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Pohnpei State gives fisheries management contract to Miju Mulsan—tells Luen Thai to get out

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 23, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Another bid process conducted by the Pohnpei State Government is the subject of a civil action filed at the FSM Supreme Court. Alleged contract violations also figure into the first filing of the Supreme Court’s calendar year, CA 2013-001.

This afternoon Luen Thai Fishing Venture, Ltd. (LTFV), and its strategic partner, Liancheng Overseas Fishery (FSM) Co., Ltd., (LC-FSM) filed suit against multiple defendants. The suit named the State of Pohnpei; John Ehsa, in his capacity as Governor; Pohnpei’s Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Miju Mulsan Company, Ltd., a corporation from South Korea.



Pohnpei State has told Luen Thai Fishing Venture (LTFV) that it has until February 6 to vacate the former Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation property in Dekehtik in order to make way for a new tenant, Miju Mulsan.

“LTFV has not been provided straightforward written notice, but the documents being provided (in the exhibits) show that LTFV is expected to be off the lease site, prior to February 6, 2013,” the complaint says.

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Dr. Padwick Gallen to continue studies at Pacific Eye Institute

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 17, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—This morning Dr. Padwick Gallen was presented with a scholarship to study for three more years at the Pacific Eye Institute in Suva, Fiji. Gallen recently completed a one year course at the Institute after he received a scholarship from the Australia Regional Development Scholarship program.

Gallen’s scholarship for the next three years is being provided by a foundation established by the mother of Dr. R. John Kearney of the Gold Coast Eye Clinic located in Southport, Queensland, Australia. Dr. Kearney led a team of eye specialists to conduct an eye clinic in Pohnpei. For a few days the doctors were able to perform eye surgeries that could not usually happen in Pohnpei.

The trip was funded by AusAID as it has been in years past when the team has visited FSM States in the middle of January.

The opening of the Clinic was later than scheduled. Because of foul weather, United Airlines was forced to overfly Pohnpei on January 12. The team was aboard and was diverted to Guam. As a result the clinic had to be cut shorter than was intended.

Dr. Kearney said that they were able to service medical



Governor Ehsa, Dr. Padwick Gallen, Dr. Kearney, Dr. Hedson, and Caroline Adams of AusAID in the Eye Clinic after presentation of the scholarship award

equipment that Pohnpei State already owned but that had fallen into disrepair. He was pleased with the quality of the equipment that the hospital now has on hand.

He also said that his team has identified nurses at the hospital that may receive scholarships at the Pacific Eye Institute so that when Dr. Gallen returns as a qualified eye specialist there will be personnel available to help him provide services that Pohnpei has not heretofore been able to offer.

Dr. Kearney said that during his previous trips to Pohnpei he has seen many

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Deaf WorldTeach brings American Sign Language to Chuuk

Mellanie Lee

Don't be surprised if when visiting Chuuk High School you see students talking to each other or greeting you in American Sign Language. This is because of a new program called Deaf WorldTeach that began in early January. Dr. Judy Coryell, Director of Gallaudet University Regional Center of the Pacific at Kapi'olani Community College and Mellanie Lee, Director of the Pacific Deaf-Blind Project at the Center on Disability Studies at University of Hawai'i, Manoa have been partnering with the WorldTeach organization over the last year to get this program up and running in Micronesia. It is their hope that this will be just the beginning of something very big and far-reaching. "Having Deaf WorldTeach volunteers here as deaf role models, mentors, and teachers can change the quality of life for deaf children and their families. Often, parents have no idea of the bright future their child can have", says Dr. Coryell, also a parent of two deaf daughters.

Yes...seeing is believing!!! Today, hands are flying at Chuuk High School thanks to the hard work of Principal, Paul Hadik who has been working closely with Special Education Director, Ansina Kony and Director of Education, Gardenia Aisek to pilot the Deaf WorldTeach Program in Chuuk. Chuuk is very lucky to have two top volunteers named Daniel DiDonna and Emma Bixler who have started teaching American Sign Language (ASL) to the newly formed ASL Club at the High School. This is a popular afterschool club that has about 30 student members. Principal Hadik reports that students who are in the club have been teaching signs to their other classmates and friends and the excitement is obviously contagious. "The benefits of this program are immeasurable! It is a win-win program for all," says Hadik.



Deaf WorldTeach teachers, Daniel and Emma, have also started an ASL class for Special Education teachers and central office staff. The first class had 35 excited participants including the Director of Education, Gardenia Aisek and the Special Education Coordinator, Ansina Kony. Kony shared, "This has been a dream of mine for many years and I feel blessed that it has finally come together..."

And just who are the new Deaf WorldTeach volunteers? Daniel Didonna is from the great island of New Jersey and a graduate of Gallaudet University (the world's only Liberal Arts university for Deaf students). He is not a newcomer to the Pacific. Last year he made history when he became the very first Deaf person to become a WorldTeach volunteer. He completed his first year as a WorldTeach volunteer in Majuro and Ebeye where he worked teaching Deaf children in their school as well as teaching American Sign Language classes to teachers and the community groups including parents and family members of deaf children, women's groups, and hospital staff. Daniel was able to build local capacity by working along side and mentoring teachers in the RMI. Needless to say, he fell in love with the Pacific so much that he wanted more and signed on to help start up Deaf WorldTeach in Chuuk from January until May. The second Deaf WorldTeach volunteer is Emma Bixler, from Washington State. She recently graduated from Gallaudet University majoring in Child Psychology and Deaf Studies. She is fluent in ASL. This is her first time in the Pacific and she loves it already. Both of these volunteers will spend their mornings at Iras Elementary School in Weno, teaching at least 10 deaf children and mentoring two local Chuukese teachers who are assisting in the Deaf Education class. Every afternoon they will be holding different ASL classes for teachers, parents and family members, students at the high school and community members. Deaf adults are also being recruited to support and teach in the morning classes so they can serve as role models, too.

