcohol content was measured at 0.25, more than three times the legal threshold for drunken driving, David's could not be measured because he fled the scene after the stabbing. He turned himself in to police the next day.

According to the article Prosecutor Darrell Wong urged the court to impose the stiff penalty, "to send a message out to the Micronesian community, mainly the males, who take it upon themselves the idea that they can just drink all they want and not be responsible for what happen after that."

Wong said, "Over the past few years we have had a number of cases that have come in involving Chuukese, Micronesian males... who get inebriated on alcohol and then become violent with their own family members, their own friends, and it involves lives."

The article quotes Geminiani, of the Appleseed Center as saying that Wong's comment was a "cheap shot" and insensitive. "The message it sends to a population in our community that has already been marginalized is disgraceful."

The article also quoted Oncher "Cheron" Walter, vice president of Micronesians United as saying, "It's not just Micronesians who do bad things when they drink. The jails are not filled with just Micronesians."

Ironically, a Chuukese student studying for a doctorate in Hawai'i sent us two other articles from the January 30, Honolulu Star-Advertiser. One was about a stabbing death in Waikiki on January 22 that occurred during an altercation over a stolen bag. The article says that "prosecutors declined to take up the case, saying it was a matter of self defense." The other article was about a fatal stabbing on January 27 at the Mayor Wright housing project in Honolulu. The suspect in that case was also released because of "self-defense issues."

The Appleseed Center's policy briefing says, "The positive contributions of Micronesians are rarely highlighted and, while we do not measure other immigrant communities' use of resources, the COFA community has been singled out...The government's persistent effort to cut health care benefits for this community is a frightening embodiment of that bigotry in public policy, and represents the most dangerous manifestation of social discrimination against Micronesians yet."

It was in the fulfillment of their mission that the Appleseed Center first became involved in

legal advocacy for the Micronesian community in Hawai'i.

When the Hawai'i State Government tried to reduce health care and to eliminate dialysis and chemotherapy treatment for COFA residents residing in Hawai'i the Appleseed Center filed a class action on behalf of those citizens of Freely Associated States (FAS). As a result of that action the court issued an injunction that stopped cuts because of due process violations with the notice.

In 2010 the Hawai'i government tried again to cut residents out of the state's health care plan. Once again, the Appleseed Center filed a federal class action on behalf of citizens of the Freely Associated States. The federal court issued another injunction based on equal protection. Hawai'i has appealed that federal class action injunction to the 9th Circuit court. The court has not yet heard that appeal and there is likely more legal work to do on the matter on behalf of Micronesians.

"Unfortunately we have very little money to operate and nothing to support more work with the COFA community," Geminiani wrote.

"My biggest resentment is that the consul offices here in Hawai'i, as well as all of the Governments of RMI, FSM, and ROP, have been of no help to either support or help fund our efforts. Their citizens in Hawai'i are left to fend for themselves in a culture that is growing with hostility and a political system that is continuing to marginalize them daily, the attempt to restrict travel to the U.S. by our congressional delegation as well as our governor claiming that the federal government should pay for services are two easy examples. Where are the COFA government actions to protect and defend their own people?"

He said that in January of 2010, after the first court victory, Appleseed Center representatives met with a delegation from the FSM and RMI legislatures at the request of the delegation. Geminiani said that he told the delegation that the center would not be able to continue with a second case unless they received a little funding because the center was close to going out of business.

The members of the delegation asked the Appleseed Center to put together a proposal for funding "since we all knew that the Lingle (former Governor of Hawai'i) administration would try again to implement the program which they did later that year."

Appleseed Center staff members put together a comprehensive funding proposal and shipped it off to approximately 10 legislators from the two countries and to the FSM consul in Hawaii. To this date Geminiani has not received any response from the FSM nor the RMI.

"The only way we were able to do the second case, which we also won, was that five Micronesian groups in Hawai'i raised \$20,000 just to keep the office non-personnel costs met. Our entire staff including me was laid off for 10 months and worked for free on the second case," Geminiani wrote.

The Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which among other things means that U.S. taxpayers can take legally allowable tax deductions for donations they make to the center.

The FSM and the Japan Association of Maritime Safety sign assistance package MOU

FSM Information Services

January 30, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei—A four-member team from the Nippon Foundation of Japan visited the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from January 25-28, 2012 led by Mr. Takayuki Yamakawa, a retired Rear Admiral of the Japan Coast Guard and Chief Researcher of the Japanese Association of Maritime Safety (JAMS). The other members were Mr. Hiroki Nakamura, Managing Director of Nippon Maritime Center (NMC), Mr. Takashi Sakai, Deputy Managing Director of NMC and Ms. Sanae Takahashi, Researcher of JAMS. The visit was undertaken to begin implementation of the terms of the agreement between the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the Micronesian countries of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of

Micronesia as discussed in various meetings, including the June 23, 2011 meeting where a package of individual assistance was finalized. The overall objective of the assistance from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation is to improve maritime surveillance capability of the three Micronesian States.

In the case of the FSM, the first phase of the project under the assistance package entails provision of a fully equipped 15-meter (about 45ft) patrol boat with a top speed of 30 knots, a maximum capacity of 14-crew, and a range of 400 nautical miles at 20 knots cruising speed. A communication facility will also be provided, along with fuel for ten years in normal operation of the boat as well as for its involvement in maritime exercises, and provision of required trainings and spare parts for the boat.

The visit was the first to have been undertaken by the Nippon Foundation for initial project implementation with the principal aim of

reviewing and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the FSM and the JAMS. The MOU outlines the assistance package and the responsibilities of the FSM when the small patrol craft and the communication facilities are handed over in a turnover ceremony envisioned to be in September. Signing the MOU for the FSM was the Secretary of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure (TC&I), Mr. Francis Itimai, and for the JAMS was Mr. Michio Matsuura, President of Nippon Foundation. With the signing of the MOU, a historical relationship has been struck for the first time between the FSM Government and a Japanese Non-Governmental Organization under the overall umbrella relationship between Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the three Micronesian States.

Discussions on specifications for the patrol boat and the communication facility, administrative and logistical requirements for the turnover ceremony as well as fuel provisioning also took

place at the meeting before the visiting group met with the FSM Department of Justice and the Petroleum Corporation.

Secretary Itimai signed the MOU on behalf of the FSM based on earlier designation by President Mori, establishing the Department of TC&I as the focal point for negotiation of the project. However, the recipient of the project is the Department of Justice, Maritime Surveillance Program. The other phases of the project are yet to be discussed.

Involved in the meeting were the lead Department of TC& I through Secretary Francis Itimai and Captain Mathias Mangmog, the Department of Justice in the persons of Commander of Maritime Wing Captain David Marar, Lieutenant Johnny Santos of the National Police Division and Assistant Attorney General Danny Rescue Jr.; the Department of Resources and Development by Assistant Secretary Hubert Yamada and the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Assistant Secretary and Chair of the Meeting, Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar.

Mortlocks Island invested in renewable energy

(Palikir, Pohnpei) On January 21, 2012, Ettal Municipal Government Mayor Nick Emilio (sitting right) and Micronesia Energy Technology & Supplies (METS) Chairman Fabian Nimea (left) signed a financing agreement for METS to install a 7.14 kWp off-grid solar photovoltaic (PV) system for Ettal Island in the Mortlocks, Chuuk State. METS' certified electrician and licensed solar installer, Christopher Greenlund, will provide technical training. Witnessing the ceremony were friends and citizens of Ettal in Pohnpei. Mayor Emilio pointed out that "this is an important milestone for Ettal and METS. We must invest in ways that advance economic position and improve our people's standards of living. Our school, dispensary, government, and private sector will have solar power - friendly and non-destructive to the island environment - and other technologies to bolster productive capacity. It is our vision reflecting the mandates of our Constitution."

Chairman Nimea said, "we now have a small island government making an investment that will yield big returns. It's a more sustainable model that fosters aspirations. The continued rise in price of fossil fuel has had made heavy claims on the limited resources within FSM, especially

the outer islands. It hampers people's mobility and reduces their consumption pattern and overall productivity. The objectives that FSM must pursue in the energy sector are defined by two main problems. First, it must make the transition to an era of higher commercial energy costs as rapidly and as painlessly as possible, and second, it must ensure that rural energy needs for both domestic and productive purposes are adequately met."

He indicated there are on-going major challenges such as climate change, the global economic and financial meltdown, and FSM overall economic structure and condition that everyone must be aware of. The outer islands are most vulnerable and they should work with the international community and all levels of government to access any available assistance to minimize associated risks and adverse impact. "We must be persistent and passionate in our pursuit of progress and ever more committed to making the values of our people come to life - for that is our way forward," he added.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 2012-001

Opening Date: January 25, 2012
Closing Date: February 24, 2012

It is the policy of the FSM Development Bank that FSM citizens be given first priority for employment consideration with other Micronesians, U.S. citizens, and other nationals utilized in positions for which no qualified citizens are available.

POSITION & GRADE: Loan Officer, Grade 4
LOCATION: FSM Development Bank, Yap Branch
SALARY: \$16,515.20 per annum, higher salary may be considered depending upon qualification

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Illustrative only): Provides information regarding the Bank's services, functions, loan procedures and business advantages to potential customers and clients.

1. Interviews applicants for loans and complies all necessary data regarding the client's proposed project. Informs clients regarding the Bank's requirements and standards for loans. Negotiates and explains terms and conditions of loans to applicants. Issues applications and other lending documents. Assists applicants in completing the documents and/or direct them to appropriate agencies for assistance. Ensures that all loan applications are properly documented.
2. Assesses the economic and financial viability of proposed projects in terms of management experience, technical abilities, marketing, and financial capabilities. Conducts detailed feasibility studies regarding proposals as necessary.
3. Compiles information and prepare loan packages in standard formats for review by the Branch manager and Credit Committee.
4. Administers the disbursement of loan funds to approved projects.
5. Ensures that borrowers fulfill the terms and conditions set out in loan document and lending guidelines. Monitors projects progress via reports and with visits to the project.
6. Pursues the collection of loan payments on current and delinquent loans. Provide assistance to clients with problem accounts within the established policies and procedures of the Bank. Report progress regarding such loans to the Branch manager and implements instructions accordingly.
7. Promotes Bank's business and develops recommendations to market the Bank's services in the local community.
8. Other responsibilities as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Economic or related field from a four-year college or university; plus one to two years related work experience and/or training. Ability to read, analyze, and interpret general business proposals, technical procedures or governmental regulations. Ability to perform economic and financial analysis on loan packages. Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from clients/customers, and the general public. Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios, and proportions to practical situations. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in writing, oral diagram, or schedule form.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications, curriculum vitae, and at least three letters of reference shall be completed and submitted to: The FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei with mailing address as follows: FSM Development Bank, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941 by mail; by fax to 320-2842 or in person at the FSM Development Bank's Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei on or before February 24, 2012.



