

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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“White Ribbon Day” launches annual 16 days of activism against violence against women in Pohnpei

Pohnpei Women’s Council

On Saturday 24 November 2012, community members from across Pohnpei joined the White Ribbon Day Fun Run and Concert to help raise awareness on Violence Against Women. This activity, organised by the Pohnpei Women’s Advisory Council, was sponsored through a Direct Aid Program grant through the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei.



Although this year saw the first ever White Ribbon day island wide awareness raising parade, this is in fact the 2nd year in a row that the Council has organized an event to launch the 16 days of Activism Against Violence Against Women, which runs from November 25th (UN Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women) to December 10th (Human Rights Day) of every year.

Before the run, all attendees had the option to participate in the ‘My Oath’ campaign for White Ribbon Day by ‘swearing’ to support



See “White Ribbon” on page 13

FSM again takes a hit on World Bank “Doing Business” report

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 3, 2012

Federated States of Micronesia—For the seventh year in a row, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and The World Bank found that Singapore has the world’s most business-friendly regulatory environment for local entrepreneurs. The same report ranked the Federated States of Micronesia at 150th out of 185 countries evaluated. After data adjustments, FSM’s new ranking is four positions lower than last year’s ranking.

Released on October 23, “*Doing Business 2013: Smarter Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises* finds that 23 economies in East Asia and the Pacific have made their regulatory environment more business-friendly since 2005,” an IFC press release on the report from Washington D.C. said. “During that time, China made the greatest progress in improving business regulations for local entrepreneurs.”

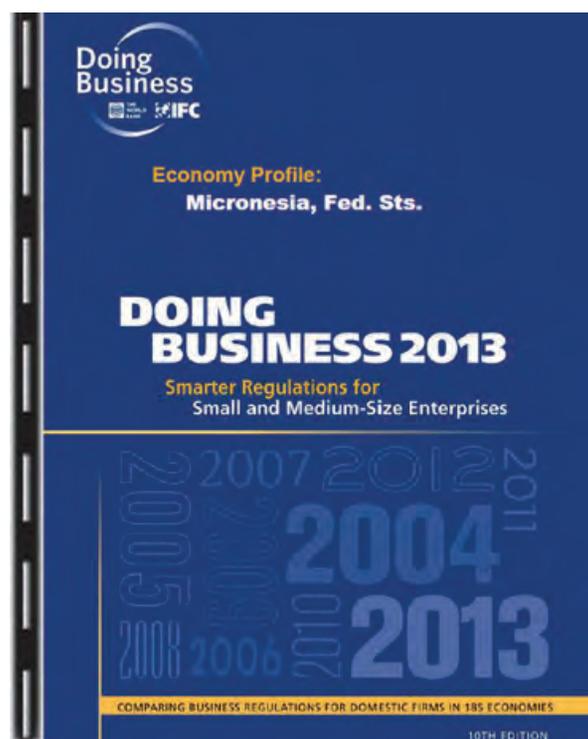
China’s economy ranks 91st on the report.

“The report finds that 11 of 24 economies in East Asia and the Pacific improved business regulations in the past year,” the IFC press release said.

Long way to go

The *Doing Business 2013* report does not list the Federated States of Micronesia as one of the countries with improved business regulations for local entrepreneurs. In fact, except for its rating on “Getting Credit”, the report’s new “Distance to Frontier” measure shows almost no change in the FSM’s business environment since 2005.

The “Distance to Frontier” measure shows how far on average an economy is from the best performance achieved by any economy on each *Doing Business* indicator since 2005. On that scale, World Bank reckons that the FSM has a long way to go on each indicator they



rank in their report.

“Doing Business sheds light on how easy or difficult it is for a local entrepreneur to open and run a small to medium-size business when complying with relevant

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US Navy Seabees pitch in to help the Waa'gey traditional canoe project in Yap, Micronesia

Habele

The sailors, stationed on Yap as part of a construction civic action detail, used their powerful lifting equipment and wide-bodied truck to ferry a massive log to the traditional boat house where it will take shape as a sailing canoe.

Over the course of several weeks, Master Carvers and youth volunteers with the Waa'gey program had fallen, and carved out, a log in the jungles of Yap. It will serve as the hull for a traditional Carolinian sailing canoe. The dugout log -still weighing hundreds of pounds and measuring more than twenty feet long- was pulled up a trail from the depths of the jungle to a dirt road by twenty boys using a rope. The next leg of the trip was the fifteen-mile road into Colonia. That's where the Waa'gey's boathouse sits at the edge of the lagoon. The journey seemed an insurmountable obstacle.

"Thankfully, the US Navy was ready to help!" explained Larry Raigetel of Waa'gey. "They accomplished in a few minutes a lifting feat that would have taken us months by hand," Raigetel continued. "It was a great chance for us to share information and compare notes on our respective building techniques and technologies."

The US sailors raised the hull onto a truck, drove it into Colonia, and then delivered it to the boathouse. Young men and women presented the sailors with floral wreaths and gifts of local foods to convey their gratitude.

Waa'gey is a community-based organization. It aims to uses traditional skills to confront the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by the people of Micronesia's most remote outer islands.

Waa'gey receives financial and material support from Habele, a US-based charity, which was holding a "listening tour" meeting at the boathouse when the log arrived on the Navy's truck. Also present for the delivery was Nils Winkler, CEO of Yapital, a European-based electronic payments company. Yapital had donated chainsaws, adze blades and fuel for the Canoe Project through its ongoing partnership with Habele.

The US Navy Seabee civic action team is working on Yap to fabricate schools and hospitals, continuing a decades long tradition of American Government's investment in core infrastructure for the people of Micronesia.



The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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21 contenders for national elections in 2013

Congress News

November 28, 2012

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – The Office of the National Elections Director has notified Speaker Isaac V. Figir of the Seventeenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia that 21 candidates will be on the ballots for the National General Elections of March 5, 2013.

National Elections Director Albert T. Welly transmitted a listing of 21 candidates vying for the two-year seats in the upcoming Eighteenth Congress. The Director's letter of November 20 2012, noted that review of the nomination petitions filed on November 5 concluded that all petitioners met the requirements specified under the regulations for National Elections and submitted for the next general election of the National Government the following official candidates:

State of Yap

Election District 1 (Yap State):

1. Mr. Isaac V. Figir (incumbent) - unopposed
- State of Chuuk

Election District 1 – Mortlocks :

1. Mr. Florencio Singkoro Harper (incumbent) – unopposed

Election District 2 – Northern Namoneas:

1. Mr. Roger S. Mori (incumbent); and
2. Mr. Victory(Vicky) S. Goulard.

Election District 3 - Southern Namoneas:

1. Ms. Augustina S. Takashy;
2. Mr. Bonsiano Fasy Nethon (incumbent); and
3. Mr. Michael M. Kanas.

Election District 4 - Faichuuk:

1. Mr. Setiro Paul; and
2. Mr. Tiwiter Aritos(incumbent).

Election District 5 – Northwestern:

1. Mr. Moses A. Nelson;
2. Mr. Robson U. Romolow;
3. Mr. Ruphin Micky;
4. Mr. Tony H. Otto (incumbent); and
5. Mr. Williander Jack.

State of Pohnpei

Election District 1 – Sokesh, Kolonia, Sapwuahfik, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi and Oroluk:

1. Mr. Dohsis Halbert (Incumbent); and
2. Mr. Ferny S. Perman.

Election District 2 – Madolenihmw and Kitti:

1. Mr. Berney Martin (incumbent); and
2. Mr. Dion G. Neth.

Election District 3 – Nett, U, Mwoakilloa and Pingelap:

1. Mr. David W. Panuelo (incumbent) – unopposed.

State of Kosrae

Election District 1

1. Mr. Johnson A. Asher; and
2. Mr. Paliknoa K. Welly (incumbent).

The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia is unicameral law making body with fourteen Senators. Four members serve as at-large representative of each State for a 4-yr term. The other ten (10) members are apportioned by state population to serve a 2-yr term. The overall composition of the FSM Congress is Chuuk has six seats, with Pohnpei four and Chuuk and Yap two each.

According to the Director's letter, the official candidates will, on Tuesday – March 5, 2013, vie for the 10 seats in the FSM Congress that are apportioned per population to serve a two-year term.

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Launching of the dry litter pig waste management in Nanpil, Nett



Setting the foundation works for the dry litter piggery model in Nanpil Nett

Patterson K. Shed
FSM IWRM Project

Yam, sakau (kava), and pig play an integral part in tributes to paramount Chiefs, and serve as a source of food security and community livelihood sustenance in Pohnpei for over 100 years. They are symbolic for wealth, strength and vitality of our cultural heritage. Recently, sakau's economic value estimated at over \$5 million dollars annually on Pohnpei, motivates people to farm sakau deeper in the upland forest, which is degrading critical forest habitats and key watersheds vital to sustaining drinking water for Pohnpei residents.

Pig is probably the most important of them all, and raised by almost all families on island. Unconfirmed reports indicate there are at least 3,000 piggens mostly located along river banks, streams and shorelines, all polluting Pohnpei's water resources and marine ecosystem. The current EPA regulations prohibit building of toilet facilities and building of pig pens within 50 feet of any body of water. The enforcement of these regulations is done by the Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency however with resistant compliance by the pig pen owners. Water borne diseases such as leptospira, ecoli and cholera are serious health threat as a result. It has been determined that significant numbers of people have contracted Leptospirosis disease, which is associated with exposure to improperly managed pig waste and can be fatal according to Pohnpei Department of Health case studies. The current waste management practice uses a wash down method that directly flow into water ways and the ground. Within a 50-year span the impact of poor animal management has degraded water quality on almost all major rivers around the island. The problem is a result of our own actions and likewise to reverse the situation requires a collaborative solution between governments, NGOs, traditional leaders and communities.

There is hope that problem of this

Wood chipper machines donated to Pohnpei State

Embassy of Japan, Pohnpei

November 27, 2012 marked another milestone for the Government of Pohnpei as the "Project for Dry Litter Piggery in Pohnpei State" was officially kicked off for Pohnpei State Office of Economic Affairs Agricultural division. This project was endorsed on June 28, 2012 under Japan's Grassroots Human Security grants in the amount of \$61,550 to purchase two wood chipper machines and the launching of this said Project has been duly anticipated.

This project couldn't be more fitting as it is common knowledge that raising pigs on Pohnpei is very important for cultural obligations as well as food security. Pig pens are a common sight on Pohnpei Island

and the daily use of water to clean piggeries creates a large volume of polluted water that causes environmental and public health problems as pigs are known to carry diseases such as Leptospirosis.