Next week the WorldTeach volunteers from Weno will be making their way to the northern islands for a

week to provide training to teachers. Daniel and Emma will also continue Child Find activities for Deaf children and children with other disabilities as well as present Deaf Awareness workshops and give folks a taste of American Sign Language.

Be on the lookout for more news on ASL in Chuuk and their new Deaf Education program as this momentum continues to grow!

If you know Deaf children or Deaf adults in Chuuk in need of educational services or support, please contact Ansina Kony, Special Education Director 691-330-8910.

Vice President Alik on medical referral to Honolulu

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, FSM — FSM Vice President Alik L. Alik is referred to a hospital in Honolulu today (January 18, 2013) as complicated health condition persists.

"... Vice President has been referred to Hawaii as his medical condition has become more complicated. Please join me and my cabinet in praying and wishing him a speedy recovery", President Manny Mori informed congress on January 18.

The Vice President has been under medical care at the Genesis Hospital in Pohnpei the past few days.

Since yesterday, the President tasked his Chief of Staff to expedite the process that would allow for his referral, requiring coordination among the Genesis Hospital, MiCare Insurance, the Office of the President, FSM Consulate Office in Honolulu and United Airlines.

The Vice President is accompanied by a medical doctor from the FSM Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar took oath of office as the new consul general in Hawaii

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, FSM — The swear-in ceremony for Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar, the newly appointed Consul General for the FSM Consulate Office in Hawaii, took place on January 8, 2013 at the President's conference room. Presiding over the ceremony was President Mori, with various cabinet and staff members. Also in attendance were Mrs. Matirina Elieisar and their son, KM Elieisar.

In his remarks during the ceremony, President Mori indicated, aside from the Consul General's regular duties and responsibilities, the importance to work closely with FSM citizens in Hawaii to explore and expand FSM's business opportunities in the State. President Mori also assured his new Consul General his office will support the Consulate Office in its work to represent the nation in the State of Hawaii.

In his responding remarks, Mr. Elieisar thanked the President and leadership for their confidence in him as the next Consul General in Hawaii. Mr. Elieisar also stressed the pending issues facing FSM citizens in Hawaii that are vital and needed attention such as job opportunities among others. With the new challenging task, Mr. Elieisar assured that he will continue to seek the assistance from the current administration, particularly from the home office and other relevant entities, as he will endeavor to seek opportunities beneficial for the FSM.

Mr. Elieisar is a career foreign service officer, having worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs for over 20 years. During his 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, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Asia, Pacific, Africa and Multilateral Affairs.

The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Senator Halbert submits bill to “offset” Compact decrement

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 16, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei’s Senator Dohsis Halbert has proposed a bill to appropriate \$5 million to the FSM States to help offset the annual decrement that is built into the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the U.S. He says that due to Congress’s current policy of budgeting conservatively, the money for the one time appropriation will not deplete the FSM’s coffers. Over \$4 million would be left after the \$5 million onetime grant if his bill is approved.

Senator Halbert is the Chairman of the Ways and Means standing committee of the 17th Congress.

Under the terms of the Amended Compact, the annual sector grants provided to the National Government and the FSM States are set to decline at the rate of \$800,000 per year. They have been on a declining scale since the beginning of the Amended Compact.

Though the State would receive the money immediately if the bill passes and is signed into law, it is intended to “allay fears over the decrement for the next five years.”

It is not intended to allay ALL the fears over the decrement. By the end of fiscal year 2018, financial contributions from the United States

will be \$12 million less than they will have been at the end of this year.

“The only long term solution for FSM and its component State is to become a fully self-sustaining administration through fostering private sector growth and implementing a sensible tax collection plan, which generates sufficient funds without reliance on outside assistance,” Halbert said last week, as he presented his bill to the 17th Congress. “Yet, Congress is concerned that immediate anxiety over the decrement could distract from State Government focus on implementing the kind of long-range reforms needed to put FSM and its component States on the road to recovery.”

If the bill passes, the money would come to the States all at once immediately after the bill passes into law. It “is to be stewarded wisely by States in accordance with their internal legislative processes as they shepherd their citizens through the next five years of Compact Funding cuts,” the bill says.

The funds would be apportioned according to the Compact Distribution Formula.

Under that formula the funds would be apportioned as follows:

- Kosrae State - \$545,000
- Pohnpei State - \$1,265,500
- Chuuk State - \$1,900,000
- Yap State - \$789,500
- FSM National Government - \$500,000

If the bill is passed all funds appropriated by the bill would be “allotted, managed, administered, and accounted for in accordance with applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the Financial Management Act of 1979,” the bill says.

The allottee for the funds will be the Governors of each State, and the President of the FSM for the National government portion.

The lapse date of the act, if the bill passes into law, will be September 30, 2018.

Chairman Halbert said that Congress made cuts in the budgets that have been submitted to Congress, and has sent a very clear message that it will not consider supplemental budget requests unless there is a very clear and urgent need.

He said that his bill may not see action in the current regular session of the FSM Congress but he hopes that FSM Senators will agree with the intent.

Editor’s note: Senators did say that they understood the bill’s intent and in many ways agreed with it but said that the States need to take more responsibility to resolve the issue of Compact decrements. On January 21, Senator Wesley Simina moved to put the bill on the agenda but other Senators did not agree. The bill saw no action in the regular session that adjourned Sine Die on January 23. The next regular session will be in May.