Ambassador Josef Rychtar of the Czech Republic presents credentials to President Mori

FSM Information Services

January 24, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—At 10:00 a.m. on January 20, President Manny Mori received the letters of credence from His Excellency Josef Rychtar, accrediting him as the second Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Federated States of Micronesia.

The FSM and the Czech Republic established diplomatic relations since 2003 on the basis of mutual interest and respect for each other's sovereignty.

In welcoming the Ambassador, President Mori conveyed his interest to work with the Ambassador and his government of the Czech Republic at all levels and spoke of his appreciation for development cooperation that are aimed at supporting community enrichment and livelihood.

The President also expressed his appreciation for the Czech Republic's financial pledge on climate change in order to assist developing countries and requested for the country's continued support in international climate change debates.

In his response, Ambassador Rychtar thanked the President for receiving him and expressed his country's willingness to assist the FSM as a diplomatic partner. He also complimented the FSM on its efforts in promoting issues of climate change and the environment at the global scene.

Also at the short ceremony were Vice President Alik L. Alik and the cabinet members.

During his short stay in Pohnpei, Ambassador Rychtar also took time to pay courtesy call on Governor John Ehsa and met with Dr. Vita A. Skilling, Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Affairs. He departed Pohnpei for Chuuk on January 21 to meet with Governor Johnson Elimo before returning to Manila.

Ambassador Tomas Javier Calvillo Unna presents credentials to President Mori

FSM Information Services

January 24, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—On Friday afternoon of January 20, 2012 President Emanuel Mori received the Letter of Credence of Tomas Javier Calvillo Unna, Ambassador of the United Mexican States to the Federated States of Micronesia, in an official ceremony at the President's temporary office annex to the official residence in Palikir, Pohnpei. In attendance of the ceremony were Vice-President Alik, Cabinet Members and staff from the President Office and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

During the ceremony, President Mori welcomed the Ambassador to the FSM and thanked him for visiting the FSM and also congratulated him for his historic appointment as the first Ambassador of Mexico to the Federated States of Micronesia since establishment of Diplomatic relations in 2001. The President indicated his desire to strengthen engagement and cooperation between the FSM and Mexico at all levels. He also expressed appreciation and applauded Mexico's leadership for addressing global warming and hosting the 2010 Conference of Parties on the Convention on Climate Change in Cancun.

The Ambassador thanked President Mori and expressed his readiness to promote bilateral, political, economic, educational, and cultural ties between the FSM and Mexico. He also read a poem to the President which he wrote for the occasion.

*"My heart palpitates
With our ancestor's dance
Above,
The Cloud and its rain, in the blue sky
Below,
Tales of canoes
In the ocean's waves
Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae
God's drops
On life's own mirror"*

Ambassador Unna departed Pohnpei on January 21 for Chuuk, where he would pay a courtesy call on the Governor of the Chuuk State before returning to Manila.

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Asterio Takesy presents credentials to President Barak Obama

FSM Information Services

January 31, 2012

Washington D.C, USA—Another historic page in the special relationship between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of

America was turned on 18 January 2012 at approximately 1530 HRS (US EST), when Asterio R Takesy presented his credentials to President Barak Obama as the FSM Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America.

including in Afghanistan.”

In expressing US appreciation for “our very close partnership with the FSM on key issues at the United Nations,” President Obama concluded by reiterating the desirability of working closely “to advance our common agenda and deepen the strong and abiding friendship of our countries and our people.”

The credentialing ceremonies took place at the Oval Office in the White House, where Ambassador Takesy was accompanied by his spouse Justina Takesy, daughter Andria Takesy and members of her family: husband Dennis Lim and their daughters Jia-Rui, Shu Han, and Li-An.

President Obama’s engaging personality and Ambassador Takesy’s reference to the common denominator of being “ fellow Pacific islander” worked to temper the usual rigidity of formality of diplomatic credentialing ceremonies. Another shared link was informally established -- when Justina expressed *terimakasih baniak* (Bahasa Indonesian) or sincere appreciation for welcoming the FSM Ambassador and his family to the White House and to the US – and when President Obama reciprocated, upon taking leave, to bid them farewell in Bahasa Indonesian as well.

The FSM and US entered into their Compact relationship when the original Compact treaty went into effect in 1986. Takesy was present at the creation of the original treaty – from the time that it was being negotiated in the late 1970s and 1980s until it was implemented. After serving in what was then known as the Micronesian “Representative” office in Washington DC before the Compact went into effect, Ambassador Takesy subsequently served as FSM Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs and later Secretary of Resources and Development, and Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Moreover, he was involved in the renegotiation of the present Amended Compact treaty. Apart from the high-level positions that he has held in the FSM Government, Ambassador Takesy also served for six years as chief executive officer (CEO) of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in Samoa. A graduate of Xavier High School in Chuuk, Takesy had attended the University of Guam and the University of New Mexico

Following the credentialing ceremonies, the FSM Embassy hosted a reception to welcome the new Ambassador that was attended by Ambassador Kyota of the Republic of Palau, Ambassador Paul of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, including personal friends, FSM citizens residing in the Washington area and suburbs, NGOs, officials and staff from the State and Interior Departments, as well as US Congress. At the reception, Ambassador Takesy expressed his sincere appreciation to the invited guests for honoring him with their presence and for their continued demonstration of support for the FSM.

“From one Pacific islander to another,” Ambassador Takesy expressed his heartfelt appreciation to President Obama for accepting his credentials, “this is certainly a rare honor and distinct privilege for which my wife Justina and our entire family join me in expressing my most heartfelt personal gratitude.” In conveying President Mori’s best wishes for President Obama’s continued good health and success, as well as special greetings from the people and leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia upon the commencement of the new year, Ambassador Takesy suggested that the presentation of credentials be seen as more than just a ceremonial exercise but a concrete “testimony to the special friendship and historic links between our peoples that are enshrined in the Compact of Free Association treaty between our two countries.”

Ambassador Takesy seized the opportunity of the credentialing ceremonies to reiterate President Mori’s unwavering commitment to the spirit of partnership upon which our special relationship under the Compact is founded. He emphasized that President Mori had specifically directed him to help find ways and means to sustain and further enhance the Spirit of Partnership from which both countries have benefited, and sought support by acknowledging: “There is no doubt that I will look to you, Mr. President, and your government to meet this daunting challenge.”

In acknowledging the role of the US Government as “invaluable partner in our nation-building endeavors,” Ambassador Takesy noted that the Compact is not confined to engagement at the bilateral level, as the two countries have often found occasions to collaborate in the multilateral arena as well, especially at the United Nations. Ambassador Takesy referred to the wide spectrum of the relationship: “Beyond our economic, social and political collaboration, we also have bilateral arrangement for defense and security cooperation ... Our defense and security cooperation arrangement is a major component of our overall relationship that has sustained us (FSM), has enriched us, and has made us a strong small island democracy in our part of the world. Moreover, it gives credence to the Spirit of Partnership.”

In his reply, President Obama remarked that the FSM and U.S. “share an exceptionally close history and unique friendship, enshrined in our Compact of Free Association, through which we work together on such issues as health and education. We have common and deep commitment to democracy, freedom, the rule of law, and regional stability.”

On the bilateral defense and security cooperation arrangement and the participation of the FSM citizens in the US Armed Forces, the President further remarked: “We especially value our close cooperation to promote regional security. US armed services appreciate their productive relationship with the FSM, as we work together to sustain stability in the Pacific region. Micronesian citizens serve with distinction in the US armed forces. We honor their commitment and their sacrifices, and we value their contribution to help promote freedom around the world,



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Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat - Suva, Fiji

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POLITICAL ISSUES ADVISER

The Secretariat seeks a suitably qualified and experienced person to fill the position of Political Issues Adviser. The adviser will be accountable to the Director, Political Governance and Security Programme for:

- Political Overview Analysis and Advice;
- Support to the Director of the Political Governance & Security Programme and Management of Staff;
- Representation of Forum Interests; and
- Meeting Coordination

Applicants should have an advanced university degree in Political Science or other relevant degree and with extensive relevant work experience on a broad range of political, security and good governance issues.

Applicants with sound knowledge of the political issues relevant to Forum members including in the areas of security, political development and good governance would have an advantage.

The appointment will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR36,894 to SDR55,342 per annum. At the 1 January 2012 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD103,839 to FJD155,761.

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 2 March, 2012.

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

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Piggery bliss on Pohnpei

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service

There is a new committee on Pohnpei, called the Piggery Advisory Committee. It is an interagency group formed to work with farmers on all aspects of raising pigs in a sustainable way. In this case, sustainability has various meanings. One is to be able to raise pigs...very big pigs... to meet the cultural obligations that come with living on Pohnpei. As most people are aware, almost every family on Pohnpei raises pigs. For the most part, pigs are used primarily for traditional purposes, including honoring Kings and Chiefs, as well as to honor our loved ones who have passed away. It is a big responsibility and can be very expensive to raise pigs.

The true cost of raising pigs on Pohnpei and other states in the FSM is not really fully considered. Raising pigs sustainably also means to protect the island environment and the health of people living on the island.

To be raised properly, pigs must be fed and watered. They must also be kept clean. Most farmers wash the pig pens with water every day. Often times, pig waste is washed directly onto the ground, into fresh water streams, or into the lagoon. There are nutrients and pathogens in pig waste that can contaminate the soil and water, causing harm to the plants and animals that live there. Additionally, the pig waste can harbor a pathogen called *Leptospira* from which people can contract the disease called leptospirosis. This disease makes people very sick and can cause death.

There are ways to reduce the potential for people to catch leptospirosis. One way is for farmers to modify their piggery so they do not use water to wash the pens each day. This technique is called the Dry Litter Piggery. Wood chips are placed on the floor of the pig pen to absorb the pig waste (manure and urine), and then the wood chip/pig waste mixture is composted to make fertilizer for the garden or farm. This technique keeps pig waste off the land and out of the waterways, as well as producing valuable compost.

To create the wood chips for Dry Litter Piggeries, a wood chipper is needed. Small wood chippers are available on Pohnpei now. The Piggery Advisory Committee is seeking assistance to purchase large chippers and make them available to farmers in the FSM.