The introduction of the wood chippers will support compost production and farmers utilizing Dry Litter Piggery technology on Pohnpei and also improve the sanitary of pig pens. Compost is a valuable fertilizer produced from agricultural crops and can be made from wood chips and pig waste. A dry litter piggery does not utilize water to wash pig pens so in this way it will lessen pollution of water. The wood chips can be placed in pig pens to absorb the waste and keep the pens clean with reduced odor and presence of flies. One of the main achievements of this project is that it will utilize simple but effective ways to raise pigs in an eco-friendly and cost-effective way.

Remarks were given by Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki from the Embassy of Japan, Governor John Ehsa, and Mr. Jackson Phillip representing the Piggery Advisory Council. The Project was officially received by Governor Ehsa and in his remarks he stated that the piggery projects are one of the projects that all the resident diplomatic missions have collectively supported, but for this particular project it was a joint effort with the US Government, which provided technical support and the Embassy of Japan, through the granting of the wood chipper machines.

The ceremony was witnessed by Lieutenant Governor Marcelo Peterson, Diplomatic corps, College of Micronesia (COM-FSM), NGOs, staff of Pohnpei Economic Affairs, and the Embassy of Japan. The witnesses were also treated with a terrific demonstration of what the wood chippers could do.



magnitude could be addressed through partnerships. A standing committee, called the Pohnpei Piggery Advisory Council (PAC), has been established to support pig farmers better manage livestock waste. Sustainable pig production technologies exist, and are

being promoted by the PAC, especially dry Litter piggery technology. The FSM Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in partnership with FSM Department of Resources and Development, and the

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has partnered with Nett District Government, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and the PAC to demonstrate the dry Litter waste management model in Nanpil Nett.

Region's biggest annual maritime surveillance operation acts to stop illegal fishing

Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

Monday 19 November 2012

Ffa Regional Headquarters, Honiara, Solomon Islands - Operation Kurukuru 2012, a coordinated maritime surveillance operation in which countries cooperate to detect activities such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, smuggling and people trafficking, was hosted by the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) over the last two weeks.

Operation Kurukuru 2012 resulted in 323 vessels sighted and 206 vessel boarded and inspected, more than twice as many as were conducted during the same operation in 2011. These efforts resulted in 27 infringements, some of which are now the subject of ongoing investigations. The 5 aircraft involved in the operation flew a total of over 80 hours, surveying the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of many of the Pacific Island Countries as well as adjacent high seas areas.

Covering an area of approximately 30 million square kilometers - including the EEZs of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu - Operation Kurukuru 2012 involved fisheries surveillance and enforcement staff from all of these countries working together with their Quadrilateral Defence Cooperation counterparts from Australia, New Zealand, France and the United States over a busy two week period.

Surveillance was conducted by individual countries, within respective EEZs, using 10 Pacific Class Patrol Boats (from Cook Islands, 2x Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), 2 French Patrol Boats and a frigate, and a US Coast Guard Cutter. This was supported by aerial surveillance provided by 5 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (2 F200 Gardian's and a CN235 Casa supplied by France, a P3 from the US Navy and a C-130 Hercules from the US Coast Guard).

Operation Kurukuru was planned, hosted and coordinated by the Pacific Island Forum

Fisheries Agency (FFA) from its Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC) located at the headquarters in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Via secure login, all countries had access to an FFA web-based Regional Surveillance Picture containing fishing vessel contacts, satellite data, surveillance flight plans and vessel patrol plans and indicators highlighting vessels of interest in the region. This equipped the nations with valuable data to determine where best to send their patrol boats to target where aerial and surface surveillance and analysis in the RFSC had identified suspicious activities or vessels.

Outcomes include:

- ADF training team worked with Kiribati Police Maritime prior to the operation.
- A Micronesia patrol boat conducted 27 boarding's, identifying 13 violations in their EEZ.
- US Coast Guard enacted the ship-rider agreement with Samoa and Tonga, conducting boarding's in their EEZs.
- Micronesia and Palau patrolled each others' EEZs under Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement
- The Kiribati patrol boat conducted 24 boarding's.
- A French patrol boat identified 9 violations during 9 boarding's in the High Seas Pocket.

The success of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance effort by the FFA member countries and their surveillance partners in the region of the United States and France should not necessarily just be measured by the number of fishing vessels apprehended or violation detected. The deterrence effect of enforcement vessels looming over the horizon or an aircraft overflying fishing vessels cannot be overstated in efforts to counter those who would seek to plunder the oceans surrounding the FFA members' nations.

Operation Kurukuru is an activity to meet the broader objectives of sustainable fisheries management and development in the Pacific region. This annual operation, held in the Eastern and Western FFA Member countries, complements other operations held in the rest of the FFA member countries.

FOR SALE BY AUCTION



Pursuant to order of the FSM Supreme Court entered September 10, 2012, public notice is hereby given that the building known as the "RS PLAZA BUILDING" located on parcel no. 011-A-19, known as "Nenom Part" in Iras Village, Weno Island, Chuuk State, will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

- The minimum bid amount is \$ 200,000.00.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "RS Plaza Auction" by personal delivery to the filing window of the Office of the Clerk of Courts of the FSM Supreme Court - Weno, Chuuk, to the attention of the State Justice Ombudsman.
- The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2013.
- 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 be issued a court order transferring title to the building, fixtures, equipment and appurtenant structures to the building (other than that owned by building tenants) following delivery of a cashier's check in the full amount of the bid payable to the "FSM Supreme Court" 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 building, fixtures, equipment and appurtenant structures are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.
- The winning bidder will take title to the building subject to any valid lease agreement favoring existing building tenants under the same terms and conditions lawfully in effect at the time of the award.
- The winning bidder will receive an assignment of the right to possession to parcel no. 011-A-19 and an assignment of the real property mortgage to parcel no. 011-A-19 from FSM Development Bank.
- This auction is subject to cancellation at any time prior to the entry of the court order designating the winning bidder.
- Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Michael Sipos, Esq. phone: 691-320-6450, fax: 691-320-6451, email: msipos@mail.fm or Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, FSM Development Bank, phone: 691-320-2840, fax: 691-320-6533, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, website: www.fsmdb.fm



Estimated use of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices

PEW Trust

Dec. 02, 2012

MANILA, Philippines—An estimated 47,000 to 105,000 fish aggregating devices (FADs) are currently in use worldwide to catch tuna and other species of fish, according to the Pew Environment Group. Pew released this first-ever estimate of the use of FADs at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting today (Sunday) to bring attention to this growing and unregulated fishing technique.

“The deployment of tens of thousands of drifting fish aggregating devices in the world’s oceans with little to no oversight is extremely worrisome,” said Amanda Nickson, director of tuna conservation at the Pew Environment Group.

FADs are used by fisherman to attract tuna and other species of fish. They often extend 50 meters below the surface and can be made from a variety of materials, including bamboo floats, plastic ribbons, and old nets. They can be adrift for years at a time and attract a wide variety of marine life, including skipjack tuna, sharks, billfish, juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

FAD fishing is widespread and growing because of its increased efficiency—the devices allow more fish to be caught with less effort. This method is used to catch almost half of the world’s tuna and is contributing to the overfishing of bigeye tuna across the Pacific Ocean. In addition, sea turtles, sharks and juvenile fish are often caught and killed in the process of FAD fishing; hundreds of species are attracted by the floating devices.

Scientists are unclear about the overall impact of wide-scale FAD use on the marine ecosystem, yet the devices are being deployed in record numbers. Additionally, thousands of drifting FADs are lost or abandoned by fishing vessels every year, compounding an already serious marine debris problem.

“The fishing industry is not currently required to account for its use of FADs. It is being allowed to gamble with the health of the ocean, and it is time for governments to require full accountability and management of this proliferating and risky fishing gear,” said Nickson.

The Pew Environment Group estimate was obtained from data gathered from published scientific literature, industry expertise and documents from regional fisheries management organizations that oversee tuna fisheries.

At the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting today, Pew called on governments to take action to require information sharing and other aspects of management and regulation of FADs. In the interim, Pew urges fishermen, fleet managers and satellite-buoy companies, all of whom know how many FADs are deployed, to cooperate with governments, fisheries management bodies like WCPFC, and scientists to share their data on numbers, locations and whether the devices have been retrieved.

Pohnpeian Army engineer arrives to repair Pohnpei hospital

Embassy of the United States of America, Kolonia

A Humanitarian Assistance team of U. S. Army personnel from Alaska’s 6th Engineer Battalion has arrived on Pohnpei to work on much needed major renovations to the Pohnpei State Hospital.

One member of the team is a Micronesian citizen serving in the U. S. military. Private First Class (PFC) Bo Nedlic, a 2011 graduate of PICS High School, is among the 22 members of the Humanitarian Assistance team working on repairs at the Pohnpei State Hospital. Prior to his enlistment, he had only traveled to Guam for a couple of months when he was a young boy.

PFC Nedlic joined the Army to try new experiences and began Basic Training in August 2011. After Basic Training, he attended Advanced Individual Training (AIT) to learn skills necessary to work as an electrician. His older brother is stationed with the Army in Korea.

In January 2012, when PFC Nedlic reported to his first duty station at the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, he was told his unit would soon deploy to Pohnpei. The work on the hospital has been more than just a visit to his home, it has been with a purpose. Helping to improve the condition of the hospital has a real meaning for him. PFC Nedlic has enjoyed his Army experience, and is glad to be able to come home to help people in his home country.



PFC Nedlic replacing an Exit sign



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Bank of Guam contributes \$25k to Palau supertyphoon relief

Bankon Ifit issues challenge to other companies to match, sets up account for contributions

Bank of Guam

December 5, 2012, Hagatna, Guam – Bank of Guam announced a \$25,000 contribution to ongoing relief efforts in Palau as a result of the emergency caused by Supertyphoon Bopha.

While the Bank of Guam's Palau branch opened on Tuesday, December 4 to serve the community, hundreds of residents in the north have been made homeless due to flooding which washed away homes and belongings.

Lou Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam President, Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer stated, "Bank of Guam is pleased to announce this contribution to relief efforts, and we challenge all other Guam businesses doing work in Palau to also provide assistance to our island family and friends."

Bank of Guam is also accepting donations at any of its branches. Checks may be made payable to "Palau Bopha Relief Efforts."