...Eye Clinic

Continued from front page

cases of eye problems that could have been treated and reversed had there been someone on island to take care of them. Some people have lost their sight simply because there was no one to help diagnose their problems and to treat them before it was too late.

He said that oftentimes, eye problems are symptoms of deeper medical problems that a qualified doctor could diagnose. That is the type of training that Dr. Gallen will receive as a result of the scholarship.

Governor Ehsa was at the ceremony. He thanked Dr. Kearney and his team for helping to equip people of Pohnpei to serve the needs of its people.

Dr. Kearney’s daughter was part of the team that travelled to Pohnpei. She is a videographer and will be producing a documentary about the team’s visit to the FSM.

Because the phone system at Pohnpei State Hospital is woefully inadequate, we were unable to reach Dr. Gallen for comment. His wife said that during the time of his schooling Dr. Gallen will be back in Pohnpei each year to work from December to early February before he has to return to school.

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IMF Executive Board concludes 2012 article IV consultation with FSM

January 18, 2013

On January 14, 2013, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). BackgroundThe FSM's economy is highly dependent on external aid, and private activity contributes little to growth.

A new Compact of Free Association agreement ("Compact") with the United States, effective since Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, steadily lowers transfers to the FSM through FY2023 and has stricter rules on the use of grants. After FY2023, the FSM is expected to complement its domestic revenues with income from its Compact Trust Fund (CTF) and other savings.

Since the last Article IV consultation, the economy continued on a steady growth path. Following a recession in FY2006-2008 due to delay in Compact grants utilization as well as high fuel and food prices, the FSM economy grew by 2-2½ percent for FY2010 and FY2011. The expansion was driven by new construction activities and growth of the fishery sector. Inflation has declined to 4.6 percent in FY2011, after reaching its recent peak of 7.8 percent in FY2009.

The overall fiscal balance of the consolidated government recorded modest surpluses for three straight years through FY2011, with an uneven distribution of outcomes across states. Public debt remains at a relatively low level (below

30 percent of GDP), but underfunding in the CTF assets and a declining balance of the social security fund pose long-term challenges. Despite some deterioration of the current account balance, external balance is sustained by a stable flow of official transfers. The majority of the overall current account deficit is financed through capital transfers from official sources.

Economic growth will likely slow in the near term, as the private sector falls short of offsetting the declining public sector demand from Compact grants reduction. Growth in FY2012 is estimated at 1.4 percent as recent construction projects are winding down. A modest consolidated fiscal surplus of 1¼ percent of GDP is expected in FY2012, mainly due to a sharp increase in fishing access fee revenue by \$7.6 million. While the fishery sector is expected to continue its healthy expansion, lackluster wholesale and retail activities will remain a drag on the private sector growth.

Beyond the near-term, growth is weighed down by the scheduled reduction in Compact grants. Medium-term growth is estimated to stay low at about ½ percent, with limited private sector growth failing to offset the effects of a decline in Compact grants. Executive Board Assessment Executive Directors noted that the FSM economy continued to grow last year, driven by construction and fishery.

Nonetheless, the economy faces important risks, including from a potential

deterioration in the external environment and, over the longer term, the scheduled expiration of Compact grants and the continued outmigration of the working age population. In this context, Directors underscored the need to begin addressing the fiscal gap to create fiscal buffers and ensure sustainable public finances, and to accelerate reforms to boost potential growth.

Directors encouraged the authorities to implement a credible fiscal strategy based on a realistic macroeconomic framework and balanced fiscal adjustment. They stressed the importance of swift passage of the comprehensive tax reform bill to enhance revenue, and the need to contain current expenditures, in particular public wages. It will also be essential to improve public financial management to complement tax and expenditure reforms.

Directors cautioned that underfunding of the Compact Trust Fund and a declining balance of the social security fund pose long-term challenges. With the Compact grants scheduled to expire in FY2023, Directors underlined the importance of improving FSM's capacity to fully utilize the remaining grants. They encouraged the authorities to prepare for the grants' expiration by developing realistic reform plans with broad support from the state governments and the general public. In this regard, they looked forward to swift approval of the budget to establish the 2023 Planning Committee.

Directors emphasized the importance of advancing investment-friendly reforms to catalyze growth and support fiscal consolidation. In this context,

further liberalizing land use and lease and streamlining investment licensing procedures at the national and state levels are important priorities. Directors noted that the financial system is well capitalized and liquid, but urged careful monitoring of credit quality given the increase in consumer loans in recent years. They welcomed efforts to address issues in loan collateral, which could help unlock commercial lending.

Directors agreed that the FSM Development Bank should be brought under appropriate supervision and its activities redirected to helping finance start-ups. Directors encouraged the authorities to step up production of high quality economic statistics, especially in the fiscal area, to strengthen monitoring and policy analysis.

Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. A staff team visits the country, collects economic and financial information, and discusses with officials the country's economic developments and policies. On return to headquarters, the staff prepares a report, which forms the basis for discussion by the Executive Board.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Managing Director, as Chairman of the Board, summarizes the views of Executive Directors, and this summary is transmitted to the country's authorities. An explanation of any qualifiers used in summing up can be found here: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/misc/qualifiers.htm>.

United Airlines Unveils Discounted Visit Micronesia Fare

Travel Pulse News

WESTAMPTON, New Jersey — United Airlines' Visit Micronesia fare provides a discount fare with multiple stops (two to five islands, depending on the ticket purchased) for travel to the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, CNMI and Palau. The Visit Micronesia reduced airfare package is making the Micronesian eco-destination of Kosrae Island available to more travelers. Located halfway between Hawaii and Australia, Kosrae Island's Kosrae Village, an eco-lodge and dive resort, offers guests an authentic island experience, and at value for those that take advantage of United Airlines new special airfare package.