In the meantime, ICTV has aired a video on local channel 18 called, "Piggery Bliss." If you missed it, it will show again each night at 7:00 p.m. from Monday, February 20 to Friday, February 24. The video can also be shown to groups upon request. This video shows how successful Dry Litter Piggery technology has been on Tinian. It has also been widely adopted in American Samoa. Take the time to educate yourself on how to improve piggeries and reduce the impacts on the environment and public health. The future of Pohnpei depends on it!

If you have questions about the Piggery Advisory Committee or Dry Litter Piggery technology, please call the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service at 320-5893.

Yap lawmaker receives NACDD

Award for 2011

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs

January 19, 2012

Yap, FSM—The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors [NACDD], Atlanta, Georgia has announced the recipient of its legislator of the year award for 2011.

The Association announced that "because NACDD represents all US Territories as well as all 50 states, this year's Legislative Award went to Jesse Raglmar-SUBOLMAR, Senator of the 8th Yap State Legislature, Federated States of Micronesia, who lobbied successfully for a clean indoor air act."

The Legislator of the Year Award is given to a legislative champion who has substantially assisted in the advancement of the Association's goals by introducing or supporting legislation or amendments including appropriation legislation that reduce the chronic disease burden. The legislative efforts of the champion may be over an extended period of time.

The award is given only when a

deserving member is identified and there can be more than one recipient in any given year.

The Cancer Coalition join the people of Yap State in recognizing and congratulating Senator Raglmar SUBOLMAR of Yap State for being nominated for this award out of all the U.S. territories and of all fifty [50] states of the United States in recognition of the work he has done consistently in supporting and in helping the enactment of legislation prohibiting the use of products that cause chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, gout, emphysema and others.

The Senator said he is grateful for the recognition but said that, "no one senator can by himself pass bills, resolutions and enact laws. For us in Yap State it takes the action of ten senators or at least seven senators to pass a bill or a resolution and so the recognition by this award is one that is shared with my colleagues and with the State in what we have done together and in what we will continue to do to promote and protect the health of the people of the State of Yap".

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STEP 3

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STEP 4

Do not open umbrellas and avoid tall trees. Go inside a strong building. If the building is flooded, shut off the electricity.



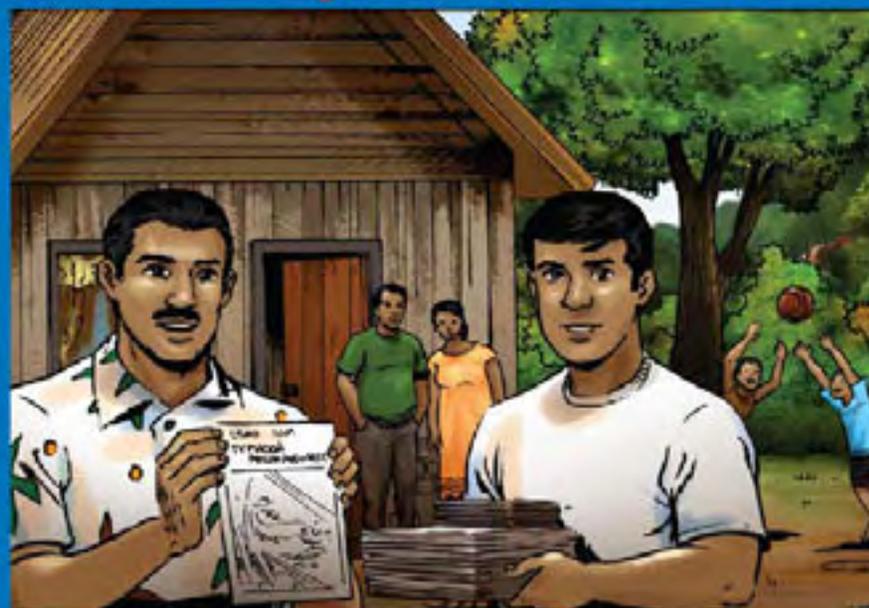
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Rainbownesia was launched as a national project in 2009 with the aim of promoting the beauties and wonders of FSM. Rainbownesia is rooted in the words rainbow + nesia.

The objectives of Rainbownesia Project

- TRANSFORM FSM into an Environment-Friendly Tourism Nation.
- SECURE global presence.
- PROMOTE tourism, trade, and investment.
- CREATE an open and protected nation.



レインボーネシアとはレインボー(虹)とネシア(島)を組み合わせた FSM のニックネームです。ミクロネシア連邦の魅力をより多くの人に伝えるための国家プロジェクトとして 2009年にスタートしました。

レインボーネシアプロジェクトの目的

- 環境親和国になる
- 世界的な知名度の獲得
- 観光と貿易の活性化
- 「開かれた」「守るべき」の両立



いのちをリチャージ

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Yap



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Overfishing of western Pacific bigeye tuna continues

January 11, 2011

Noumea, New Caledonia—Overfishing of bigeye tuna continues in the western and central Pacific tuna fishery, the world's biggest tuna fishery, according to the 2010 tuna fishery assessment report released this month by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Though the species is not at risk of extinction, and is never likely to be, the assessment found that bigeye fishing effort needs to be reduced by at least 32% from the average levels for 2006–2009 to ensure long-term sustainability.

Using fisheries and biological data, some going back to the 1950s, SPC has assessed the trends and current stocks of the four tuna species mainly targeted by fishers: skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and south Pacific albacore.

The 2010 catch for all four species is estimated at 2,421,113 tonnes, the second highest annual catch on record. It represents 83% of the total Pacific Ocean catch and 60% of the global tuna catch.

“Overall, the fishery is in the best shape of all the tuna fisheries in the world”, says John Hampton, SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme Manager. “On a scale of 1–10, we estimate it as 6–7, a green traffic light tinged with orange.

“But there has been an upward trend in total tuna catch for many years, mainly due to increases in purse-seine fishery catches, which accounted for 75% of the 2010 catch.”

Bigeye represents just 5% of the fishery's total tuna catch. Most of the bigeye catch is taken in equatorial areas, both by purse seine and longline. The purse-seine fisheries and domestic surface fisheries of the Philippines and Indonesia take large numbers of small bigeye.

The assessment report states that yellowfin, skipjack and south Pacific albacore tuna stocks are being fished at a moderate level and stocks are reasonably healthy. But Hampton cautions against complacency and stresses the need for responsible management actions to keep the stocks healthy.

“Though some species are being fished within generally accepted levels, this does not mean that there is potential for higher catches,” he says. “Now is the time to think about limiting catches, or fishing effort, at around the current levels.”

In particular, the report recommends that the yellowfin catch in the western equatorial Pacific be limited to around current levels and that limits on skipjack fishing be considered.



SPC tagging vessel coming alongside a purse seine vessel to recover several tags found on fish caught the same day. Tagging is one of the key tools used by SPC to monitor tuna stocks

Malo Hosken, SPC

RMI President to discuss Compact Impact in Hawaii

Loeak to meet Governor Abercrombie, Marshallese community

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe, Feb. 1, 2012) – A presidential delegation from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is on its way to Hawaii today (Wednesday) and is expected to meet with Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie in Honolulu to discuss issues relating to Compact Impact. RMI President Christopher J. Loeak and First Lady Lieom Anono Loeak are accompanied by Minister in Assistance Tony de Brum and presidential staffers.

According to the press release from the RMI Office of the President, the delegation aims to “reaffirm the RMI government's commitment towards a mutually beneficial outcome to the significant issues.”

The President is also anticipated to meet with the Marshallese Community residing in the State of Hawaii and participate in other related activities.

The President and Congress consult on pressing issues

FSM Information Services

January 23, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—The executive and legislative branches of the FSM National Government continue to hold high level consultations as the President, along with the Vice President and cabinet members met with the Speaker and Members of Congress on January 20 (Friday) at the Congress Nahs in Palikir.

At the request of the President, the leaders gathered to further discuss pressing issues that could be taken up at the on-going 3rd Regular Session of the 17th Congress and reach consensus on the suggested agenda items for the upcoming State and National Leadership Conference (SNLC) to be held on February 1-3, 2012.

In welcoming everyone, Speaker Isaac V. Figir said there is “high hopes” for the nation and asked for renewed commitment to the spirit of cooperation as the New Year unfolds.

In his opening remarks, President Manny Mori extended a belated new year's greeting and expressed appreciation to Congress for passing the SNLC budget request a few hours earlier, calling the action a “sign of our commitment” to address challenges together.

The leaders talked frankly on a number of

issues including revenue projection and the budget process, offsetting

the impacts of the \$800,000 annual decrement in Compact sector grant, ownership of the US-FSM Compact Trust Fund, timely expenditure report of government funded operations and programs, the long term fiscal framework leading to 2023 – the termination for the economic portion of the Compact, consolidation of offices and “right-sizing” of the National Government, and agreeable SNLC agenda items from the National Government's perspective. Furthermore, there were some discussions on ideas in pursuit of economic potentials and eliminations of impediments to growth as highlighted in the previous National Economic Summit early 2011.

The President and Congress acknowledged the usefulness of informal meetings to discuss some important issues facing the nation, which may have been difficult in a formal setting.

At the closing of the engaging meeting, the leaders agreed to meet again on January 25, Wednesday, to strap down definitive issues that the national government should present as agenda items at the leadership conference in February. Among other outstanding items for the next meeting is to discuss the manner in which proposed revenue projection is to be made so that the revenue forecast level is agreeable to both branches and in sync with experiences of prior years.

The President has the constitutional authority to submit to Congress the proposed budget along with a revenue projection for the upcoming fiscal year which the Secretary of Finance will have to track on a monthly basis.

Yap Visitors Bureau's new Board of Directors

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs

January 26, 2012

Yap, FSM—In a communication dated January 10, 2012 from the Yap Visitors Bureau, the names of the new officers of the YVB Board of Directors were revealed.

The then-Chairperson, Laura T. Ngaden, wrote in the communication that in a meeting of the Board of Directors, new officers were selected and the Board was re-organized. Replacing Ngaden as Chair is John W. Fillmed; Vice Chair is Alphonso Ganang; Secretary, Anthony Tareg, Jr., and; Jessica B. Acker as Treasurer.

Through the communication, the State Leadership, the business community and the general public were informed of the change. Ngaden concluded the communication with the request for the continued support and cooperation of the State in light of the change of officers.

Independent external review of SPC

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

January 30, 2012

Noumea – Over the next three months, a seven-member team will conduct an independent external review of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The review, beginning the first week of February, will consider SPC in the context of its broader role in regional development. The team will examine SPC's focus, governance, management, mode of delivery, financing and performance monitoring and make recommendations on the organisation's core business; governance, decision-making and membership; organisational structure; strategic planning; priority setting; business practices; financial management; resources; and performance monitoring and assessment.