For additional information, please contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258 or at jackie.marati@bankofguam.com

FSM receives compact sector grant awards totaling \$62 million for FY2013

FSM Information Services

December 4, 2012

Palikir, POHNPEI (FSM Office of SBOC) – On November 8, 2012 the Office of Insular Affairs issued seven Grant Awards to the Federated States of Micronesia totaling \$50,709,947. The Grant Awards are the result of the Joint Economic Management Committee's recent allocation resolution for fiscal year 2013. Earlier in the fiscal year, on October 19, 2012, the Office of SBOC's Division of Compact Management also received this year's Supplemental Education Grant (SEG) in the amount of \$11,751,632.

The eight grant awards totaling \$62,461,579 have been apportioned to the five FSM governments according to FSM law.

JEMCO concluded at its September Annual Meeting that the Compact Infrastructure Sector Grant, which accounts for thirty percent of Amended Compact funding, would only be issued to fund the FSM's Project Management Unit. Further allocations would be contingent upon OIA's receipt of an updated Infrastructure Development Plan.

JEMCO also agreed to fund only the first quarter of Chuuk State's Education Sector Grant budget, pending the outcome of a high level meeting to review progress and implementation of the Chuuk Education Reform Plan. This meeting took place on November 2-3, 2012 in Weno, Chuuk and based on the communiqué issued, work is currently underway to secure JEMCO allocation of the remainder of Chuuk's FY13 Education Sector funding.

	Chuuk 38%	Kosrae 10.9%	Pohnpei 25.31%	Yap 15.79%	TOTAL
Education	\$2,504,071	\$2,439,446	\$7,374,354	\$3,874,645	\$20,445,384
Health	\$8,608,714	\$2,111,506	\$5,768,196	\$3,308,441	\$20,692,562
Public Sector	\$1,516,597	\$502,060	\$421,057	\$506,514	\$2,946,228
Private Sector	\$795,369	\$782,462	0	\$795,663	\$2,373,494
Environment	\$685,341	\$215,903	\$352,223	\$364,550	\$1,618,017
ERA	\$619,095	\$177,582	\$288,645	\$173,465	\$1,481,237
Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	\$1,153,025
SEG	\$4,465,620	\$1,280,928	\$2,974,339	\$1,855,583	\$11,751,632
TOTAL	\$19,194,807	\$7,509,887	\$17,178,814	\$10,878,861	\$62,461,579

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Rotary Club Quiz Night raises \$8,500 for scholarships

Rotary Club of Pohnpei



Bank of Guam General Manager poses with Rotarians and the winning quiz night team (above)

United Airlines representatives with Karen Gall (second from right) and partner, Micheal Kulesza



The Quiz Night is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Pohnpei Rotary Club, and this year we raised over \$8,500.00. We use this money to award college scholarships to local students, and to support other projects, including the distribution of water purification systems to the outer islands, books for schools and the Pohnpei Public Library, participation in the first Pohnpei Spelling Bee, and many other related projects. This year we awarded \$11,100.00 in scholarships to 18 scholars.

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei held its annual Quiz Night on November 3, 2012 at PCR Restaurant. It was the largest crowd ever and 26 tables competed for prizes and awards. The competition was fierce as numerous tables were neck and neck throughout the night. Do you know who Fred Flintstone's boss was in the cartoon, The Flintstones? At the end of the regular competition two tables were tied for first, and a playoff round was played. Ultimately, the winning team was crowned. The winning team consisted of Randy Calvart, Candy Calvart, Melinda Poll, Gary Bloom and Rob Boylan, and they won the grand prize of \$100.00 each donated by Bank of Guam.

Runners up in this stiff competition was a team consisting of Dennis Gearhart, Amy Delilah Ulm, Bob Spegal, Michael Kulesza, Karen Gall, and Freya Hoppert. They took home \$50.00 gift certificates from Ace Hardware and other prizes.

Each table received a nice prize from one of our wonderful sponsors. There were also raffles and auctions. United Airlines gave us two tickets to auction, and the ticket auction was won by Karen Gall. We had many other beautiful auction items, including shells donated by Alison MacConell. A lot of fun was had by all, and it didn't get out of control at all. Maybe next year. We want to especially thank Bill Jaynes for easier music questions this year.

The Quiz Night is the largest

We wish to thank all of the participants and especially our sponsors. We want to list them so that they know that they are really appreciated. The Quiz Night would not be possible without our sponsors.

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The Rotary Club is always looking for new projects and more help. Please feel free to join us at PCR Restaurant, each Thursday at 12:15 p.m.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make this fundraiser a success. By the way it was Mr. Slate. Hopefully we will see you next year or at our other fundraising events.

FSM leaders renew shark conservation commitments Micronesia progresses towards massive regional shark sanctuary

Micronesia Conservation Trust

December 6, 2012

POHNPEI – Lawmakers from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae and national government of the Federated States of Micronesia met this week to discuss the development of legislation to protect sharks in their territorial waters.

In advance of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) meeting, state leaders shared updates on local efforts to create measures to protect sharks in the region. The Kosrae Legislature passed a bill banning the sale, trade, and possession of shark/commercial shark fishing in all waters under state control which Gov. Lyndon Jackson signed into law in October.

"I am proud to have Kosrae take this first step to protect sharks and the health of our ocean," said Senator Tulensa Palik, vice chairman of the state's Committee on Resources and Development who introduced the bill. "It is important now for the national government to join us to protect sharks and the health of our ocean."

In Chuuk, a similar shark conservation bill is now before the governor for signature according to Senator Stephen

See "Shark" on next Page

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Pohnpei State to emphasise tourism as it plans to be self-sufficient

PIFS
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Pohnpei, FSM, 26 November 2012 – In anticipation of the ending of funds from the United States Compact in 2023, the states in the Federated States of Micronesia are considering measures to fill up the gap that will be left in their budgets.

And for FSM's capital state of Pohnpei it proposes to develop tourism in a sustainable manner adopting the 'World Park' concept. A plan is being developed with overseas assistance for presentation to the Pohnpei state legislature.

"We do not want to create another Guam or Waikiki (Hawaii). We want to create something that is unique to Pohnpei and that will showcase our culture in a sustainable way," said the Pohnpei State Governor, Hon. John Ehsa when he met with the FSM Forum Compact Peer Review team on 23 November.



The FSM is the 9th Forum Island Country that has volunteered for a peer review of its national development planning, budgeting, public financial and aid coordination processes and systems.

The FSM government has also specifically requested that in recognition of the pressing challenges facing the country, that their Peer Review team should also consider the suitability of the existing policy environment for promoting private sector development.

Selected by the FSM Government, the FSM Peer Review Team consists of Mr Catolino Kijiner from the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ms Noumea Simi representing the Government of Samoa, Mr Johnson Naviti of the Vanuatu Government and Mr Asif Chida from the UNDP Pacific Centre in Fiji. The Team is assisted by staff of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The team has met with leaders and officials of the national government and the four states as well as non-government organizations, women and youth groups, the private sector and development partners.

In a meeting with the Peer Review Team, the Pohnpei State Governor, Hon. Ehsa told the team he wants his

state to take the lead in the development of tourism as a way of making the state self-sufficient post 2023. The 'World Park' concept included a Trust Fund component.

"We are proposing that the tourism will be the leading sector for Pohnpei state but at the same time continuing to develop the education and health sectors."

Governor Ehsa explained that "the development of tourism we are proposing under the 'World Park' concept will develop tourism in a sustainable manner so our people can value who we are, what we are, keep our identity but at the same time attract tourists."

"The Pohnpei State government has recently set up an overseas development assistance unit within its budget department because Pohnpei State believes that aid coordination should be at the state level and the national government's role should only be to consolidate whatever development assistance comes into the states," said Hon. Ehsa.

Additionally, Pohnpei State Government wants to take the lead in implementing a financial management system that can enable the budget, finance, and reporting processes of the resources be integrated according to the State Development Plan.

At the end of the FSM Forum Compact Peer Review, a report, which will be discussed with the FSM Government, will make recommendations to both the government and the development partners.



NOTICE TO MICARE MEMBERS

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Main Office: 320-2549
Kosrae: 370-2935

Yap: 350-2115
Chuuk: 330-5891

...Shark

Continued from previous page

Nelson. Yap is also drafting shark protections and Pohnpei has committed to introducing legislation to protect sharks in early January.

Shark protections have already been established in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. Once all four members of the Federated States of Micronesia—Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—as well as the national government have passed their laws, it will result in a regional sanctuary covering 2 million square miles.

Implementation of the Palau and Marshall Islands sanctuaries has already begun with marine enforcement trainings held in Majuro in September and Palau in November. The trainings included a hands-on tactical workshop

and encouraged collaboration between government agencies charged with enforcing marine conservation laws.

Up to 73 million sharks are killed every year, primarily for their fins. Sharks, which grow slowly, mature late and produce few young during their lifetimes, have difficulty recovering from overfishing and depletion. These apex predators, living at the top of the food web, are key to maintaining the health of ocean ecosystems.

"NGOs are working collaboratively with state partners in conducting both public awareness and biological monitoring of sharks," said Eugene Joseph, Executive Director of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP). "CSP and partners recently completed a shark tagging project in partnership with University of Guam. We found that where sharks are present, coral reef ecosystem is healthy."

"We applaud the leaders of Kosrae, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap for their continued commitment to shark conservation," said Liz Karan, manager of the Pew Environment Group's Global Shark Conservation Campaign. "Micronesia is an important piece in the puzzle to protect sharks in the region."

This meeting comes as delegates from 25 countries meet in Manila for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). To date WCPFC has not taken comprehensive action to protect sharks so individual countries are moving forward to protect their ocean resources, declaring shark sanctuaries.



...Doing Business

Continued from front page

regulations,” the report says in its opening paragraphs. “It measures, and tracks changes in regulations affecting 11 areas in the life cycle of a business: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency, and employing workers.”

Countries were not ranked on their regulations on the employment of workers.

FSM’s cumulative international ranking on the *Doing Business 2013* report is just ahead of Mali, a West African country that currently has an interim government after two overthrows of its government earlier this year. The report ranks the FSM just behind Liberia, another West African country that is recovering from the lingering effects of two civil wars that resulted in the death of two times as many people as the FSM’s entire population; civil wars that also seriously damaged Liberia’s economy.