Guests of Kosrae Village enjoy accommodations in traditional Kosrae "loahms," or cottages, that were built by local craftsmen using sustainable building practices and materials. Guests sleep just steps from the ocean's edge in elevated, palm-thatched cottages. The resort features a PADI five-star dive center, and the island's top restaurant connected by candlelit pathways. In addition to world-class diving, guests can hike to ancient ruins or through the island's jungles, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, snorkeling and more.

Visit Micronesia airfare is available for ticketing through March 31, 2014, and can be used for travel beginning Feb. 14, 2013. Travelers cannot live in the Micronesia region (the Commonwealth of the Marianas, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands or Hawaii). The ticket must be purchased outside of the Micronesia region and must be purchased before the trip begins. Travel on United or United Express must begin outside of the Micronesia region. The ticket number for the trip to Guam or Hawaii must be cross referenced on the Visit Micronesia ticket.

The first stop on the Visit Micronesia fare must be scheduled when the ticket is purchased, but the rest can be left open. The traveler has 30 days to complete their travel on the Visit Micronesia ticket. There is a \$250 fee for refunds and changes made by the issuing agency (United or your travel agent) before departure. After departure, this fare is not refundable or changeable. These fares aren't available online. Since these tickets have many possible combinations of routes and islands to be visited, travelers need to purchase the ticket through a travel agent or by calling a United reservations agent.

U.S. Federal Investigators on Guam to probe grants

Marianas Variety/PACNEWS

HAGÁTÑA, Guam — Federal investigators are currently on Guam as part of their ongoing investigation into corruption charges against Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta, University of Guam (UOG) President Robert Underwood said on Sunday.

"I think they are coming (Sunday night). They will be here for a week," said Underwood, who is among the officials scheduled to be interviewed by investigators from the Department of the Interior's Inspector General Office.

"Around the middle of December, [the investigators] called me and said they were coming to Guam. They asked to talk to me for one hour," Underwood said.

The UOG president is scheduled to meet with the federal investigators Tuesday.

He said the federal investigators will look into grants awarded to the University of Guam. "But UOG is not under

investigation," Underwood clarified.

Babauta was placed under administrative leave in November last year pending investigation reportedly related to contracts and his travel spending.

Details as to what prompted the investigation remain shrouded.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo earlier said she was aware of the IG investigation, as she expressed confidence Babauta would be eventually cleared.

Babauta served as Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's senior advisor and previously worked on the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, as its staff director for the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife. He advised the full committee on U.S. policy toward U.S. territories and other U.S.-affiliated island nations.

He is a native of Guam, spent much of his childhood on the U.S. mainland, and is a graduate of Gonzaga University.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 13-001



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

POSITION & GRADE: Loan Officer, Grade 4
LOCATION: FSM Development Bank, Chuuk Branch
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3. Assesses the economic and financial viability of proposed projects in terms of management experience, technical abilities, marketing, and financial capabilities. Conducts detailed feasibility studies regarding proposals as necessary.
4. Compiles information and prepare loan packages in standard formats for review by the Branch Manager and Credit Committee.
5. Administers the disbursement of loan funds to approved projects.
6. Ensures that borrowers fulfill the terms and conditions set out in loan document and lending guidelines. Monitors projects progress via reports and with visits to the project.
7. Pursues the collection of loan payments on current and delinquent loans. Provide assistance to clients with problem accounts within the established policies and procedures of the Bank. Report progress regarding such loans to the Branch Manager and implements instructions accordingly.
8. Promotes Bank's business and develops recommendations to market the Bank's services in the local community.
9. Other responsibilities as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

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

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications, curriculum vitae, and at least three letters of reference shall be completed and submitted to: The FSMDB Chuuk Branch Office or to the FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei with mailing address as follows: FSM Development Bank, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941 by mail; by fax to 320-2842 or in person at the FSM Development Bank's Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei on or before February 15, 2013.

Bank of Guam offers \$10k in college scholarships
5 Awardees to receive \$2,000 each plus paid summer internship

Bank of Guam

January 15, 2013

Hagatna, Guam – Bank of Guam is pleased to announce that applications are now available for its IFIT Scholarship which makes \$2,000 available for five graduating seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the Bank's branches.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

1. Be U.S. citizens who reside in Guam, the CNMI, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia or San Francisco, California;
2. Be high school seniors, Class of 2013, (copies of transcripts and SAR/ACT scores required) from an accredited high school with a 3.5 grade point average.
3. Submit the original, numbered application by March 15, 2013 to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Marketing Department;
4. Submit three (3) letters of recommendation, one from a reference of choice;
5. Submit answers to four essay questions.

The scholarship will be available for use at any 4-year U.S. accredited college or university, and would be earmarked to

those students pursuing degrees in business, finance, accounting, economics or related majors (can be multi-disciplinary). 10 Semifinalists will be selected by April and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four year college or university.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam Board Chair, President and Chief Executive Officer stated, "We are very proud to offer graduating high school seniors an opportunity to continue their education at an accredited college or university. Given Bank of Guam's longstanding service and commitment to higher education for its communities, it is a privilege to continue this commitment."

Last year's Awardees were graduates of Guam's Notre Dame High School, Academy of Our Lady of Guam and Southern High. Additionally, graduates from Saipan's Kagman High and Pohnpei's Seventh Day Academy won the scholarships and paid internships.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department in Hagatna Branch Lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted.