When it approved the terms of reference for the review at the 7th Conference of the Pacific Community held in November last year, SPC's governing body noted the timeliness of the exercise in light of the recent integration of SOPAC (Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission) and SPBEA (Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment) into SPC.

SPC Director-General Dr Jimmie Rodgers

said, 'This will be an organisation-wide review that is independent of SPC. It will consider SPC's core business and other important issues such as general governance and organisational efficiency. This review is a key milestone for SPC and is very well-timed as we recognise the need to consolidate and reassess SPC's core business and the way we work in light of the recent mergers. In addition, the outcomes will feed into SPC's new corporate plan for 2013–2017.'

The review team is led by James T. Adams, a former World Bank Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific. The other members of the team are: Dr Colin Tukuitonga (Niue), Noumea Simi (Samoa), Peter Winder (New Zealand), Alan Morris (Australia), Bruno Peaucellier (French Polynesia), and Dr Norman Barth (United States of America). The last SPC corporate review was undertaken in 2005 and was led by Senator Caleb Otto of Palau. The review recommendations formed the basis of the current SPC corporate plan 2007–2012.

The review team is at SPC headquarters in Noumea from 30 January to 4 February and will be in Fiji from 4 to 10 February. In the coming weeks the team will be visiting other SPC member countries and territories to consult with members, partners and other stakeholders. The final review report is expected at the end of April, and will be tabled at the meeting of SPC's governing body in Noumea in November this year.

WWF congratulates Pacific Islands for certification of major tuna fishery

World Wildlife Fund News

Gland, Switzerland—A skipjack tuna fishery managed by eight Pacific Island nations has been certified as sustainable to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard, a move WWF says will promote the future health of tuna stocks in the region, bring major benefits to the fishing industry, and have positive repercussions for consumers around the world.

The certification has been awarded conditionally to the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) purse seine free-schooling skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) fishery, managed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention.

The PNA free-school skipjack catch equates to an annual harvest of 275,000 metric tons – roughly the same weight as 490 fully-fuelled Airbus A380s - at a value of approximately US\$1.3 billion at the retail level, with minimal bycatch of other species and juvenile tuna. Consumers, in the not too distant future, could see close to one billion 148-gram cans of tuna harvested from this MSC-certified sustainable fishery on supermarket shelves.

"The Western and Central Pacific skipjack stock hold about 20 per cent of the world's tuna stock. This is the largest tuna fishery

to have achieved MSC certification, a standard that will help ensure this valuable fishery can achieve a healthy state," says Mark Schreffler, Fisheries Policy Officer, WWF Western Melanesia Program.

However, Schreffler cautions that there is still a great deal of work to be done by the PNA, the WCPFC and its partners over the next few years to fully meet the conditions set by the assessment.

"The challenge now is the implementation of robust harvest strategies and reference points by the WCPFC in partnership with the PNA. WWF believes effective, sustainable fisheries management of the Western and Central Pacific tuna stocks must also occur at the Commission level as well as within the waters of the PNA," says Mr. Scheffler.

WWF will continue to work with the WCPFC, PNA and member states to meet the conditions of the certification and help ensure that the PNA fishery can maintain its MSC certification.

The PNA has done much in developing a collaborative approach to more sustainable fisheries management that has significantly boosted their capacity to assist in managing the region's tuna fisheries in a manner consistent with the MSC certification and their individual national development aspirations.

Pacific communities better able to save reef fisheries with new information sheets

Econnect communication & Secretariat of the Pacific Communities

February 1, 2012

Sea cucumbers, lobsters and other fish species are in danger of disappearing from Pacific island fisheries unless they are protected by villagers and local fishermen through measures recommended by a new series of information sheets.

Actions such as reducing or stopping the use of SCUBA to fish for such species are some of the measures recommended in 16 information sheets, especially targeted at Pacific Communities, and being launched today in Suva, Fiji.

The sheets, developed by scientists and managers from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Locally-Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network, are in response to the urgent need to protect the region's coastal fisheries in the face of projected climate change impacts and increasing population growth.

The Pacific population is predicted to increase by 50 per cent by 2030 and already many reef systems are struggling

from intense fishing pressure.

SPC research indicates that tropical Pacific reef fish populations could decline by up to 20 per cent by 2050 and up to 50 per cent by 2100. Climate change will affect fish population distribution and numbers as rising sea temperatures reduces the food available to reef fish and changes the timing and success of fish reproduction.

Most coastal communities in the Pacific rely on reef fisheries for food, and fewer fish in their catches will increase the gap between available fish and the protein needed for their food security.

The average annual consumption of fish per person (including shellfish) by coastal Pacific populations ranges from 30–118 kilograms in Melanesia, 62–115 kilograms in Micronesia, and 50–146 kilograms in Polynesia. This is significantly more than the annual consumption globally of just 17 kilograms per person.

"It's good to have something ready for our next generation. I see that there's plenty of fish, but we know that it takes many years for the growth of the coral

and for fishes to give birth," says Kini Ravonoloa, Votua Village Chief and FLMA representative for Koroleviwai.

"My advice is that we should keep a place protected for the fishes and other organisms that they live in the sea to have more time to reproduce."

Management programs already in place in Fiji have proven successful, as Pio Radikedike, site manager for Veratavou, Viti Levu in Fiji reports.

"We have increased the number of MPAs [closed areas] in our village because the communities, the chiefs, have seen the benefits from what we have been doing. Now we have three – two on the mudflats near my

village for the clams and other small species, and one on the reefs for fish and sea cucumbers, not only for my village, but for the benefit of the whole district."

Dr Hugh Govan, advisor for the LMMA Network, says the combination of local community knowledge and scientific research is invaluable.

"Communities in the Pacific are well placed to manage their own fisheries as they still usually have traditional and local knowledge of their areas and

resources. In fact over 400 communities are known to be managing their inshore areas in the Pacific," he says.

"However, communities gain much from access to scientific information on aspects of biology and ecology or experiences of communities elsewhere to help improve their management practices in the face of emerging modern challenges."

The information sheets will be distributed to communities across the Pacific. Funding for the printing and distribution of the information sheets was provided by the European Union-funded SciCOFish (scientific support for the management of coastal and oceanic fisheries in the Pacific Islands region) project.

"What is unique about these sheets is that, together, the SPC and LMMA Network are trying to get a consistent message to all Pacific communities in terms of resource management," says Ian Bertram, Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Adviser for the SPC.

The informationsheetscan be downloaded from this web address:

<http://www.spc.int/coastfish/en/component/content/article/393-guide-and-information-sheets-for-fishing-communities.html>

Guest perspective

Our human footprint

By *Dirk Jenna*

UNFPA Sub-Regional Director And Representative

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In June this year, the 'world' will meet in Brazil for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development or Rio+20 - 20 years after the Earth Summit in Rio where countries adopted Agenda 21, a blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environment protection. It will be one of the most important global meetings, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon says.

He adds the vision of those who will attend the meeting must be clear: "A sustainable green economy that protects the health of the environment while supporting achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through growth in income, decent work and poverty eradication".

The statement by the Secretary General encompasses the areas of concern and work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - in fact the MDGs were partly modeled on the UNFPA Program of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) in Cairo, which guides the organisation's work.

Population growth and its implications are at the heart of the concept of sustainable development which is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs."

In October last year (2011), the world reached the seven billion mark in terms of population growth; medical advances have ensured we are living longer as human beings and this has been rightly acknowledged by Fiji as the first Pacific island nation to launch an ageing policy.

Another important consequence of an increasing population is its impact on the environment.

Demographic indicators published in mid-2002 suggest that by 2025, Fiji's population is expected to be one million - this is based on fertility rate (average number of children a woman can have during her child-bearing years, 15-49 years); mortality and migration. An environmental indicator at the time already placed threatened and endangered species at 26 for animals and 65 for plants. When you translate these to food sources and herbal medication, it can be an alarming prospect.

Demands for water, trees, food and fossil fuels will only increase as world population grows. Human activity has altered every aspect of our planet, including its climate. Shortages of clean water and arable land are already a problem while species loss continues. The resilience of ecosystems - from fisheries to forests - is threatened.

Impoverished people who contribute the least to climate change are likely to suffer the most from its effects - drought, floods, heat waves, tornadoes and other extreme weather disasters - and many will seek a better future elsewhere. Worldwide, some 884 million people have no access to safe drinking water and 2.6 million lack access to basic sanitation services such as latrines and toilets.

Last month, the National Science Foundation published the discovery of the first marine disease caused by humans which is 'proving fatal for Elkhorn coral in Florida'. The disease is white pox which causes a slowing of growth followed by white patches of tissue loss that occurs all over the coral colony. "This is the first example of a human pathogen infecting a marine organism," biology professor Kathryn Sutherland said.

This does not only say a lot about how inextricably linked we are but also a reminder of the potential destructive impact hidden in some of the ways we have been doing things.

For Pacific island countries, another emerging issue which is already being felt is land-use. Meeting the needs of a growing population frequently requires some form of land-use change such as clearing forests for food production.

Deforestation could lead to flooding and species loss or increased agricultural activities leaving cancer-causing remnants of fertilizers that find its way into our water tables.

UN Population Division projections suggest a global count range of between 7.3 billion to 10.7 billion by 2050. Natural resources are already strained and based on these projections, the 21st century will witness greater pressure.

There is hope if recent trends of a slowing global growth rate remain; ideally the world population would peak earlier and at a lower level than initially projected but for this to happen, family planning and related services must be available to all those who want them; that policymakers acknowledge and facilitate more girls attending and remaining in schools longer and that more women enjoy the same socio-economic opportunities men enjoy.

Population and lifestyle play a critical role in the state of our environment, which is inextricably linked to how we respond to societal issues like poverty eradication. Population impacts the availability of natural resources - as it is, most of our world's

fisheries have been fished to their maximum.

Population policies are as critical to governance as they are to the protection and accessibility to land for food production. A healthy environment is paramount to developing poor nations. They will also be critical for sustainable development in the true sense of the phrase: we use only what we need for we must ensure those who follow us will have enough.

Rio+20 represents a global platform to brainstorm local actions that can make a difference to our lives as world citizens. Actions to allow us to respond effectively to global situations like: 1.4 billion people presently live on \$1.25 a day or less; one billion do not have access to electricity; 2.5 billion do not have toilets; and almost one billion go hungry daily.

Albert Einstein once said: "The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." For our collective wellbeing, perhaps it is time to change our thinking, particularly in terms of the population and environment link.