FSM at bottom of “comparator economies” ranking

Doing Business reports an average cumulative ranking of 86 for the Asia-Pacific region. A chart in the report ranks the FSM at dead last amongst “comparator economies”. On that chart, Samoa and Fiji ranked 57, and 60 respectively, well above the average for the Asia-Pacific region. Five other comparator economies rank below the regional average. Solomon Islands ranks 92nd. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) ranks 101st. Palau ranks 111th, and Kiribati ranks 117th. At 150, FSM is last on the chart of what World Bank figures are FSM’s comparator economies.

“The aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business benchmarks each economy’s performance on the indicators against that of all other economies in the *Doing Business* sample. While this ranking tells much about the business environment in an economy, it does not tell the whole story,” the *Doing Business 2013* report says. “The ranking on the ease of doing business, and the underlying indicators, do not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms and investors or that affect the competitiveness of the economy. Still, a high ranking does mean that the government has created a regulatory environment conducive to operating a business.”

FSM trying to improve its score

A spokesperson at the FSM’s Department of Resources and Development (R&D) said that the FSM is trying to address the FSM’s ranking in order to improve it. The spokesperson said that during the Development Partner’s meeting last month in Palikir, President Mori met with the representative of the World Bank, and asked for technical assistance to improve the nation’s scores.

The R&D spokesperson said that the FSM is not just interested in improving the World Bank’s estimation of its business environment. The FSM is interested in working on actual improvements in its business environment.

In a moment of candor that was not intended as an official statement, the spokesperson said, “They (World Bank) have been pretty unfair with us in the past. Every year our ranking has gone down and it’s affecting our investment environment.”

Report has limitations

In explaining its handling of the data used for all of its rankings the report says that it has limitations.

As an example, the collected data refers to the economy’s largest business city. In the FSM, that city would be Kolonia, Pohnpei, which has a very different business environment from the business environments in Colonia, Yap; Weno, Chuuk; or Tofol, Kosrae.

As a step toward combating that type of data inconsistency, this year *Doing Business* completed sub-national studies for Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, the Russian Federation, and the United Arab Emirates. Those countries had previously asked for that type of evaluation.

Due to the constitutionally mandated structure of the FSM, there is no such thing as a “National business environment”, though certainly, FSM’s National government has passed laws that would affect its ease of doing business rating. Several years ago the FSM

Table 5.1 The ease of registering property in Micronesia, Fed. Sts. over time
By *Doing Business* report year

Indicator	DB2005	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012	DB2013
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	185	185
Procedures (number)	n.a.	no practice							
Time (days)	n.a.	no practice							
Cost (% of property value)	n.a.	no practice							

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings shown are not last year’s published rankings but comparable rankings for DB2012 that capture the effects of such factors as data corrections and the addition of 2 economies (Barbados and Malta) to the sample this year. For more information on “no practice” marks, see the data notes.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

passed a secured transactions law and laws that deal with the issue of insolvency. Those laws made nary a dent on the World Bank’s ranking of its business environment.

Doing Business – 2013 rated FSM 129th out of 185 countries in the area of “Getting Credit”, tying with Zimbabwe and 25 other countries. In the area of “Resolving Insolvency”, FSM rated an abysmal 166 out of 185, just behind the Philippines, and just ahead of Rwanda.

World Bank says property can’t be registered in FSM

Each year, since the inception of the report, *Doing Business* has ranked the FSM and the Republic of the Marshall Islands at dead last in the category of “Registering Property”. This year is no exception. *Doing Business* says that countries that have no regulations in a certain category, or that have regulations but don’t practice them automatically received a score of 185 in that category.

27 countries received a rating of 185 in one category or another. Timor-Leste scored 185 on three of the 10 categories *Doing Business* considered. That country landed in the 169th spot, just 19 places below the FSM.

This year, FSM, RMI, and Timor Leste all received a default value score of 185 in the area of “Registering Property”.

But there are problems with the FSM’s score in that area.

Pohnpei’s Constitution does say “No land shall be sold,” but that line in the Constitution continues on to say, “except as authorized by statute.”

An attorney with the Pohnpei State government said that Pohnpei passed two important statutes regarding land sales. The Mortgage Law and the Deed of Trust Law, together allow for property to be used as collateral for construction loans. In the case of default on a loan collateralized by land, the lending institution may sell the property in order to retrieve the money that it loaned.

The laws are not new but the *Doing Business* reports have still always given the lowest ranking to the FSM on the topic of registering property.

According to the Constitution, only Pohnpeian citizens who are pwilidak (variably spelled “pweldak”) may own land in Pohnpei. The Constitution says that “a person who is a legal resident of Pohnpei is a citizen and pweldak of Pohnpei if either of his parents at the time of his birth was a citizen and pweldak of Pohnpei.”

This constitutional provision bars any foreigners from owning land in Pohnpei. However, the Pohnpei State Legislature has passed provisions for land leases for longer periods of time than the constitutionally recommended term of 25 years.

Business owners and others routinely execute such leases with land owners in Pohnpei.

According to Douglas Nelber, Pohnpei Chief of Land, land in Pohnpei does change hands by assignment, and the land ownership information is legally recorded at the Department of Land.

FSM’s ranking in other areas

In the area of the ease of “Starting a Business”, *Doing Business* rated FSM at 104, sandwiched between Jordan at 103, and Nepal at 105.

On “Dealing With Construction Permits”, FSM scored its highest ranking of 42, just after Swaziland and before Brunei Darussalam.

On the ease of “Getting Electricity”, FSM also scored much higher than in the other areas *Doing Business* evaluated. In that category they ranked 53rd, behind Estonia and before Oman. The data lists only the procedures and costs necessary to get a power hookup from

See “*Doing Business*” on page 14

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...White Ribbon

Continued from front page

FSM's campaign to end violence against women. White Ribbon Day is a movement by men to show their support towards the elimination of violence against women. The turn out from the COM campus was awesome, and the organizers hope to see more young men at next year's parade.

The White Ribbon Day Fun Run commenced at the Spanish Wall Park at 9:00am with some background information on White Ribbon Day from the Pohnpei Women's Advisory Council. Buses carried all the runners to Wapar, Madolenihmw at noon. From there two teams of approximately 140 runners went in separate directions, and rejoined at the Spanish Wall Park at 6 PM. Following the run, there

was a concert featuring local bands to cool off the runners, drivers, screamers, dancers, medical, and media personnel, along with everyone who had been involved in the fun walk parade.

The White Ribbon Day Fun Run and Concert is the first of several events taking place by the Council in Pohnpei to raise awareness for not only White Ribbon Day, but for the entire 16 days campaign against Violence Against Women.

The organizers extend their deep appreciation to the White Ribbon ambassadors in Pohnpei, H.E. Martin Quinn, and Lt. Commander Geoff Hart-Davis, and to COM-FSM President Daisy for their inspiration and support for our campaign here in FSM.

On December 10, the last day of the 16 days campaign, the women Council will lead a brief parade to the Pohnpei Legislative Chamber to submit a letter to Speaker Lohn requesting the honourable Legislature to adopt the pending bill on Family Violence that was first introduced in 2008.

Photos by Lynn Narruhn



LEGAL NOTICE

by the FSM Department of Justice

The property listed below has been determined to be abandoned or unclaimed property in the custody of the National Police of the Federated States of Micronesia, (FSM). Included with the description of the property is the location where the property has been abandoned.

Pursuant to Title 24, section 803 of the FSM Code, the FSM Government gives notice of its intention to hold onto this abandoned property until all fines, orders for costs and penalties imposed pursuant to the FSM Supreme Court Order, dated March 13, 2009, in FSM Civil Case No. 2008-012: FSM v. Koshin Maru 31 have been paid by the owner of the property by December 31, 2012.

Pursuant to Title 24, section 803 of the FSM Code, should the owner fail to pay the FSM National Government by December 31, 2012, the property shall be sold by the National Government to recover the money owed to it pursuant to the FSM Supreme Court Order, dated March 13, 2009, in FSM Civil Case No. 2008-012: FSM v. Koshin Maru 31.

Any person desiring to claim the property must file with the FSM National Police a claim for the said property by December 31, 2012. If the property is not claimed by this date, title will vest in the FSM National Government.

A point of contact and FSM Government address for claims and additional information concerning the property are provided.



- **Property:**
Koshin Maru 31
See photograph
- **Description:**
Longline vessel
- **Date Acquired:**
February, 2008
- **Date Abandoned:**
March 13, 2009
- **Location:**
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- **Address to submit claim:**
FSM National Police, Department of Justice,
P.O. Box PS 105, Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM
- **Phone:** (691) 3202628
(691) 3202608
(691) 3202644
- **Fax:** (691) 3203243
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- **Deadline**
December 31st, 2012

FSM President welcomes preliminary findings of Forum Compact Peer Review

*PIFS
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat*

3rd December 2012

Pohnpei, FSM - The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, H.E Emmanuel Mori welcomed the preliminary findings of the peer review conducted under the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination (Forum Compact) 12 – 26 November 2012.

The Government of the FSM is the 9th Forum Island Country that has volunteered for a peer review of its national development planning, budgeting, public financial and aid coordination processes and systems.

The FSM has also specifically requested that in recognition of the pressing challenges facing the country, that their Peer Review team should also consider the suitability of the existing policy environment for promoting private sector development.

Selected by the FSM Government, the FSM Peer Review Team consisted of Mr Catalino Kijiner from the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ms Noumea Simi representing the Government of Samoa, Mr Johnson Naviti of the Vanuatu Government and Mr Asif Chida from the UNDP Pacific Centre in Fiji. The Team was assisted by staff of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The team consulted with leaders and agencies of the FSM national and state governments as well as non-government organizations, the private sector and development partners.

The Forum Compact Peer Review Team presented its preliminary findings through an Aide Memoire to the government and key stakeholders of FSM on 26 November. The team's draft report is scheduled to be completed in three weeks and it will be released after the government has approved the recommendations.

In its presentation of its preliminary findings, the peer team acknowledged the support from both the national and state government agencies for the review and congratulated FSM on having chosen to host the peer review process after the completion of an FSM Partners' Forum and a Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessment (PEFA). This was a sign that the processes for reforms are underway in FSM and the team had tried to support this in its discussions and conclusions.

During the peer review, the team stressed that the review was not an assessment but was meant to be helpful to FSM by identifying existing starting points for progress and where there are missing elements, and most of all by putting FSM in touch with similar experience in the rest of the region.

The team was impressed by the common sense of urgency about the need for reforms and growth in FSM. Everyone, including the private sector and the NGOs were interested in how other countries are growing the private sector, managing aid and encouraging participation by all sections of society in inclusive development. The team also emphasised that the private sector and NGOs in the FSM are national development assets and encouraged both the national and state governments to foster close collaboration with in the years leading up to 2023.