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

FSM Secretary of Justice on the go for anti-trafficking outreach to the States

FSM Information Services

January 18, 2013

COLONIA, Yap — FSM Secretary of Justice April Dawn Skilling is currently in Yap State on a mission to assist the FSM states in drafting anti-trafficking legislations to further progress efforts in all aspects of human trafficking regulation and prevention.

The FSM public law 17-38 was enacted on March 16, 2012 modifying parts of Title 11 of the FSM Code and creating a new subchapter to put in place the human trafficking and smuggling statues at the national level. The states also need to enact complimentary legislations within their jurisdictions for enforcement, prosecution, prevention and perhaps rehabilitation purposes.

In forming the state governors of the secretary's assistance, President Manny Mori wrote on January 15, "I am asking

Secretary Skilling to reach out to the leadership of all four states in order to assist the states in addressing the need to develop an action plan to recognize, condemn and prosecute all acts of human trafficking".

Together with the states, the FSM government needs to progress actions for human trafficking regulations to keep a "good standing" rating on the Watch List done every year by the U.S. Department of State.

Maintaining a bad rating, as in a Tier 3 rating, may eventually result in the loss of all US non-humanitarian aid to the FSM according to the same communication to the governors.

Secretary Skilling had worked in the Russian Federation where she assisted in the development of the country's anti-trafficking legislation.

Secretary Skilling left on January 15 for Yap State where the state legislature is currently in session.

COM-FSM Board of Regents holds community meeting in Pohnpei

The College of Micronesia

January 22, 2013

PALIKIR, Pohnpei – The College of Micronesia-FSM Board of Regents conducted a community meeting on January 16th to update the community on the major highlights at the college and to receive community input.

The meeting was held at the Pohnpei State Governor's conference hall at 2–3 pm and was attended by 49 people including four regents, the college president, several college staff, parents of COM-FSM students and COM-FSM alumni.

Regent Churchill Edward, the Pohnpei representative on the board, opened the meeting and greeted the participants in Pohnpeian. He welcomed the guests and explained the purpose for community meetings.

Vice Chairman Lyndon Cornelius expressed appreciation for the members of the community who participated in the meeting. He introduced the other regents present including Graceful Enlet representing Chuuk, Churchill Edward representing Pohnpei, Mary Figir representing Yap, and COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. He shared that the board attended a workshop to better understand their function as board members and later considered issues during their January board meeting, accreditation being the most important. Regent Cornelius expressed his hopes that the meeting would be beneficial to the members of the community and encouraged questions and concerns from them.

President Daisy shared that it has been a year since he became president of the college. He said that during the past year both internal and external constituents have pulled together to work toward bringing the college out of its accreditation sanction and that a completion of several initiatives have secured another year for the college to continue to work toward resolving its accreditation concerns. The president said that another major report is due in March and will be followed by a visit from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. He commented that while the news is good in that the college is moving in the right direction, there is still a lot of work to be done.

President Daisy said that it would be another intense year of work for the college. He called for extraordinary support and courage of the nation's leaders to provide the funds to support the accomplishment of the college's mission and continued improvement. He expressed that in spite of the economic challenges, the college remains optimistic of the leaders' support for the college considering the appropriation of \$700,000 from FSM Congress to restore the first funding decrement to the college.

The president pointed out that the college held successful visioning summits at each campus with broad based participation, the results of which will contribute toward the development of the college's next strategic plan. As well, the college is continuing to address its communication challenges to fulfill its mission and gain the support of the nation's leaders. President Daisy noted that favorable feedback was received on his presentation at the State National Leadership Conference. As well,

a space utilization study will be completed to better inform the college's facilities master plan and to provide guidance for maximizing the use of the college's facilities. Advisory committees are being formed to reach out to the community to help make the college's programs stronger.

The president further shared that in order to reach donors beyond the FSM, the board is moving ahead to develop a foundation that will secure U.S. tax-exempt status for donors. While the foundation may take a year to be fully established, the president attributed its planning and development to the board's visionary thinking. The president also shared that a student engagement survey will be conducted to help faculty and staff understand why students choose to attend the college and their level of satisfaction with the services they receive.

Senator Magdalena Walter expressed appreciation to the college for holding community meetings to share information on issues from the college leadership. Mr. Kester James, the Pohnpei State Senior Citizens Program Coordinator inquired whether older people could go back to college and on the college's position on the World Park initiative. President Daisy responded by saying that anyone is welcome to return to COM-FSM including older people. On the issue of the World Park, Vice President for Cooperative Research and Extension Jim Currie said the college is collaborating with World Park initiative by



providing technical information. The college also has an memorandum of understanding with Michigan State University, the consultant for the World Park planning efforts.

Senator Ishmael Lebehn asked whether the college could provide non-credit courses needed by the community and whether it could increase its vocational program offerings. The Vice President for Instructional Affairs Mariana Ben Dereas shared that there is a recent program prioritization effort at the college as well as the development of an Educational Master Plan with the focus on success and employability of students while in school and after completing their education at the college. She said that Pohnpei Campus offers several applied associate degree and certificate programs in career and technical areas. She noted that non-credit courses are developed and offered upon request. An example is the recent public health courses that started last summer.

See "COM" on page 10

Oceania Television's coverage of FSM World Heritage ranking

OTV News

KOROR, Palau — Out of 177 countries, the Index of Economic Freedom, published by the Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation, has placed the Federated States of Micronesia at 143 according to its 2012 ranking of countries.

The Heritage Foundation, a Washington based think tank, partners with the Wall Street Journal to publish the index's ranking of countries. According to the Heritage Foundation's website, the index brings to life Adam Smith's theory's on liberty, prosperity, and economic freedom in his influential work *The Wealth of Nations* published in 1776.