SNLC Officials Working Group Meeting

FSM Information Services

January 27, 2012

Palikir, FSM—In preparation for the State and National Leaders Conference that began on February 1 in Palikir, Pohnpei, officials from all the five governments of the Federate States of Micronesia attended the State and National Conference (SNLC) Officials Working Group meeting on January 26 at the Central Facility Meeting Room at the National Government Compound in Palikir, Pohnpei State.

The purpose of the working group is for the governments, through their representatives, to identify and discuss issues and agree on recommendations for presentation to the FSM Leadership during the SNLC.

A provisional agenda for the conference has been prepared by the SNLC Secretariat, the FSM Department of Resources and Development, drawing from issue statements pre-submitted by the States and the National Government upon request. The representatives are tasked to refine the formulation of topic discussions for leaders and create a working platform toward ensuring a clearly focused conference.

The Working Group will meet from January 26 through 30, concluding before the leaders start arriving on January 31.

Below is the table on State representatives:

Yap State

Senator Jesse Raglmar-SUBOLMAR, Yap State Legislature
Mr. Ruotpong Pongliyab, Director - Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

Mr. Phillip T. Ranganbay, Chairman of the Yap Chamber of Commerce

Chuuk State

Mr. Masachiro Christlib, Special Assistant to the Governor on Legislative Affairs
Mr. Eliseus Akapito, Chief -- Office of Planning
Mr. Marian Marcus, Acting Director - COM-FSM Chuuk Campus
Mr. Mark Waite, Chief Executive Officer - Chuuk Public Utilities Corporations

Pohnpei State

Mr. Thomas Pablo, Director of Treasury
Mr. Simao W. Nanpei, Acting Director of the Department of Health Services
Mr. Tom Beckman, Legal Counsel for the Pohnpei State Legislature
Dr. Elizabeth Keller, Department of Health Services

Kosrae State

Mr. Steven George, Director - Department of Resources and Development
Mr. Stanley Raffilman,
Mr. Tiser Reynold, Director of Finance
Winston Phillip, Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Ann Noda, Chief Legal Aide, Kosrae State Legislature

Chairing the Working Group 4-day meeting is Dr. Rufino Mauricio, Secretary of the Department of Education, National Government.

Other National Government attendants include Secretary Lorin S. Robert, Ambassador Asterio Takesy, Dr. Vita A. Skilling, Secretary Francis Itimai, Secretary Marion Henry, Director Andrew Yatilman and others.



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Inauguration of new President and Cabinet held in Marshall Islands

Yokwe Online

Majuro, Marshall Islands—In his inaugural address, President Christopher Jorebon Loeak identified the areas, in which, the new administration will give greater attention to, such as in the areas of education, local capacity building, private sector, and government reform, among other priority areas, for the next four years. “The strength and success of this country depends in large measures on the education, training, productivity, and work ethics of the Marshallese people,” stated President Loeak.

Emphasizing the need for stronger cooperation and collaboration between the government, traditional leaders, the private sector, local governments, the churches, non-governmental organizations, and the Marshallese people in addressing the many pressing issues and challenges the RMI faces, President Loeak asked the Marshallese people to “unite and move forward together, as one people and one nation,” to advance the RMI into a better and brighter future.

Witnessed by more than 300 observers at the Nitijela Chamber this morning, the inauguration of President Loeak and members of the Cabinet was attended by the political leaders of RMI’s neighboring countries and diplomatic allies, which included, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, President Emanuel Mori; the President of the Republic of Palau, President Johnson Toribiong and Palau’s Paramount Chief Reklai Raphael Bao Ngimang; the Minister of Health to the Republic of Nauru, Minister Valdon Dowiyogo; United States Assistant Secretary of Interior for Insular Affairs, Anthony Babauta; Governor John Ehsa from Pohnpei State; Speaker Peter M.

Lohn from the Pohnpei State Legislature; Governor Lyndon H. Jackson from Kosrae State; Australian Ambassador Martin Quinn; a special representative from the office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Angel Damipan; and United States Army Kwajalein Atoll Commanding Officer Joseph Gaines.

The administration of oath to President Loeak and Cabinet Ministers was delivered by Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram with the assistance of the Chief Clerk of Courts Ingrid K. Kabua. Cabinet Ministers who took the oath of office were Min. Tony A. de Brum, the Minister in Assistance to the President whose portfolio will also cover national efforts on Energy, Conservation, and the Environment; Min. Phillip Muller, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Min. Dennis P. Momotaro, Minister of Finance; Min. Hilda C. Heine, Minister of Education; Min. David Kabua, Minister of Health; Min. Thomas Heine, Minister of Justice; Min. Rien Morris, Minister of Transportation and Communications; Min. Michael Konelios, Minister of Resources and Development; Min. Hiroshi V. Yamamura, Minister of Public Works; and Min. Wilbur Heine, Minister of Internal Affairs.

Before order of business, a moment of silence was called on by Speaker Donald F. Capelle in honor of the most prominent spiritual leader in the Marshall Islands, late Rev. Jude Samson. The RMI flag has been flying at half-mast since Sunday January 15 when President Loeak declared a period of national mourning in observance of Rev. Jude’s death.

President Loeak and the First Lady Lieom Anono Loeak have three children and ten grandchildren.

Oceania Television Network celebrates 5th anniversary

Koror, Republic of Palau

February 2, 2012

Today marks the fifth year OTV has been on air providing quality Pacific programming. Launched on February 2nd, 2007, OTV has grown from a few hours a night of local programming to a full 24-hour Pacific content station across the North Pacific.

In a region that has previously only received retransmitted Western and Asian television content, OTV’s mission has been to create a home-grown Pacific regional station that can help preserve culture, foster pride and create a venue for sharing ideas and issues. OTV provides a platform for Pacific Islanders to develop their own voice in media. OTV was able to truly become a network with the assistance and recognition of UNESCO International Programme Development of Communication.

OTV’s vision is to eventually have a presence

in all the islands of the Pacific and to gather content from Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia so that the Pacific neighbors can share their stories and meet global challenges together. We encourage viewers to contact OTV for program requests and contributions, which may include news stories, footage from local events or other content. Our goals are to:

- Preserve Pacific culture through exchange and dialogue
- Research and report on current news and events to strengthen democracy
- Provide an educational portal for remote villages
- Entertain with the appropriate social and cultural awareness
- Create a platform to raise the voice of Pacific islanders in the global community
- Enable Pacific islanders living abroad to interact with their relatives and communities.

OTV founders and board members are: Jeff Barabe, Kassi Berg, Jill Senior, Mike Fox and Spis Gordon

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

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*

Sports Council Elemcomp Tournament

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs

January 26, 2012

Yap, FSM—The Sport Council office has completed the ElemComp Basketball Tournament for 7 Elementary Schools in Yap on January 24, 2012 at the Sports Complex. This event is part of the ongoing efforts by the office to promote sports activities for all public and private schools on the island. In its effort a total of 7 elementary schools participated on this Basketball tournament. Although the Sports office has invited all other Private Schools none has participated at this time.

Tomilang Elementary School came top in the whole tournament followed by Dalipebinaw, Colonia Middle School, Gagil, Rumuu, Kanifay and Bael Elementary School. The following is the status results:

Status	Team	Wins/Losses
1.	Tomilang Elementary School	6 W/ 0 L
2.	DB Elementary School	5 W/ 1 L
3.	Colonia Middle School	4 W/ 2 L
4.	Gagil Elementary School	3 W/ 3 L
5.	Rumuu Elementary School	1 W/ 5 L
6.	Kanifay Elementary School	1 W/ 5 L
7.	Bael Elementary School	1 W/ 5 L

The first tournament held was on Volleyball Tournament and for this year they have just completed the Basketball tournament. A lot of students enjoyed the event and looking forward to the remaining year sports plan between all schools. According to the Sports office this is normally a one-day tournament where all students get out and play some kind of sports. For the upcoming months there will be exciting games. In March 2012 will be Track & Field, April is for Soccer game and towards the end of this School Year in May will be Table Tennis and Wrestling.

These tournaments are precisely aimed to improve the knowledge and skills for the elementary school students in different types of sports activities.

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- Monitor and maintain food, beverage and other household supplies at the Residence
- Oversee all representational functions for the Ambassador and/or at the Residence
- Maintain the overall cleanliness of the interior of the Residence
- 5 years experience as Housekeeper/Cook preferred
- Ability to communicate effectively in English both orally and in writing
- References required

Please send a resumé, references and a brief covering letter to:

Contact: 320 5448

Email sam.upritchard@dfat.gov.au

Postal address

PO Box S, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Application closing date Monday 20 February 2012.

World Wetlands Day and the launch of the Clean Pacific 2012 Campaign

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

2 February 2012 -- Today marks World Wetlands Day and the 41st anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

World Wetlands Day has been celebrated by government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups every year since 1997 by undertaking actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits, and by promoting the conservation and wise/sustainable use of wetlands.

The theme of World Wetlands Day for 2012 was "Wetlands and Tourism" with the opening ceremony taking place at the To'oa Salamasina Hall followed by a trip to Samoa's Ramsar site, Lake Lanoto'o.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. David Sheppard, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, officially launched the Clean Pacific 2012 Campaign.

"One of the biggest threats to our wetlands is waste and pollution," he said. The relationship between proper waste and pollution control, and healthy wetlands is a critical one. The Clean Pacific campaign will aim to promote a clean and healthy environment for our Pacific peoples through improved waste management practices

SPREP launches Clean Pacific 2012 Campaign



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

The Clean Pacific 2012 campaign will be launched in partnership with the World Wetlands Day celebrations in Apia, Samoa on 2 February. The relationship between proper waste disposal practices, management and pollution prevention and healthy wetlands is a critical one. The Clean Pacific campaign will aim to promote a clean and healthy environment for our Pacific peoples through improved waste management practices.

The World Wetlands Day theme for 2012 is "Wetlands and Tourism" and with tourism being a major income earner for the Pacific Islands, this industry is set to grow over the coming years. While there are many examples of environmentally sustainable tourism, there are also a number of unsustainable examples of tourism, which generate waste and pollution and cause damage to our wetlands.

The Clean Pacific campaign is a regional waste management and pollution control campaign coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with its member countries. The campaign will galvanise actions at all levels to improve the management of wastes and pollution through promotion of a range of activities, which contribute to a healthy environment,

including wetlands.

SPREP will support relevant grass roots activities for waste reduction and management, pollution prevention, and hazardous chemical management during the campaign year.

"There are major problems on the management and disposal of solid waste throughout the Pacific, so the programme is focussing on raising awareness and building capacity in this important area," said Mr. David Sheppard, SPREP's Director General.

"SPREP is pleased to embark on this campaign and we look forward to good work to come as we all unite on our Clean Pacific campaign."