On planning, the peer review team recognized the limited functionality of the FSM national Strategic Development Plan and national planning capacity but acknowledged some level of planning at the sector and state levels. The team had concerns about whether the current complex form of performance based budgeting was working for the FSM and suggested more simplified, targeted performance budgeting based on experience elsewhere in the Pacific.

The FSM Forum Compact Peer Review team noted that for the private sector in the country, the main missing element (after tax reform underway) is a strategy for investment and domestic business growth. The team will recommend that such a strategy be driven by the private sector with appropriate assistance and drawing on the experience of neighbouring countries.

The team also acknowledged that the FSM Government has shown it takes aid management seriously through the establishment of the Department of Statistics, Budget, ODA and Compact (SBOC). The team welcomed the establishment of an aid management function at the state level noting that the key point is aid management and acknowledged that the draft FSM ODA or Aid policy was

being set along the right policy lines.

Substantive recommendations will be made on the areas covered by the peer review's terms of reference in the final report.



...Doing Business

Continued from page 10

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation.

On statutes that "Protect Investors", FSM scored 177 along with Palau, The Gambia, and Guinea.

FSM scored 85th in the area of "Paying Taxes" along with Fiji and Grenada.

On "Trading Across Borders", FSM scored 100th, behind Ghana and before Togo.

At 149th, FSM's score on "Enforcing Contracts" was low—tied with Kenya's score.

Employing Workers

No country was ranked on its performance in the area of "Employing Workers", however, the data that World Bank collected was presented as part of the report.

As it did in every area it evaluated, the report made assumptions.

"To make the data on employing workers comparable across economies, several assumptions about the worker and the business are used:

The worker:

- Earns a salary plus benefits equal to the economy's average wage during the

entire period of his employment.

- Has a pay period that is the most common for workers in the economy.
- Is a lawful citizen who belongs to the same race and religion as the majority of the economy's population.
- Resides in the economy's largest business city.
- Is not a member of a labor union, unless membership is mandatory.

The business:

- Is a limited liability company.
- Operates in the economy's largest business city.
- Is 100% domestically owned.
- Operates in the manufacturing sector.
- Has 60 employees.
- Is subject to collective bargaining agreements in economies where such agreements cover more than half the manufacturing sector and apply even to firms not party to them.
- Abides by every law and regulation but does not grant workers more benefits than mandated by law, regulation or (if applicable) collective bargaining agreement."

One would be hard pressed to think of a single business in Kolonia, Pohnpei, the Doing Business sample area, that meets all of the assumptions the World Bank made in its Doing Business-2013 report.

Report indicates there are almost no worker's rights in FSM

The report included a chart of FSM's historical minimum wage that showed a

minimum wage of approximately \$275 per month between 2008 and 2013. The exception on the chart is an unexplained drop in 2011 to around the \$250 mark.

Not all FSM states have a minimum wage law, and Pohnpei State raised its minimum wage during the period of its most current evaluation. Doing Business data does not reflect either of those facts. The report instead says that FSM made "no reforms" during the period under evaluation.

Still, the report says that there is no law that limits the number of hours or the number of days that an employer can put an employee to work per week. It says that there is no regulation or standard practice that allows an employee to accrue any number of days of annual leave, regardless of tenure. It says that no matter how long an employee has worked for a private sector employer, the employer is not required to pay any severance pay to the terminated employee. It says that an employee can be terminated at any time due to "redundancy", and that no notice is required.

Given other shortcomings of the report where the FSM is concerned, it is difficult to know if the report's conclusions are accurate where FSM's private sector employees are concerned. We could not verify the veracity of the World Bank's reporting where the hiring, remuneration, or termination of employees is concerned since no one from the Pohnpei Attorney General's office returned our calls.

FSM Congress overrides item veto of public projects appropriation and FEMA repayment bill

FSM Information Services

November 29, 2012

On November 15, Congress passed Bill No. 17-192 appropriating a sum of \$5,697,383.00 (\$5.7 millions) from the General Fund of the Federated States of Micronesia to fund Congressional public projects at the four States and provide for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) payments owed by the State Governments.

This bill, which became Public Law No. 17-67, was vetoed on November 22 and overridden on November 24.

The FEMA payment portion of the legislation was a total of \$1,497,383 – coming out from delegation share in this manner:
\$284,210 -- Yap Delegation
\$15,197 -- Kosrae Delegation;
\$219,116 -- Pohnpei Delegation
\$978,860 -- Chuuk Delegation

The FEMA payment sections for Chuuk and Yap contained languages for repayments to the FSM Government, for Chuuk and to certain Congressional projects, for Yap. For Kosrae and Pohnpei, the legislation did not specify any repayment obligation to the FSM Government or otherwise.

On the public project side, an amount of \$4.2 million was appropriated and divided equally amongst the fourteen Congress Members. This would make available \$300,000 for each

Member to fund various projects and activities itemized through sections 2,3,4 and 5. Equal apportionment per Member in public project appropriations has been the status quo for some time in spite of occasional protests by Members based on population demographics and Congressional terms.

Presidential Response to FEMA payments

After reviewing the Act, the President asked Congress in a November 22 item veto message to Speaker Isaac V. Figir that the FEMA payments be pooled together in a stand-alone appropriation rather than the four-way split with different allottees or any other mixing set up.

"Mixing FEMA reimbursement with public projects allocations creates confusion. The FEMA reimbursement – being an extension of the terms and conditions of US federal grants – constitutes a different subject matter than local projects, which is why I submitted a request on FEMA separately from any other supplemental budget", the message stated.

"... I recommend that the national government pool all FEMA reimbursement funds from the allottees as soon as possible in order for the President to reimburse FEMA in a lump sum. A lump sum payment will avoid duplication of work and ensure consistency in dealing with possible issues surrounding the reimbursement", the President further stated.

Item Veto on Congressional Projects

As for the rest of the legislation, fourteen projects and activities were line-item vetoed which would reduce the \$4.2m project appropriation by \$149,600.

In clarifying the basis for the vetoes, the President stressed his opposition of "public expenditures that have little or no lasting impact on the economy" and reiterated the need to link projects to the Nation's Strategic Development Plan.

"The national agencies implementing public projects, and the States benefiting from them, must formulate projects together. For the sake of transparency and the involvement of the public whom we serve, public hearings and open consultations are important".

How could effective planning of projects that worth millions be achieved in a short period of time without the benefit of review and input by intended government official implementers and beneficiaries in various communities and organizations?

Could there be a better system with regards public project appropriations to ensure they nail the bull's eye in bettering communities, improving lives and growing a sustainable economy?

The President said, "I urge Congress to develop clear standards for public projects and social programs, tied to the Nation's Strategic Development Plan, with public hearings required to promote transparency".

Congress Overrides

Two days before adjournment of its 4th Special Session, Congress overrode the President's vetoes on November 24, Saturday after the

Congressional Standing Committee on Ways and Means rendered its recommendations to the body on Friday through Standing Committee Report (SCR) 17-165.

In response to the President's view regarding FEMA payment, the committee report stated: *Your Committee finds the vetoes to be grounded solely in policy. To justify vetoes of the FEMA payments, the President alleges that certain items raise ambiguities and may be unconstitutional on equal protection grounds. Your Committee finds this argument unconvincing.*

If indeed the President's observations on the FEMA payment arrangements were "unconvincing", leading to the override, one fact remained unexplained: *Why do Yap and Chuuk have to reimburse their FEMA payments while Kosrae and Pohnpei do not?*

As for the fourteen items that were vetoed, the committee report stated that in the Ways and Means Committee's view, the vetoed items were "consistent with sound public policy". The committee disagreed with the President's view that many of the projects did not have strong linkage to the Nation's Strategic Development Plan and might have "little or no lasting impact on the economy". However, one can not clearly figure out what "sound public policy" meant, which guided the committee to its views and gave Congress confidence in the vitality of the override.

In short, overriding the President's vetoes means each Congress Member now has \$300,000 to expend until September 30, 2014. And that FEMA repayments will be available through allocations under delegation funding breakdowns.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PERSUANT TO TITLE 36 OF THE FSM CODE AND THE FSM CORPORATE REGULATIONS (2-74), EVERY CORPORATION REGISTERED UNDER THE FSM NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS IS REQUIRED TO FILE AN ANNUAL EXHIBIT OR ANNUAL REPORT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE FSM REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS BETWEEN JANUARY 1ST AND APRIL 1ST OF EACH YEAR. THE EXHIBIT SHALL BE MADE AS OF DECEMBER 31ST OF EACH YEAR, AND SHALL CONTAIN SUCH INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT STANDARD FORM. HOWEVER, IF A CORPORATION HAS ADOPTED A FISCAL YEAR BASIS, SUCH COMPANY MAY FILE ITS REPORT WITHIN 90 DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