The Heritage Foundation points out that "in an economically free society, individuals are free to work, produce, consume, and invest in any way they please, with that freedom both protected by the state and unconstrained by the state."

The journal has 10 benchmarks they use to rate a country which are grouped accordingly: Rule of Law (property rights, freedom from corruption); Limited Government (fiscal freedom, government spending); Regulatory Efficiency (business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom); and Open Markets (trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom).

The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Emmanuel Mori, in his address to FSM's sixth Congressional session earlier this month, noted the need to look into the index's citations, possibly concerned in the accuracy of the statistics used.

The index uses data compiled by the World Bank, the World

Trade Organization, the Economist Intelligence Unit, and any official government publications of each country.

The Federated States of Micronesia is not the only country concerned with the validity of the Index's rankings.

The United Arab Emirates has questioned the Index's validity in citing the country's rankings as quite low in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and high in Fitch and Mood's Credit Ratings by country.

The Index is used by U.S. government foreign aid programs, such as the Millennium Challenge Account, to determine which countries get aid and what amount. Despite the index's use, however, some economists have expressed concerns over the rankings' validity. One such critic, Jeffrey Sachs, dubbed by *Time's Magazine* as the "world's best known economist" contests the Index's assumption that economic openness necessarily leads to better growth for a country. Sachs graphed the country's rankings on the index against GDP per capita growth between 1995 to 2003 and found no correlation between the index's rankings on a country and their rate of economic growth.

President Mori also noted that a look into the rankings' citations could also be used to try and assess what the country can work on not so much to improve the country's rankings, but to look at what the country can do to improve its own economic growth in general.

Faleomavaega elected as ranking member of subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that on Tuesday January 15, 2013 he was unanimously elected as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. The Subcommittee now includes India and Pakistan and has oversight for U.S. foreign policy affecting more than 60% of the world's population.

"I thank my colleagues for their support of my bid for Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific," Faleomavaega said. "I look forward to working with my Republican counterpart, Chairman Steve Chabot, to address the complex issues facing this important region of the world, especially at a time when the Obama Administration has made clear that U.S. foreign, economic and security policy must 'pivot' toward Asia."

"For years, I have called for greater U.S. engagement with Asia-Pacific countries, and I am hopeful that the U.S. is finally serious about advancing peace, stability and prosperity in this region of the world. I am especially pleased that South Asia has been moved back into the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific where it rightfully belongs, and I also intend to shine a light on the needs of those living in this area."

"As we begin the work of the 113th Congress, I welcome the members of our Subcommittee. I know they, too, are committed to strengthening cooperation with our Asia-Pacific partners. From maritime security to growing energy needs to poverty, food security, HIV/AIDS, climate change, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, defense engagements and more, we have much work to do. But I have full confidence that we can make a difference and so I thank the people of American Samoa for their support in also working to bring about peaceful solutions for the Asia-Pacific region," Faleomavaega concluded.

OICA strengthens faculty; prepares for start of education programs

By Virginia A. Duldulao, Ph.D.



January 18, 2013

In its bid to strengthen its faculty in preparation for the offering of post secondary education

starting this summer term, the Ohwa International Christian Academy (OICA), located at Ohwa, Madolenihmw, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has invited Filipino educators to join its staff and faculty.

Arriving in October this year is a mother and daughter team - Dr. Editha Acidera, a Doctor of Education degree holder, and her daughter, Karen Rosalie Acidera, a registered nurse. They were followed by Professor Margarita Tecson who came in early November, 2012.

Dr. Acidera, before joining OICA, was a college faculty member of the Divine Word College (DWC) of Laoag City, located at the northern part of the Philippines, and a faculty member of the Graduate School of Northern Christian College (NCC), also of Laoag City. Her Bachelor's degree is in Education, major in English, her master's is in Educational Administration and doctorate in Educational Management. She is now in charge of the English subjects at OICA.

Karen Acidera, who passed the Nurses' Licensure Examination in the Philippines, before being recruited for OICA, handles science subjects aside from serving as the nurse for the school and for the community, when a clinic will be established for her.

faculty member of the College of Arts, Sciences, English and Social Work of NCC before joining OICA. She handled all the Political Science courses in the college and did restaurant and catering work on her own in the city. She was working on her Master of Arts in Education degree when she moved to OICA. She handles the social science, Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (MAPEH) class and Home Economics.



Prof. Margarita A. Tecson

The latest addition to the OICA is Dr. Virginia Duldulao, a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Banos. She was Dean for Academic Affairs and concurrently dean of the Graduate School of NCC before joining OICA on January 8, 2013. She was also Director for Research and Community Development and editorial consultant for the College's paper. Before these positions, she was senior research fellow at the Philippine Rice Research Institute and technical adviser on communication at the Bureau of Agricultural Research. She is both a technical and creative

writer having written and edited technical papers and publications, short stories and novels and has published two books to her name. She is presently Deputy Chief Executive Officer at OICA.

The presence of the expatriate teachers at OICA is credited to the Board of Trustees more specifically Senator Shelten G. Neth, who is chairman of the Board and chief executive officer of OICA who traveled to the Philippines more particularly at Northern Christian College, accompanied by Rev. Dr. Xioaling Zhu, to recruit and plead with NCC President Caesar I. Agnir to allow his adventurous teachers who are ready to sacrifice to come and help OICA.

The OICA was established as a Christian high school in 1856 by missionaries led by Rev. Albert Sturges, an American missionary. The school experienced ups and downs including several closures until what it is today, struggling to become one of the best schools in FSM. The present principal of OICA is Rev. Niko Sopepa, a master's degree holder in Theology from Eden Theological Seminary, Missouri, U.S.A.