In the Pacific region, isolated populations and remote locations are challenges beyond our control and often make sustainable waste management and pollution control difficult. At the same time they underscore the need to focus on local solutions that can be sustained regardless of external factors such as fuel prices and shipping costs.

Recognising these and other challenges, the Clean Pacific campaign focuses on ensuring that the right practices and policies are adopted by Pacific island countries to support sustainable management of waste and prevention and control of pollution.

The campaign will also show that a clean Pacific relies on everyone from the most senior politician to the smallest family taking immediate and responsible action to solve the dual problems of waste and pollution.

RMI President announces new cabinet members

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 17, 2012

Majuro, RMI—The President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Christopher J. Loeak who was inaugurated this week in Majuro announced his government's Ministers as follows:

Tony A. Debrum – Minister in Assistance to the President

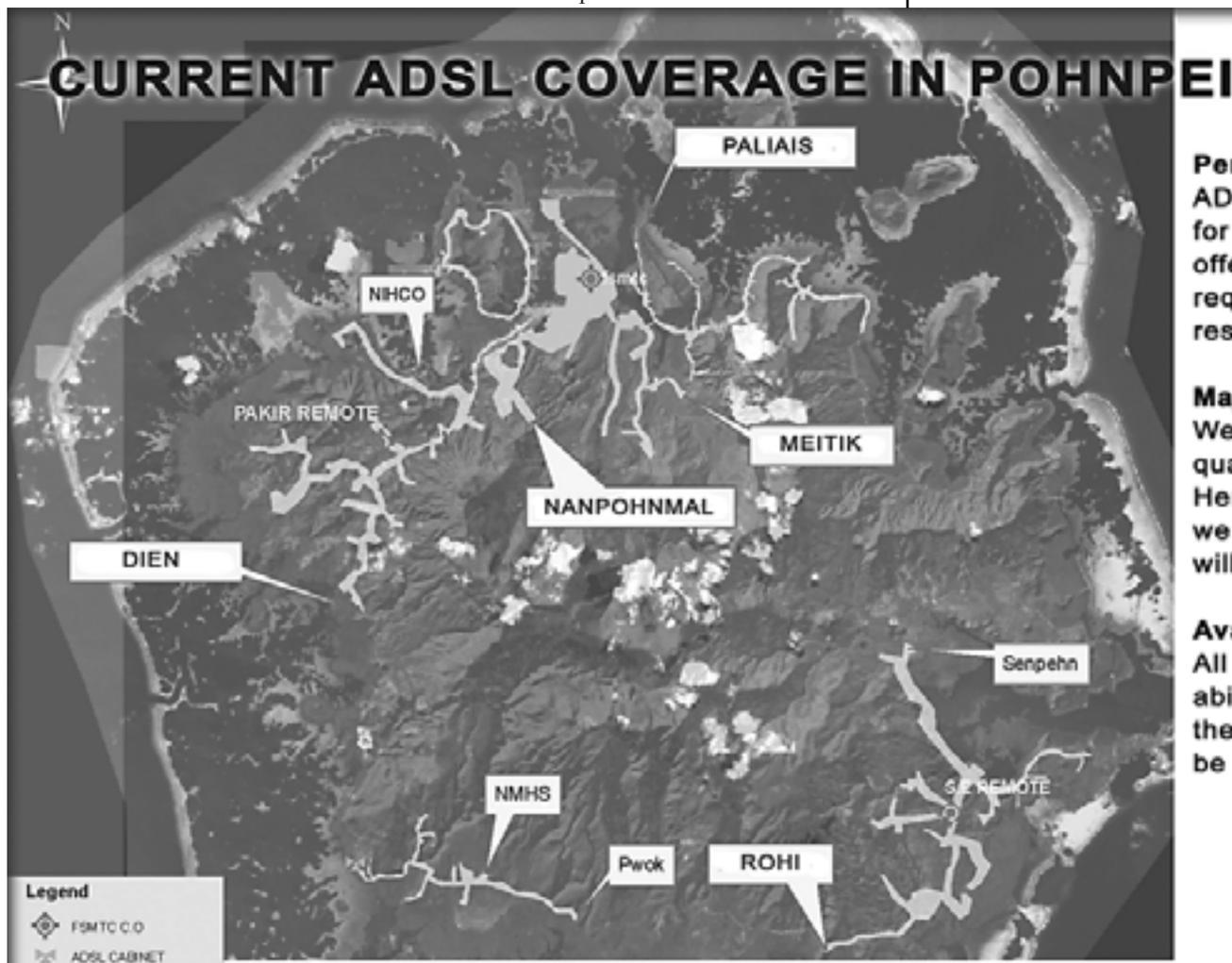
- Philip H. Muller – Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Dennis Momotaro – Minister of Finance
- Hilda C. Heine – Minister of Education
- David Kabua – Minister of Health
- Thomas Heine – Minister of Justice
- Rien Morris – Minister of Transportation and Communication
- Wilbur Heine – Minister of Internal Affairs
- Hiroshi V. Yamamura – Minister of Public Works
- Michael Kornelios – Minister of Resources and Development

Committee minutes now available on Wiki

COM-FSM News

Palikir, FSM—The minutes of the College's standing committee meetings are now available on the COM-FSM website.

These can be accessed through the Wiki link on the homepage or directly at <http://wiki.comfsm.fm/>. All public documents can be accessed through the College's wiki while documents specific for each committee require COM-FSM username and passwords to access.



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Major Points of Presence
We are able to provide ADSL service to qualifying locations in all four FSM States. Here you can see locations in Pohnpei that we can service. Maps of the other States will be posted in upcoming issues.

Availability
All ADSL services will be subject to availability. Due to the unpredictable nature of the copper plant, service requests will only be accepted after line is tested.



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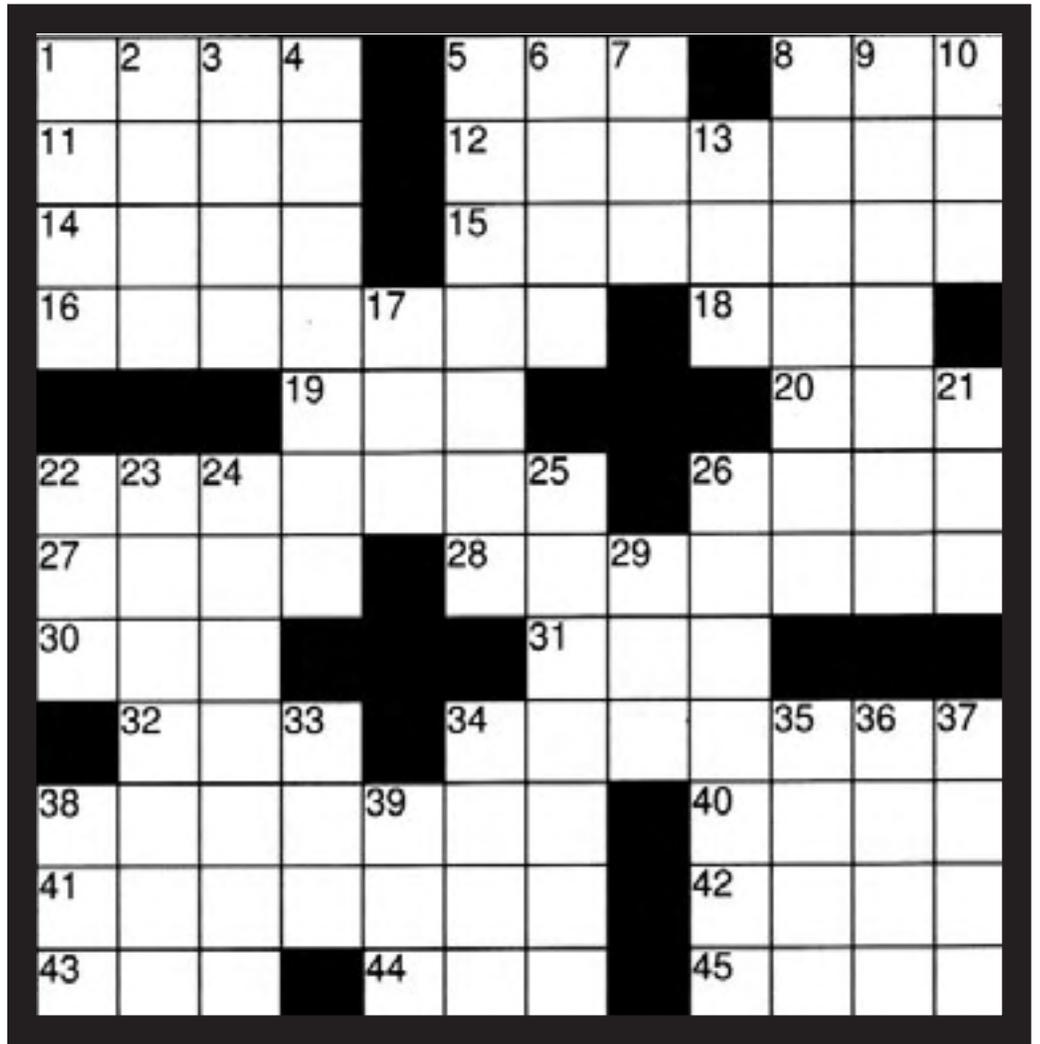


The FSM Telecommunications Corporation
www.telecom.fm customerservice@mail.fm

Crossword - Big Hassle

- Across**
1. Chaplin chow
 5. Drop down
 8. Kind of book
 11. Booating berth
 12. Beard alterer
 14. And not only that
 15. With enthusiasm
 16. PBS series
 18. Hassle
 19. Actor Holm of McKellen
 20. Accomplished
 22. Long job for a plotter
 26. I'm outta here!
 27. You might pick up on it
 28. Atoll features
 30. Spinning stat
 31. Second Sunday in May honoree
 32. Bring along
 34. It ruins the ending
 38. Aruba neighbor
 40. Chivalry, for one
 41. Sauce seasoning
 42. Sign of a breakout
 43. Limiting word
 44. Calming count
 45. It has heels

- Down**
1. Mailbox fodder
 2. Like some hair
 3. Excluding
 4. Potential turn-ons
 5. Undying
 6. Long-eared one's comment
 7. Humongous
 8. It isn't in stereo
 9. Hercule Poirot, for one
 10. Bellow
 13. All U.S. presidents so far
 17. Down
 21. Barber art
 22. Not close
 23. Burst
 24. Mail deliverer
 25. Satirize
 26. Funny
 29. It's messy
 33. Wiggle
 34. Not 35 Down
 35. Not 34 Down
 36. Charlotte Rae TV role
 37. Scuba site
 38. Bit of fuzz?
 39. Tree climber