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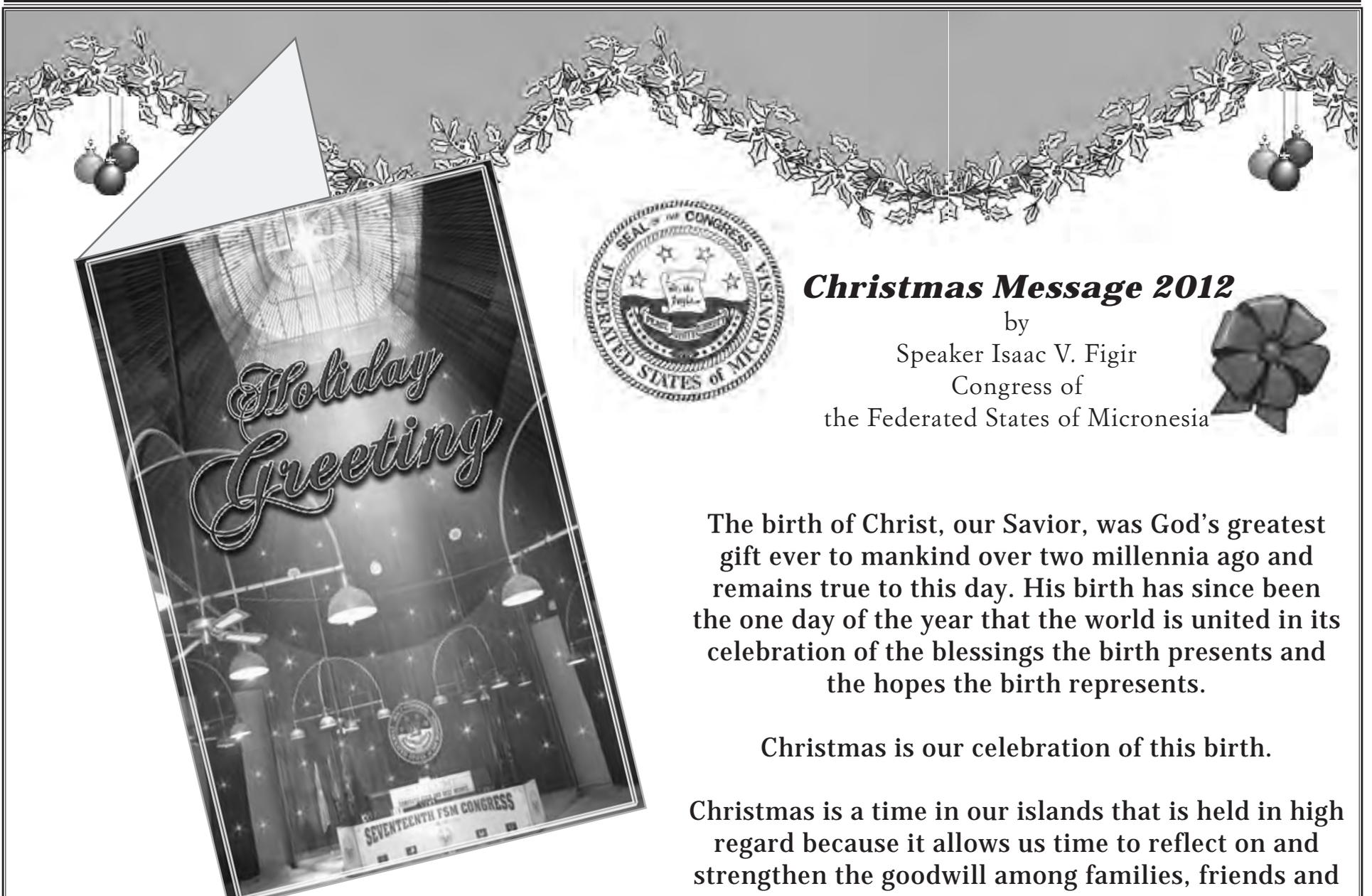
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Christmas Message 2012

by
Speaker Isaac V. Figir
Congress of
the Federated States of Micronesia



The birth of Christ, our Savior, was God's greatest gift ever to mankind over two millennia ago and remains true to this day. His birth has since been the one day of the year that the world is united in its celebration of the blessings the birth presents and the hopes the birth represents.

Christmas is our celebration of this birth.

Christmas is a time in our islands that is held in high regard because it allows us time to reflect on and strengthen the goodwill among families, friends and strangers alike; a time for us to renew our faith in the goodness of mankind; and a time for us to reflect on and renew our commitment to better ourselves in order to better serve our people and our nation.

Therefore, as we come together amongst families and friends to collectively and individually celebrate Christmas, let us also pause to reflect on what has transpired this past year and be thankful for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us as individuals, as a people and as a Nation. Let us also be grateful to the many who have gone before us for their contributions to our nation's prosperity.

As we look forward to a New Year, let us re-commit to meeting the challenges of the new year together - as individuals, as a people and as a Nation.

Members of your Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia: Vice Speaker Martin, Floor Leader Harper and Members of your Seventeenth Congress along with our families, join me in extending to each and every one of you a Christmas abundant with blessings of health, peace, happiness, and prosperity.

And may these blessings of Christmas enrich your life and lives of your loved ones' throughout the New Year.



Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

**Wishing you and
your family a
Christmas Holiday
filled with love
and joy and a New
Year rich with
blessings of the
same**

*Isaac V. Figir
Speaker
Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia*

Sokehs Powe Community in Pohnpei identifies community hazards

community members of Sokehs Powe. Also facilitating the session were representatives of the FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEM), the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), and the FSM Resource & Development (R&D). The event took place at Sokehs Powe Elementary School from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

Twenty-nine participants from the Sokehs Powe Community volunteered their Sunday afternoon to begin the process of identifying the natural hazards in their community. Being so close to the ocean, sea flooding caused by storm surge was identified as the principal hazard for the village. Locations where the seawater floods the community were identified and included on the maps. It was noted that with the effects of climate change and accompanying sea level rise and increased storm activity that this may become more hazardous in the future.

Participants were divided into groups based on their age and gender and asked to draw their village and identify the major hazards. Following the mapping activity, the next steps will be to determine how to reduce the risk from the identified hazards by developing a community action plan. Ensuring communities are more aware of the risks and better prepared for natural disasters is a key part of the IOM Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (CADRE) Program supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The facilitators will return to the community for a follow up session in the next two weeks.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

On Sunday, the Second of December 2012, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity (HVC) Mapping Exercise with



Congress confirms the nomination of Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar as FSM Consul General in Honolulu

FSM Information Services

November 29, 2012

During the Fourth Special Session of the 17th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) held from November 9 to 26, the Congress unanimously confirmed President Mori's nomination of Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar to the post of Consul General of the FSM to the State of Hawaii, with residence in Honolulu.

Mr. Elieisar is an experienced diplomat, having worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs for over 20 years.

For his early education upbringing, Mr. Elieisar attended Kuttu Elementary School and Namoluk Elementary School, Satawan Junior High School and Xavier High School. He furthered his education in the United States at the Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri, Armstrong College in Berkeley, California, Laney College in Oakland, California and eventually graduated from the University of California in Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He pursued his Masters Degree program in Public Administration at the California State University.

In terms of professional career, Mr. Elieisar served as Administrative Officer at the FSM Supreme Court from 1985 to 1991. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1992 as a Foreign Service Officer III. During his 21-year tenure with the Department, he has served in various capacities which included Deputy Assistant Secretary

for Information and Research, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Pacific Affairs, and finally, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Asia, Pacific, Africa and Multilateral Affairs.

In his current capacity, Mr. Elieisar's responsibilities generally encompass policy formulation regarding the FSM's relationships with Asian, Pacific and African countries. His responsibility also covers FSM's engagements at the multilateral level, such as the United Nations, and with Pacific-based organizations where the FSM holds membership. To name a few of such organizations, they include the Pacific Islands Forum, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Regional Environment Program.

While being an Assistant Secretary, Mr. Elieisar also served as the Chairman of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) for two years.

Mr. Elieisar was born on April 18, 1957 on Namoluk Island of Chuuk State. He is married to Matirina Elieisar, and they have four children.

Pohnpei Airport gives room to FSM Postal Services within the airport terminal

FSM Information Services

November 29, 2012

The FSM Postal Service (FSMPS) added another station to its network of services locations yesterday with the dedication of its newest office within the Pohnpei International Airport.

At around 10:30 the morning of November 27, the ceremony kicked off with a welcoming remarks from Mrs. Ginger Porder Mida, the FSM Post Master General who also spoke on the purposes of having a postal service substation at the airport.

Mrs. Mida explained how the substation could be a convenient option for travelers who can not check in all their packages but must ensure they get home. Post stamps and other merchandise that people might need on-the-go are also brought closer, giving consumers convenient access which will in turn contribute to revenue generation in the long run.

The ceremony was attended by Governor John Ehsa, Senator David W. Panuelo, FSM Congress, Chief of Staff Mr. Churchill Edward, representing FSM President Manny Mori, Mr. Michael Ordenez, Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy in Kolonia, Mayor Kasiano Shoniber of Kolonia Town Government, Mr. Nelperson Etsa, General Manager of the Pohnpei Port Authority, Mr. Kasio E. Mida, Sr., Senior Executive at the Micronesian Registration Advisors, Inc., Mr. Jason Sigrah, United Airlines Supervisor in Pohnpei and a number of government staff and community members.

A few officials spoke at the brief ceremony including Governor Ehsa who commended the FSMPS and encouraged the arrangement as an added convenient service to visitors and traveling populations.

Deputy Chief of Mission Ordenez said he "applaud(s) the vision" in having the postal service at the terminal and encouraged forward development that would allow

transiting visitors to utilize the room for postage and postcard purchases. He also said the service would assist in "overall development".

Like other speakers, Senator Panuelo, chairman of the Congressional Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operation (J&GO), congratulated the FSMPS for the creative undertaking and touched on some merits of the FSMPS as a specific element in the FSM-US Compact that links FSM to the global world. He also pointed out that FSMPS has been steadily generating increased revenues for the FSM the past few years with half-a-million earned in fiscal year 2012.

Senator Panuelo called the FSMPS establishment at the airport "part and parcel" of the FSM's bigger efforts in strengthening financial viability and building its economy.

Chief of Staff Edward, who spoke on behalf of President Mori, expressed gratitude to Pohnpei State and the Pohnpei Airport Authority for their willingness to take in the FSMPS substation. He also congratulated the FSMPS staff members for their dedication and creativity, which are vital to maintaining the critical services in spite of immense challenges in the fast-modernizing market world.

Post Master General Mida thanked the officials as well as those who witnessed the ceremony.

A ribbon cutting took place in front of the station before it was finally open to the public.

For more information, call the FSM Postal Service at 320-2614 or write to fsmpio@mail.fm.