With the strengthened faculty and with the approval of its charter, OICA is ready to offer tertiary programs in education, starting this summer term.



Dr. Editha B. Acidera and her daughter Ms. Karen Rosalie B. Acidera, R.N.

Professor Tecson was a

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New IOM office opens in Chuuk, Micronesia

International Organization for Migration

IOM's global footprint has moved a little further with the opening of a new sub-office established in Weno, Chuuk State, in the Federated States of Micronesia.



IOM has been operating in Micronesia since 2008 in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in the area of disaster preparedness. More recently, a programme funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), focusing on climate change and disaster risk reduction necessitated the establishment of a permanent presence of the Organization in Chuuk.

IOM will be working together with the State Government and local partners to raise awareness on climate change and climate-induced hazards in 14 schools and communities in Chuuk State for the next two years, through the roll-out of an educational curriculum developed specifically for elementary school students, which includes school evacuation drills, emergency first responders training, assistance with the preparation of emergency preparedness plans and the implementation of adaptation measures. Visitors to the new office can read and take away some of the items on display including the educational materials.

State Governor Johnson Elimo, welcoming the IOM to Chuuk, noted "It is appropriate that IOM establish a presence in Chuuk given the FSM accession to IOM membership only 12 months ago. IOM is the first international organization to establish a presence in Chuuk state and it is heartening to see it opening offices across the country."

The IOM sub-office in Chuuk is supported by the Head Office for the north Pacific based in Pohnpei, and is closely coordinating with other sub-offices in Yap State and Majuro, in the Marshall Islands. IOM Chief of Mission, Mr Ashley Carl said that IOM would work "beyond disaster preparedness and assistance activities, with the state Government leadership, government agencies, College, schools, civil society, the private sector and the community at large to address some of the risk associated with climate change; particularly climate-induced hazards such as landslides and typhoons."

For more information please contact IOM's Chief of Mission for FSM, Ashley Carl at acarl@iom.int

Congress passes new payment procedures for corporate income tax

Congress News

January 12, 2013

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – The Sixth Regular session of the Seventeenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened in Palikir on Monday – January 7, 2013 to wrap up all measures outstanding and pending before the Body during the last Regular Session of the current Congress.

With the formalities of an opening session taken care of on the first day, the next four days began with an ominous statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means which seemed to set the general tone for the week. Chairman Dohsis Halbert cautioned Members to be "extremely wary of our revenue projections this year" for the state of the world has become unstable with implications that are sure to affect the FSM.

The Chairman's advice to the Congress was to "hold off on major financial decisions" until a clearer picture is gauged of where the world's economy is headed. He suggested that attention be given to the nations' Trust Fund and to Social Security with the President's supplemental budget to be carefully scrutinized to fund only those items of great urgency.

Day Two concluded with the passage of the following legislative measures:

1. Congressional Act 17-73, (C.B. 17-146), is an Act to improve the procedure for corporate income tax payment, and for other purposes; and
2. Congressional Resolution (CR) No. 17-201, to convey condolences of the 17th Congress for the passing of a great friend to the FSM, the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye. A native of Hawaii, Inouye

was a Member of the Senate in the United States Congress.

On Day Three, Congress passed the following legislative measures:

1. Congressional Act 17-73, (C.B. 17-146) is an Act to improve the procedure for corporate income tax payment, and for other purposes; and
2. Congressional Act 17-74, (C.B. 17-206, CD1) and Congressional Act 17-75, (C.B. 17-207) are both Acts to amend certain public projects and social programs in the states to change the use and allottee of funds previously allotted.

On Thursday, Day Four Chairman Halbert introduced a Bill on the floor which he requested the Members to mull over the weekend. Congressional Bill 17-209, proposes the appropriation of 5million from the FSM General Fund to "offset effects of the next five years of the decrement of Compact Funding for the Administration of the five governments of the FSM, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap..."

The Chairman stated that the amount would be given to the states up front and all at once so that it can be "stewarded wisely by the states in accordance with their internal legislative processes as they shepherd their citizens through the next five years of Compact Funding cuts." His statement was concluded with a request for suggestions on how to further address the decrements.

While Members empathized with the intent of the measure, they were nevertheless of the consensus that the state governments themselves must exert more willingness and effort to address the decrements.

Following the floor discussions on Halbert's measure, Congress agreed to go into recess and reconvene on Monday, January 14, 2013.

Employment Opportunity

Assistant to the Country Liaison Officer (Palikir, Pohnpei)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking a qualified individual to serve as the Assistant to the Country Liaison Officer (CLO). The successful applicant will be assigned to the WHO Country Liaison Office for Northern Micronesia. The Assistant will provide secretarial and administrative support to the CLO and other staff in the Country Office.

Job description:

- Screens incoming correspondence, documents and reports and routes to the CLO, including relevant background materials; ensures proper distribution and follows up on deadlines; takes/transcribes correspondence, reports etc. from dictation, tapes and manuscripts, using word processing software, and takes notes at meetings and prepares minutes; drafts/prepares general correspondence, briefing notes, background materials etc. on brief instruction or own initiative, and types/formats statements, reports, and studies including statistical tables and other materials; verifies that outgoing correspondence is presented in accordance with WHO style, check language, grammar and accuracy prior to submitting for signature and clearance; Opens, organizes and maintains general project files with appropriate systems for any follow-up actions;
- Sets up schedules of appointments for the CLO and visitors; places and screens telephone calls and answers queries with discretion; maintains workplans/project activities in GSM, assists in recruitment of temporary advisors, arranges meetings and seminars, makes travel arrangements, assists in APWs, provides inventory and fixed asset reporting; In the absence of the CLO, assumes administrative responsibility for the day-to-day, routine operations of the office;
- Performs other related duties as required or instructed, including providing support to other areas of work.