Word Search
 #Hidden#
 ##Numbers##

K Press Puzzle Pleasure

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 01009 | 33029 | 59139 |
| 01015 | 34573 | 60573 |
| 01281 | 37338 | 60621 |
| 04547 | 37824 | 65119 |
| 04624 | 38528 | 67653 |
| 05583 | 40200 | 75260 |
| 11475 | 42709 | 75910 |
| 13100 | 43501 | 77565 |
| 13496 | 47598 | 78818 |
| 15629 | 48197 | 86066 |
| 19741 | 51869 | 88272 |
| 20103 | 52279 | 93342 |
| | 57313 | 95783 |
| | 58186 | 97629 |

1	7	7	3	0	2	5	1	8	6	5	4	5	8
6	4	7	8	3	6	6	4	5	4	5	0	9	5
7	5	6	0	5	7	1	1	0	2	0	5	9	9
1	4	1	7	3	7	3	2	3	1	7	4	7	1
2	0	7	1	6	4	9	3	3	4	2	2	3	3
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3	9	2	6	5	1	3	3	8	5	5	0	9	3
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1	2	7	0	2	9	1	7	2	0	4	6	2	4
8	9	6	2	6	0	8	4	0	0	2	0	8	3
1	1	9	0	1	2	8	1	3	1	4	6	6	3
5	7	3	0	4	6	5	1	8	0	1	6	9	6
4	3	5	0	1	9	5	7	8	3	5	8	0	1

McREL wins Pacific Region Education Contract over PREL

Yokwe Online

January 25, 2012

Majuro, Marshall Islands—In its inaugural bid to operate the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) in the Pacific region, McREL has received a five-year, \$24 million contract from the U.S. Department of Education. The REL Pacific, which will be administered by McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds in Honolulu, Hawaii, serves the state of Hawaii; the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and three nations in free association with the United States—the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"McREL has worked over the years to develop wonderful working relationships in the Pacific region, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to further those relationships through our Pacific Center and work collaboratively with education entities in the region to serve the needs of its educators and children," said McREL President and CEO Tim Waters.

The director of McREL's Pacific Center, Nolan Malone, and other Honolulu-based staff members will carry out the REL mission to provide access to high-quality, scientifically valid data, information,

and tools through applied research and development projects, studies, and other related technical assistance.

"Our staff in the Pacific looks forward to making a greater difference region-wide by bringing McREL's high-quality research and guidance to educators at all levels, from teachers to commissioners," said Malone. "Like the rest of the country, there are many educational challenges in the region—some similar to those faced on the continent, and others quite unique to the Pacific context. McREL's Pacific staff will work collaboratively with educators in the region and McREL's Denver-based experts to deliver services that can continue to make a difference in the lives of learners."

The region has a population of approximately 1,680,000 people spread across 4.9 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean. Some of the challenges faced by schools include socioeconomic diversity, a multitude of indigenous cultures and languages (with more than a dozen languages used for instruction), and much variation in the education levels of teachers. The Pacific REL will work with alliances of education professionals, practitioners, and advocates to collaboratively address the most pressing issues, leverage data and information for effective decision-making, and support continuing efforts to build sustainability within the region.

Salvage operation to begin in Yap

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs

Yap, FSM—A U.S. Navy ship has arrived in Yap today with the crew to work on the salvage operation of the stranded MV Cecilia. The Master Diver of the operation paid a courtesy call to the Governor's Office this morning to discuss the final arrangements before the salvage operation begins.

Master Diver Jon P. Klukas met with the Governor and the key departments and agencies tasked with the salvage operation, such as Yap EPA and PW&T, among others. Master Diver Klukas briefed the gathering at the Cabinet Room on options available for the Cecilia and made final arrangements with the government before his team begins the salvage operation.

The USNS Safeguard brought 17 divers to

work on the salvage operation with about 20 crewmen. The current plan of action is basically to refloat the Cecilia by plugging any holes in its hull, empty her of any fuel, and move it to the area designated by Public Works, namely Nungoch. Once beached, the Cecilia's fate will be determined. The two options available are either to sink the ship for it to become a diving attraction, or to cut up the metal pieces for recycling purposes.

The Cecilia was stranded beside the Yap Small Business Development Center during Typhoon Sudal in 2004. It wasn't until 2008 that Yap State's request to remove the ship from Colonia's waterfront was forwarded by the Department of Foreign Affairs to the U.S. Embassy to the FSM. After four years of planning, the Cecilia will finally move on.

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Pursuant to orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered June 8, 2011 and October 27, 2011, public notice is hereby given that the leasehold interests in and improvements situated on public land parcel no. 018-A-27 in Chinatown on the corner of Kapwar E Sou Street and Elen Eing Street, across from the 4TY Store building, will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "March 15, 2012 Auction" by personal delivery to Yoster Johnny at the FSM Development Bank, Namio Nanpei Building, 1st Floor, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2012.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, and e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the bid.
- The winning bidder will receive a court ordered assignment of the current lessee's rights to parcel no. 018-A-27 for use in applying for a new lease, any award of which will be subject to and determined by the Pohnpei State public land authorities having responsibility for the issuance of such leases; and a court ordered transfer of ownership of all improvements located on the parcel, including buildings, equipment and fixtures, following 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 the notice of award is served.
- 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 leasehold interests and improvements are offered "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.
- The parcel is subject to an easement in the north-west portion of the parcel, along the northern/western boundary, with the easement area being 2 meters wide by 10 meters long. The map showing the easement area will be provided upon request.



Questions concerning this auction and requests for the map showing the easement area may be directed to:

Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, FSM Development Bank,
PO Box M,
Pohnpei FM 96941,
phone: 691-320-2840, fax: 691-320-6533, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, website: www.fsmdb.fm

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- 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) 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

K Press Perspective

Every day near death experiences

Yesterday my wife and I were twice in immediate danger of dying. These instances which occurred separately within the space of three minutes were not the ethereal "someday I will die" kind that we all carry around in the dark recesses of our minds. Both times, one second might easily have meant the difference between sucking air and sucking dirt in a box. For no apparent reason at all, two separate approaching vehicles crossed the clearly marked center of the circumferential road on which we travel at least four times daily. Both times the approaching vehicles were so far over the center of the line that there was no place for us to go. One of the vehicles during the noon hour was travelling at least 80 kilometers per hour (the speed limit is 40 kph.)

I am thankful that my wife is a good driver with fast reflexes. Both times she was forced to slam on her brakes and steer hard to the right to avoid becoming proof absolute that one of the most basic laws of physics is still heavily in force. It is quite impossible for two objects to occupy the same space at the same time.

If yesterday was the only time that this kind of incident has happened to us I wouldn't be writing this K-Press Perspective. Since we experience that kind of incident at the rough average rate of six times each week I wonder how many more near misses we have left in us before the grim reaper gives up in disgust and drags us away kicking and screaming.

And how many times have I watched in horror as an impatient driver passes a vehicle that is doing the speed limit on a blind curve barely escaping a head on collision with an unseen oncoming vehicle? It's happened often enough that there are stress lines surrounding my naval induced by constant puckering. Usually within minutes the dangerous driver is sitting at a stop sign directly in front of the car they risked their lives and the lives of other drivers in order to pass. They gained nothing and risked losing everything.

From what I have seen people leave their own lanes for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they swerve out of their lane to avoid a pot hole. God knows there are many of them in Pohnpei. Sometimes there is a car parked on the side of the road that sticks out into the road. For those inconsiderate parkers it's more than inconsiderate, it is also illegal and if tickets were issued here they could be issued to you. Just the same, if there is any kind of impediment in the road it is the responsibility of the driver whose

lane contains the impediment to slow down or stop until oncoming traffic has cleared.

Increasingly though I have noticed that people are beginning to leave their lanes because the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. I've begun to see more and more people cross the center line into the opposing lane whenever the road curves to the left. Yes, it makes the curve less sharp and the distance a slight bit shorter but it could also make your life shorter if you slam head on into another vehicle doing the 40 kph speed limit. If it doesn't kill you it might kill the other driver. Are you willing to live with that?

Here's another rule of physics that I constantly see tested. Objects in motion tend to stay in motion. As is evidenced by the large number of vehicles I have seen with smashed in rear ends tailgating is also a constant problem.

I have a huge rear window and I can't tell you the number of times that I have been unable to see the front bumper of the car behind me because they are following dangerously close. I do the speed limit but apparently that isn't good enough for some reckless drivers.

Here's a rule of thumb for a safe following distance. Pick a stationary object on the side of the road. As the car in front of you passes that stationary object. Count 1-1000, 2-1000, 3-1000. If your car's front bumper is just arriving at the stationary object then you are following at the minimum safe distance from the car in front of you that will allow you to stop in time if you need to do so.

For all of you impatient people in a hurry to get somewhere quick at whatever the cost, if the vehicle in front of you has left a safe following distance between herself and the vehicle in front of her it is not an open invitation to pass and sandwich your vehicle between those two.

It's not a joke and I don't want to make it one. I would like to live. I'd like my wife, and my son, and daughter in law and their children to live too. Even though your unsafe driving ticks me off in the extreme every time I see you do it, I want you to live too.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY. ALL OF OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Fukushima nuclear disaster sparks renewed activism

East West Center

HONOLULU (Jan. 27, 2012) -- In the wake of last year's tsunami and nuclear crisis in Fukushima, environmental concerns and health fears have heightened among everyday citizens in Japan, and skepticism has spread about information from government and corporate sources. In a new East-West Center policy brief, Purdue University political science professor Daniel P. Aldrich discusses how Japanese civil society, which for decades has appeared weak and nonparticipatory, has now reawakened as citizens effect change through grassroots science and activism.

In the AsiaPacific Issues paper titled "Post-Crisis Japanese Nuclear Policy: From Top-Down Directives to Bottom-Up Activism," Aldrich writes that "the recent (and ongoing) accident at the Fukushima nuclear complex may be the straw that broke the camel's back." Public meetings that have typically been "rituals of assent" are now the scenes of confrontations as citizens refuse to accept statements from the government or industry at face value. Citizens use social media such as Twitter to seek out other participants for demonstrations. Organizers across the country carried out a Sayonara Nuclear Power Rally in Tokyo's Meiji Park in mid-September, which drew celebrity speakers and roughly 40,000 participants.

These coordinated antinuclear protests are significant not only because they are relatively rare and indicate new levels of activism, but also because "the very act of participation in public protest deepens Japan's democracy and enhances the presence of often unrepresented demographics, such as urban workers and youth, in the public sphere," Aldrich writes.