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:

Leander Leander	P.O. Box 1342	Majuro Marshall Islands
Silander Manuel	P.O. Box 297	Weno Chuuk
Robert Farek	General Delivery	Weno Chuuk
Kiloty Lorenzo	P.O. Box 1183	Weno Chuuk
Kathleen Walter	P.O. Box 590	Weno Chuuk
Chuuk Evangelical Church	P.O. Box 304	Weno Chuuk
Anter Binios	P.O. Box 582	Weno Chuuk
Holy Family Parish	P.O. Box 250	Weno Chuuk
Houk Gas Station	P.O. Box 358	Weno Chuuk
Marine Sachuo	P.O. Box 1532	Weno Chuuk
Chuuk State Government	P.O. Box 849	Weno Chuuk
Aff Youth Club	P.O. Box 654	Colonia Yap
Academy for Culture & Education of Yap	P.O. Box 1034	Colonia Yap
Carmen T.C. Yanruw	P.O. Box 344	Colonia Yap
Segundo or Frances Marcia	13495 Bancroft Ave	San Leandro CA
Joseph Michael Seda	20542 Julliard Drive	Walnut CA
Sawuahfik Solar Utility Board	C/O Governor's Office	Kolonia Pohnpei
Gregory Grosz	5762 Pumpkin Ridge	Sparks NV
William Senneres	P.O. Box 238	Kolonia Pohnpei
Kohler Bernice	P.O. Box 241	Kolonia Pohnpei
Sakies Eldridge	P.O. Box 112	Kolonia Pohnpei
Ligaya Esiel	P.O. Box 159	Kolonia Pohnpei
Luwisa Gilmete	General Delivery	Kolonia Pohnpei
Siankoke Pwihn III – Mwoakilloa	C/O Mokil Post Office	Kolonia Pohnpei
Esihna Makaya	P.O. Box 237	Kolonia Pohnpei
Finnian Yaromal	P.O. Box 2257	Kolonia Pohnpei
Thomas Helfrich	P.O. Box C	Kolonia Pohnpei
Meriu Ehsa	P.O. Box 183	Kolonia Pohnpei
Arko Fredrick	General Delivery	Kolonia Pohnpei
Leiner Martin	P.O. Box 577	Kolonia Pohnpei
Solomon Lorrin	P.O. Box 4	Kolonia Pohnpei
Manuel Lohete	P.O. Box 1104	Kolonia Pohnpei
Andrew C Yanoviak	C/O Joy Hotel	Kolonia Pohnpei
Lawrence Gallen	P.O. Box 1983	Kolonia Pohnpei
Andy Musrasrik	P.O. Box 372	Kolonia Pohnpei
FSM National Government	P.O. Box PS-12	Palikir Pohnpei

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform these customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2013. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2012.

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemye nusin Customers nukewa ,ma e akkalemyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfa itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2013. In oralla account se lom an tia putatyan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu in tuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2012.

Chuukese:

Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2013, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2012. Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:

Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2013, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2012.

Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwell momwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2013. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2012 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

First anniversary celebration of the SMP Memorial Center

Chuuk Women's Council

Friday, November 23rd, marked the 1st Anniversary of the SMPoll Memorial Center and a pleasant celebration blessed with excellent weather took place at the women's center in Nepukos Village on Weno Island.

Distinguished visitors attending this 1st year anniversary included the Chuuk State Governor Johnson Elimo and his lovely wife, First Lady Bersita Elimo, along with the Weno Deputy Mayor KaioNoket.

Diplomatic Corp members in attendance

included her Excellency Doria Rosen, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Zhang Lianyun, Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, and his lovely wife plus their delegation from the People's Republic of China, State Government leaders, church & community leaders, friends of the Chuuk Women's Council, and special visitors Ms. Barbara Dalio, Ms. Gayle Spitz and her daughters from the MV Alucia and of course members of Chuuk Women's Council.

Deputy Chief of Mission Masaki Tani from the Japan Embassy made a brief

and unexpected stop to share this special occasion with us and made a very nice presentation before catching a flight to Pohnpei.

U.S. Ambassador Rosen spoke about the importance and value of women in our society and culture. She encouraged us to continue to be active in areas such as health, education, economic opportunities for women, and legislation that seeks to improve the lives of women and children in areas such as domestic violence, age of consent, & human trafficking – all of which only strengthens us as families, communities, a State and as a Nation.

the founders of the CWC Organization and acknowledged that their passion and commitment has been the driving force behind the work that CWC is doing and reflects their motto which is "Women working together to make a healthier & Safer Chuuk for everyone."

First Lady Bersita Elimo recognized and presented Certificates of Appreciation to the CWC members who have attended and completed various trainings conducted by the Chuuk State Health Services, the Micronesia Community College Sewing Program, and to those with the Most Outstanding Diabetes Outreach Program Incentives.

The lighting of the candle by the First Lady also signified the kick-off for the 16 Day White Ribbon Campaign to End Violence Against Women & Girls and 250 white ribbons were given to those attending the event.

Other celebration activities included the CWC 5th Annual Health Fair that included blood screening, education consultation, and Reproductive Health Consultation provided by Dr. Rita Mori. Various booths were also setup for displays of Traditional & Cultural crafts and local food products were available for sale.

About 300 people cycled through the Health Fair during the day and those attending enjoyed some great food provided for everyone to enjoy.

Governor of Yap State interested in outcome of Forum Peer Review

PIFS

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

28 November 2012

Yap, FSM - The Governor of Yap state in the Federated States of Micronesia, Hon. Sebastian Anefal has welcomed the Forum Compact Peer Review undertaken of the FSM national government and the states and thanked the FSM Peer Review team for "coming way out to the western most corner of FSM."

He expressed interest in the outcomes of the review process.

"I am very interested in the outcome of the review and see how other countries look at what we are doing because when we are on the inside, we cannot see everything that is around us. The Forum Compact Peer Review will be in a better position to give us an independent assessment of what we are doing not only at the national level but also in the state governments," said Yap state Governor Hon. Anefal.

"I want to thank the FSM national government for including us in the peer review because it will give us another perspective individually, as the state and national governments."

Governor Anefal said as a state, Yap must now do something to fill up the gap that is being left by the annual reductions in the funds from the Compact with the United States which will end in 2023.

"We as a state and the national government must try to mitigate the financial challenge by developing and growing the economy by attracting foreign investment through the provision of sound policies for the growth of the private sector."

Governor Anefal added: "The recently convened Development Partners' Forum was a very bold move by the national government. We have had similar meetings in the past but they have been held outside of FSM. This recent one held in the country has allowed us to know who the development partners are. It has given us the opportunity to collaborate

and be more receptive. It has allowed us to establish channels of communications at the informal level."

On the need to set up an overseas development assistance function within Yap state, Governor Anefal said: "There was not a need to set up such a function under the initial Compact of Free Association with the US but now with the amended Compact, ODA has become an important function of the government. Yap was the first state to establish a Grant Writer position to assist in engaging with other development partners and we are considering expanding the function to coordination of ODA for Yap. But we need resources to set up this function."

The Governor however noted that seeking additional development partner funding is not a long-term solution.

"Yap state needs to restructure its public services and governance systems and until and unless Yap state builds its local capacity to better manage its existing resources including development partner funding, we cannot continue to ask for more money".

The FSM Forum Compact Peer Review have consulted with the national government and the four state governments of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap discussing how the budgeting and planning processes are linked between the states and the national government.

At the end of the peer review, a report with recommendations for the FSM government and its development partners will be discussed and agreed on with the government before being finalised.

Selected by the FSM Government, the FSM Peer Review Team consists of Mr Catolino Kijiner from the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ms Noumea Simi representing the Government of Samoa, Mr Johnson Naviti of the Vanuatu Government and Mr Asif Chida from the UNDP Pacific Centre in Fiji. The Team is assisted by staff of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The CWC expressed their appreciation to the Government of Japan for their original \$97,000 grant that led to the initial construction of the SMPoll Memorial Facility and which now serves as the central nerve center and clearinghouse for effective the communication and networking with other NGOs and CWC donor partners.

Both Governor Elimo and the CWC President acknowledged and thanked all donor partners for their continuous support provided to the Chuuk Women's Council which allows their NGO to carry out activities, education and prevention outreach awareness to the communities of Chuuk.

CWC President Kiki Stinnett thanked



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Crossword - 4 - Letter Words (2)

ACROSS

- 1. Rate
- 4. Test
- 7. Limb
- 10. Chum
- 13. Tree
- 14. Joey
- 15. Copy
- 16. Time
- 17. Fuss
- 18. Deer
- 19. Hole
- 20. Feat
- 21. Pair
- 22. Lack
- 24. Hate
- 26. Step
- 28. Duds
- 30. Tint
- 32. Haul
- 33. Veto
- 37. Nail
- 40. Soil
- 42. Pair
- 43. Grub
- 44. Flub
- 46. Blab
- 47. Past
- 48. Slog
- 49. Drag
- 50. Note
- 52. Dear
- 53. Mold
- 55. Cask
- 58. Mean
- 62. Meal
- 65. Pact
- 67. Guys
- 68. Rage
- 69. Beak
- 71. Live
- 72. Rear
- 73. Spot
- 74. Hire
- 75. Pose
- 76. Thou

- 77. Iota
- 78. Rent
- 79. Owns
- 80. Flub

DOWN

- 1. Dine
- 2. Bush
- 3. Gush
- 4. Chic
- 5. Part
- 6. Rube
- 7. Lick
- 8. Coda
- 9. Fare
- 10. Turf
- 11. Bend
- 12. Slow
- 23. Blew
- 25. Pose
- 27. Sums
- 29. Soft
- 31. Fade
- 34. Plan
- 35. Find
- 36. Laze
- 37. Grin
- 38. Fury
- 39. Iota
- 41. Drop
- 45. Rosy
- 46. Next
- 51. Sash
- 52. Laud
- 54. Keys
- 56. Void
- 57. Rein
- 59. Icon
- 60. Stay
- 61: Join
- 62. Duke
- 63. Zone
- 64. Cane
- 66. Solo
- 70. Ante

SUMMER SONGS

There's something about summer that inspires people, which explains why there are so many songs with "summer" in their titles. The puzzle below contains 37 song titles in which "summer" appears.

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

... SUMMER

- 1. AFRICAN
- 2. ALMOST
- 3. BOYS OF
- 4. CRUEL
- 5. ENGLISH
- 6. INDIAN
- 7. LAST
- 8. LONG HOT
- 9. OTHER SIDE OF
- 10. OVER THE
- 11. PARIS
- 12. PORTRAITS OF
- 13. THAT

SUMMER....

- 14. BOY
- 15. BREEZE
- 16. CHILL
- 17. DAYS
- 18. IN BERLIN
- 19. IN DIXIE
- 20. IN SIAM
- 21. KNOWS
- 22. LOVE
- 23. NIGHTS
- 24. OF ROSES
- 25. RAIN
- 26. ROMANCE
- 27. SAMBA
- 28. SOFT
- 29. SONG
- 30. SOUNDS
- 31. WIND

SUMMER'S...

- 32. DAY SONG
- 33. GONE
- 34. HERE

SUMMERTIME...

- 35. BLUES
- 36. DREAM
- 37. ROLLS

Some Kosrae NGOs satisfied with state government

PIFS
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

23 November 2012

Kosrae, FSM – With non-government organizations continuing to push for recognition by some governments in the region at least in the tiny state of Kosrae, in the Federated States of Micronesia, three local NGOs have expressed satisfaction with the recognition given to them by the current state government.

The Kosrae Women Farmers, the Kosrae Conservation Organisation and the Kosrae Youth Development Association revealed this when they met with some members of the FSM Forum Compact Peer Review team on 19 November 2012.

Among the issues the Forum Compact Peer Review team discusses with governments in the region, is the dialogue or consultations they have with other stakeholders including NGOs and the private sector in the government's budgeting and planning processes.

"At the beginning we were seen as competing with the government's environmental agency but over the years this current administration has seen us as a partner and has given us a lot of responsibilities," said Andy George of the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organisation (KCSO).

President of the Kosrae Women Farmers, Ms Divina Nena explained: "After the seed funding of \$1,700 donated by AusAID when we started one and half years ago ran out, we signed an MoU with the Department of Resources, Economic and Agriculture to meet our operating costs."

"Over the last couple of years, we have been invited to take part in the meetings of traditional councils, the state government's planning committees and recently we have reached agreement with the municipal mayors and the state Governor that the youth will provide manpower and the government will provide the means for any project that

it wants to undertake," said Hans Skilling of the Kosrae Youth Development Association.

With recognition from the Kosrae state government, the three NGOs are making inroads to enable their members to contribute to the development of their communities.

"Since we started, we can see progress with women getting interested in planting their own vegetable gardens with the Kosrae Women Farmers supplying their farmers. Our long term objective is to get families to eat more vegetables and reduce the incidence of lifestyle diseases including diabetes," said Ms Nena.

She added: "Women can make a difference in our lives but what we need is support from the government. We are grateful that the state government has recognized our group as an NGO just last year. The Kosrae Women Farmers can make a difference to the health of families and be able to contribute to the families' income.

The Kosrae Youth Development Association has in the meantime decided that its members will engage as volunteers in whatever project they are involved in their communities.

The Association has also been given the task to organise the Annual Liberation Day Celebrations this year in one of the Kosrae municipalities giving a chance for the youth to be involved.

During their consultations in the state of Kosrae, the FSM Forum Compact Peer Review team also met with leaders of the Kosrae state including the state Governor, the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly and Chairman of the Means and Ways Committee. The team also met with representatives of various departments and the private sector.

The FSM Forum Compact Peer Review team also consulted with the other states including Chuuk, Pohnpei and Yap.



NGOs from Kosrae

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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 320-4015.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- 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.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- 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
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too! Call: 320-2496

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Climate change impacts bring loss and damage to FSM

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program

29 November 2012, Doha, Qatar – Kosrae, one of the Federated States of Micronesia, was featured during a special event coordinated by the United Nations University, on Loss and Damage at the UN Climate negotiations in Doha. The State has prepared a case study based on the loss and damage due to the coastal impacts upon the residents, from sea level rise and storm surges.

Simpson Abraham, the National Coordinator of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project in FSM

Loss and Damage refers to a range of damage and permanent loss associated with certain climate change impacts under the United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These can include impacts from extreme weather events such as tropic cyclones or floods, as well as from slow onset events such as sea level rise or ocean acidification.

70% of Micronesia's population and infrastructure is located on the coast. In Kosrae the residents are experiencing damage to their houses and infrastructure, affecting their crops and trees, as well as a loss of beaches.

"In our study that visited 363 households, 87% of the people we surveyed experienced coastal erosion

with 80% of them saying it affected their household," said Simpson Abraham, the National Coordinator of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project in FSM.

The project is working to improve the existing coastal road design reinforcing them with new drainage solutions which take into account flooding risks from increased rainfall and sea level rise.

"When we asked people if they were adapting to climate change, 92% said the measures are not enough and will entail extra costs and 40% haven't done anything to adapt to climate change, they lacked resources or just didn't know what to do."

Some of the adaptation options that households did carry out include building seawalls, filled land to fortify the coast, planted trees and elevated their homes.

Other case studies presented at the side event were from Bangladesh that looked at loss and damage from salinity, Bhutan that focused on changing monsoon patterns, The Gambia centering on drought, Kenya on the 2011 floods, and Micronesia on loss and damage associated with coastal erosion.

"One query that was directed to me was – what are you doing as far as adaptation in the future?" said Abraham.

"We have no choice. We need to look to the international arena for support as the funds we have not is not enough to address the adaptation needed in Kosrae. The PACC is a pilot project, we need to look beyond that and this is where we are seeking support from the international community."

Under the UNFCCC, the Pacific through

the Alliance of Small Island States has been advocating for the establishment of an international mechanism that would address the negative impacts associated with Loss and Damage.

The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security hosted the side event on Loss and Damage on Monday, 26 November at the Qatar National Convention Centre.



Simpson Abraham, the National Coordinator of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project in FSM



Eastside team after Pandanus planting

East Team promotes "Go Local Pandanus utilization"

By **Emihner Johnson**
IFCP

The Go Local Promotion of Pandanus Utilization campaign had attracted the young people of Mwoakilloa and Pingelap Atoll that inspired their women softball team (East Team) to take part in this campaign. In the afternoon of November 29, 2012, over twenty (20) young women

from Mwoakilloa and Pingelap showed up at the Dekehtik Area to learn the importance of Pandanus and its CHEEF (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, Food Security) benefits to the people of these two islands, how to plant, and its role in climate change resiliency. This project of pandanus promotion and utilization for food security and climate change is coordinated by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei with the support and participation of the East Team consisting of young women from Mwoakilloa and Pingelap that are registered for the Women's Softball Open League.

Assistance. She also informed them about the role of pandanus in climate change resiliency because of its ability to tolerate salt water. This tree still grows and bears fruit even while the roots are touching salt water.

The islanders depend on this atoll indigenous tree crop for its many uses: house building, healthy food with its rich nutrient content, safeguard the islands from erosion, medicinal uses, mats, hats, inter-decors, provides shades, etc. It is a special traditional pastime island snacks that is enjoyed by these islanders with pride.

Over forty pandanus cuttings from different varieties of Pandanus were planted along the shoreline of Dekehtik. These six (6) varieties included Juaipwehpw, Jipwehrik (Espwehrik), Doapwoahdin (Soapwoadin), Luarmwe, En Pes, and En Jorum, which are all sweet and edible varieties. The planting session started with a planting demonstration presented by Emihner Johnson, Acting Executive Director of Island Food Community of Pohnpei/ Children Healthy Living (CHL) Outreach Education

Special Acknowledgement are given to the EAST TEAM and Coach-Player Patricia Henry Iehsi for supporting Go Local Pandanus Promotion and Island Food Community of Pohnpei wish you the best of luck. Go Local and Go Kipar and Good Luck East Team!!!

Special thanks are extended to U.S. Embassy, Japan Embassy, Australian Embassy, Pohnpei State Government and UNESCO for the funding support.

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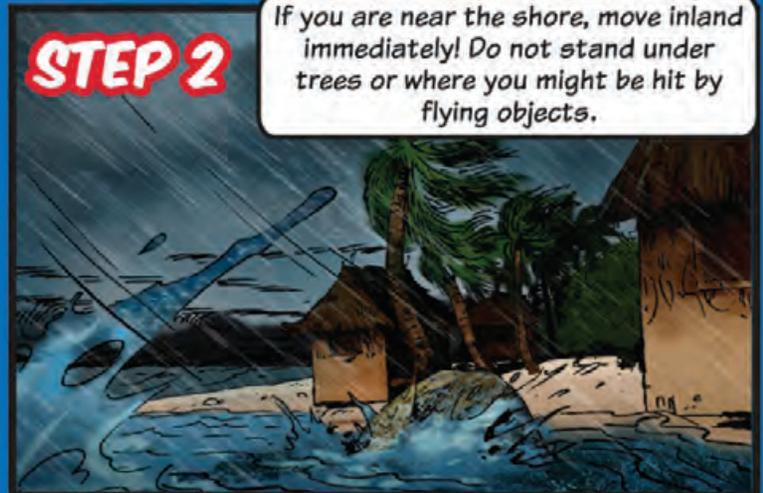
PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY DURING A TYPHOON OR TROPICAL STORM



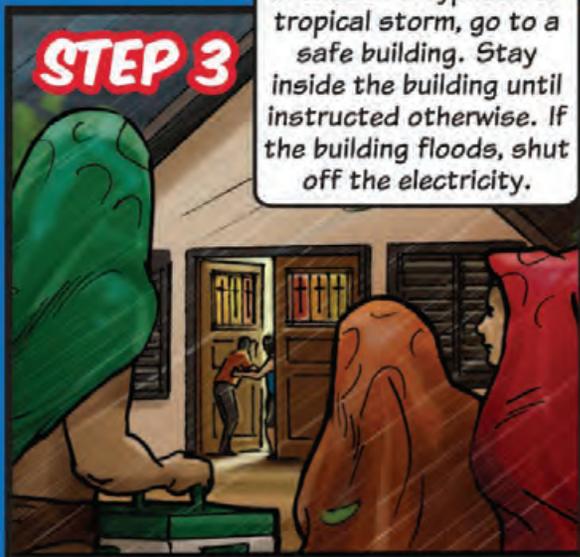
Our islands can be hit by tropical storms. Very strong storms are called typhoons.



STEP 1 Stay informed by listening to the radio and prepare to move to a safer place.



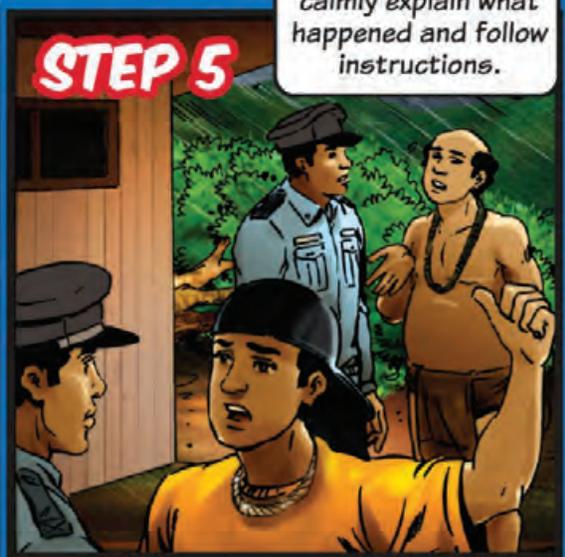
STEP 2 If you are near the shore, move inland immediately! Do not stand under trees or where you might be hit by flying objects.



STEP 3 In case of a typhoon or tropical storm, go to a safe building. Stay inside the building until instructed otherwise. If the building floods, shut off the electricity.



STEP 4 Call the police, let them know where you are. Be patient and stay calm.



STEP 5 When help arrives, calmly explain what happened and follow instructions.

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Designed and written by Nihandini Santi Edited by Simon Ellis

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