In this atmosphere of skepticism, several new initiatives have sprung up that illustrate how Japan's civil society has been energized. Aldrich describes one project in which Japanese citizens and foreign residents who own Geiger counters have traveled throughout Japan (including areas in Fukushima), measured radiation levels, and electronically uploaded the collected data to a central website, creating a public repository of data generated through transparent methodology in real time.

Aldrich describes how questions of economic independence and energy security—particularly the oil crisis in the 1970s—motivated the Japanese government to encourage the expansion of nuclear energy. The government developed an extensive array of policy instruments and soft social control techniques designed to bring public opinion in line with national energy goals. "Authorities and regulators overcame opposition and concerns among the broader population and in specific demographic groups, such as coastal fishermen and students, through focused policy instruments intent on manipulating support," he writes.

Industry planners and government bureaucrats deliberately targeted rural communities, where it was less likely that there would be an organized antinuclear campaign, Aldrich writes: "Mayors and governors who supported atomic reactors in their areas would find themselves invited to the prime minister's residence in Tokyo for a public recognition ceremony honoring their assistance with meeting national energy goals."

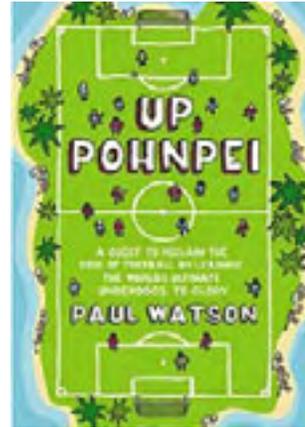
Many of Japan's depopulating towns and villages found the millions of dollars in government subsidies irresistible. "The promise of a nuclear power plant meant potential jobs, millions of dollars in grants and loans, new infrastructure, and the prospect of survival" to these shrinking communities, Aldrich says. He argues, however, that this artificial economic boost is damaging in the long run, since much of the funding dries up once a power plant is operational, leaving these communities with little hope of another economic revival unless they entertain an expansion of the current facility to receive more incentives and subsidies. "The flow of money into often older, impoverished rural communities has created a 'culture of dependence' and a 'cycle of addiction,'" Aldrich writes.

The energy-security questions that motivated the government to encourage the expansion of nuclear power must now be reexamined, he asserts. But it is unclear how the country's energy needs will be met, if not by nuclear. The expense of moving away from nuclear power is formidable, and while there is talk of expanding renewable energy sources, these options are far from being ready to replace nuclear power as a primary energy source in Japan. But the cost estimates for maintaining the country's existing nuclear program are also extremely high, which Aldrich hopes will motivate strong government support of solar, geothermal, and wind power.

Aldrich writes that the government is showing a willingness to move away from top-down, technocratic decision-making processes, demonstrating that public pressure may be altering decades of "business-as-usual politics." He gives the example that the government has already promised to separate nuclear regulators from nuclear promoters.

However, while there are now political and social challenges to the "iron triangle" of the nuclear industry—big business, bureaucrats, and politicians—no public discussion has taken place on the subject of changing the elaborate incentive system or eliminating subsidies to rural host communities. Aldrich concludes that only time will tell if this large-scale catastrophe will break the cycle of nuclear dependence created by more than 30 years of government support and host-community rewards.

Former Pohnpei soccer coach releases new book



Up Pohnpei: A tale of two friends becoming the national team coaches of remote Micronesian island, Pohnpei

By Mark Lomas

In a market saturated with in-depth analyses of how money rules the game, sitting alongside prematurely-released autobiographies from prima donnas keen to detail their difficult Cristal-drinking existences, *Up Pohnpei* stands out as a shining beacon of football literature, oozing moral fibre and radiating the pure light of the sport for all to consume.

In 2007, disillusioned Football Italia journalist Paul Watson and his friend Matt Conrad decided to embark on a quest to become international footballers, by finding the country with the world's worst football team. Research (on Wikipedia, of course) led them to the tiny island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of

Micronesia, but their dreams were quashed by the country's strict citizenship laws.

However, a meeting in London with a former inhabitant of Pohnpei convinces them that, although they can't play, they could perhaps become coaches of the long-defunct national team.

What follows is an entertaining account of the pair's admirable adventure, as they cross several time zones in an attempt to reignite the football flame on Pohnpei, which has a sky-high obesity rate and little interest in sport.

Watson paints a vivid picture of life on the remote Pacific isle - which can claim one of the wettest climates in the world - and of the colourful characters and cultural contrasts he encounters along the way.

It is grassroots football at its rawest as an almost-forgotten pastime is brought back to the fore on Pohnpei. Watson and Conrad's passion for the game pours off the page, leaving the reader to will the unlikely duo on towards their seemingly impossible goal of guiding the ultimate underdogs to their first win.

A heartwarming, uplifting antithesis to all that is wrong with the modern game, *Up Pohnpei* is the must-read football book of 2012.

Up Pohnpei is published by Profile Books and will be released on February 2

The Secretariat is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person to work as Trade Policy Adviser (Aid for Trade).

The officer will be accountable to the Director of the Economic Governance Programme for:

- Managing a team of staff and consultants to deliver timely and high-quality technical advice and assistance to Forum Island Countries on Aid for Trade policy and implementation issues;
- Managing a team of staff and consultants to manage Aid for Trade projects, including the Strengthening Pacific Economic Integration through Trade (SPEITT) programme;
- Managing a team to organise Aid for Trade Roundtable meetings; and
- Building strong relationships through Officials-level liaison with CROP agencies and other counterparts.

Applicants should have a University degree in economics, finance or international trade and with least 5 years relevant work experience dealing with trade and economic policy in the Pacific Island Countries or in a similar environment.

Experience working in a Forum Member Country policy agency, with development partner systems and processes, and in a regional or international environment is essential. Applications should have the ability to work with a small team of professional staff, set priorities successfully, work alone with other professionals with minimal direction and supervision, and meet tight deadlines. Applicants should be willing to travel economy class.

The appointment will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR36,894 to SDR55,342 per annum. At the 1 January 2012 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD103,839 to FJD155,761.

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, a national of an European Union Member Country, or a national of an Africa-Caribbean-Pacific 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 10 February, 2012.

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

IFCP held First Pandanus Characterization Workshop

By Emihner Johnson, Island Food Community of Pohnpei

As Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) continues to promote and raise awareness on Local Foods for its CHEEF (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, Food Security) benefits based on past research and analysis on some of the local foods of Pohnpei, Secretariat of the Pacific, Centre for Pacific Crop and Trees (SPC CePaCT) encourages IFCP to continue the research and documentation on Pandanus. IFCP is awarded a small grant to characterize and document, with accompanying photos, some Pohnpei Pandanus varieties. Pandanus, with its many uses including food, environmental benefits (protects shorelines), domestic uses (house building), etc., is indeed very essential to the livelihood of the atoll islanders of Pohnpei as well as the other atoll islanders in the other FSM states.

The three-day Pandanus Characterization Project Workshop, coordinated by IFCP, started on December 20, 2011. Fourteen (14) Pandanus experts gathered together at IFCP Training Center for this workshop. After an opening prayer, the Acting Executive Director, Emihner Johnson introduced the project and explained the characterization format and the guidelines of the format. After they went through the

guidelines and the format, they identified 20 varieties that will be characterized and documented. In the afternoon, the experts got to work, and with their expertise and their local knowledge of the different types of Pandanus, they were able to characterize and document three different types of Pandanus on the 1st day of the workshop.

The workshop then resumed on January 17 and 18, 2012. Twenty types of Pandanus to be characterized include: Juaihpwehpw, Doapwoahdin, Jonmonoia, Mehkilkil, Luarmwe, Nehnkehdkak, Aida, Mwaijak, Mahngoron, En Kehlen, Pesi, Kipar in Jelwij, En Jorim, Dohpw, Insohl, Mwiskel, Uhnmahng, Oarwehn, Jipwehrik, and Pwehnpwel. Among these twenty types of Pandanus, two are fruitless which are Mwiskel and Uhnmahng, and Oarwehn variety is inedible (itchy).

In general, the key descriptors of the varieties include: Plant Condition, Stem, Leaves, Male Flower, Female Flower, Fruit Punch, and Key. The differences in the above descriptors are listed by color, size, length, texture, taste, shape, compactness, fruit stability, number of keys on bunch, arrangement of keys. Etc.

In addition to the documentation of key descriptors, the experts also documented the traditional local uses of each part of the

Pandanus Tree and its fruit parts, the eating methods and the recommended recipes of each edible type.

This Characterization Project write-up will serve as an educational material and also revive the traditional knowledge that will benefit the future generation.

IFCP would like to thank the SPC CePaCT, Australian Government, SPC Healthy Life-Style for funding this project. Special recognition goes to the Pandanus experts including: Ichiro John, Joseph Jack, Godaro Lorrin, Eshiom Neth, Kalio Lebehn,

Rensper Jack, Neideng Edgar, Neiser Ben, Mispa Peter, Karmela Albert, Elna Julios, Sioko Henry, Caroline Edmond for contributing their local knowledge for this project.

The accompanying Pandanus photos are yet to be completed; IFCP is still seeking photos of Pandanus mentioned above with its tree and ripe fruit.

The public is asked to call IFCP at 320-3259 if they would like to share their photos or if IFCP could take photos of their Pandanus tree for this project.



Island Food Community of Pohnpei Fan is out

By Chizuru Seki (JICA), Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP)

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) created a new awareness material. The IFCP new awareness material is yellow, orange and green round foldable fan comes with pouch. You can fold up the fan and put in a pouch. When it is folded up, it is so small that you can carry it in your purse or even in your shirt pocket. You can take out the fan whenever and wherever you need it. When you want to put it away, you just twist in a figure eight and put it in a pouch.

The IFCP fan comes in yellow or orange which indicates the color of yellow-orange-fleshed banana. Yellow and orange color is the proof of high amount of beta

carotene, provitamin A, which becomes vitamin A inside the body. Yellow-orange fleshed carotenoid rich local food helps to protect against diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, vitamin A deficiency and anemia.

The yellow and orange fan tells people to focus more on yellow- and orange- fleshed local food, and green is the color of garden. IFCP logo and its slogan "Let's Go Local" is on the fan along with the phone numbers (691-320-3259/691-923-7887) and the website URL (www.islandfood.org).

IFCP would like to thank Australian Government, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)-CePaCT and SPC Healthy Life Style for their funding support.



PACIFIC PLAN ADVISER

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
10th Anniversary 2011

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 SDR32,002 to SDR48,002 per annum. At the 1 January 2012 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD90,070 to FJD135,103.

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 17 February, 2012.

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