Educational and experience requirements:

- Equivalent to graduation from secondary school with secretarial/administrative training.
- Five years experience in secretarial/administrative posts
- Experience in administrative support positions in WHO or another UN agency an asset. Experience in Oracle-based or other Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems an asset.

Details of the proposed position:

- Salary for this position will be \$ 9,348.00 Net per annum (paid monthly); Duration of position: One year

Applicants interested in interviewing for this position should submit a cover letter and resume/CV in person, by mail, or email to the following address:

Ms. Jane Wallace
PO BOX PS70, Department of Health and Social Affairs
Mogethin Building, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Email: wallacej@wpro.who.int

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JOB VACANCIES

Due to the high volume of applications received by IOM, only short-listed candidates will be contacted directly and applications will be processed on a rolling basis.

Background

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an inter-governmental organization known for its dynamic work in the field of migration. The Organization has a global presence with over 450 offices worldwide, including four offices in the north Pacific region. The Head Office overseeing IOM's operations across the region is located in Pohnpei, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). IOM also has sub-offices in the FSM States of Chuuk and Yap, and a sub-office in Majuro, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

An ongoing service of IOM in the region is to assist the host governments and the United States government in disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction activities. IOM is also managing a program on behalf of the Australian Government, which aims to assist communities to adapt to climate change while building resilience to climate-induced natural hazards. Recently, IOM also commenced a project focused on promoting safe migration and integration of Micronesian nationals into the United States through the establishment of a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Pohnpei.

MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER COORDINATOR *Pohnpei Head Office*

General functions

Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and in close collaboration with the Immigration Division & Labor, FSM Department of Justice, the incumbent will be responsible and accountable for the day-to-day operations of the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Pohnpei

Qualifications

a) Completed university degree from an accredited academic institution; with further graduate studies an added advantage; b) At least seven years of professional experience c) Work experience with the FSM national or state governments, US government, embassies, non-governmental organizations, international organizations is desirable; d) Experience working and/or studying in United States for at least two years; e) experience supervising staff and/or volunteers is advantageous

Language

Fluency in English and Pohnpeian is required. Fluency in additional Micronesian language highly desirable

Conditions of Employment

- Grade: G - 7
- Salary: \$16,483 Gross per annum
- Duration: 9-months, with likelihood of extension.
- Medical Service Plan
- Sick Leave entitlements
- Annual leave (6 weeks per year)

Closing Date

30 January 2013

PROGRAM ASSISTANT (MULTI-MEDIA) *Pohnpei Head Office*

General functions

Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Mission (CoM) and in close coordination with IOM's sub-offices in the region the successful candidate will be based in Pohnpei and serve as the focal point of all graphic design, website maintenance, social media, photo documentation, publications and managing the library.

Qualifications

a) A completed diploma and/or university degree from an accredited academic institution is preferable; however extensive work experience will be considered in lieu of academic qualifications; b) A minimum of four years of experience in writing and designing brochures, fact sheets and other promotional materials, including experience in web management; c) Experience in editing technical documents and production of materials; d) Experience working with an International NGO, UN, or Intergovernmental Organization is advantageous; e) Knowledge of the issues of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation is desirable; f) Knowledge of the issues of migration (including irregular migration, public health, trafficking in persons) an advantage; g) Experience in the use of MS Publisher, Photoshop, website design and similar application is essential.

Language

Verbal and written fluency in English. Knowledge of local language is advantageous

Conditions of Employment

- Salary Range: \$9,537 to \$ 11,541 Gross per annum (Commiserate with qualifications and experience)
- Duration: 9-months, with likelihood of extension.
- Medical Service Plan
- Sick Leave entitlements
- Annual Leave (6 weeks per year)

Closing Date

15 February 2013

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY *Pohnpei Head Office (2), Chuuk Sub-Office (2), Majuro Sub-Office (1)*

IOM is offering an exciting opportunity for a hard-working, energetic and motivated individual, who may have recently graduated from tertiary education and wishes to gain experience with a dynamic and reputable international organization.

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- Liaison with local non-governmental organizations and faith-based groups
- Working alongside local leaders and relevant government authorities
- Conducting country research for contingency planning and surveying
- Gaining knowledge and skills in administrative procedures of a large organization
- Working as part of a harmonious multi-cultural team
- Traveling to remote outer islands to conduct assessments

Qualifications

- a) Bachelor or Associate degree (or equivalent) b) Strong interpersonal skills c) Excellent PC skills
- d) Highly motivated to learn e) Ability to handle multiple priorities

Language

Verbal and written fluency in English. Fluency in local language is advantageous

Conditions of Employment

Internships are unremunerated positions; however interns are provided with a generous monthly subsistence allowance to assist in covering transport and other costs associated with their assignment

Closing Date

15 February 2013

Application Process

1. One page Statement of Interest
2. Curriculum Vitae or Resume
3. Contact Information of at least 3 references
4. Copies of academic transcript/s – Do Not Send Original

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5 Pacific Island Nations to be insured against natural disasters

Pilot program to help governments respond to natural disasters

The World Bank

January 18, 2013

SYDNEY –The Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu plan to be better protected against natural disasters after a pilot catastrophe risk insurance program was launched today to provide their governments with immediate funding if a major natural disaster occurs.

Pacific Island countries are some of the most vulnerable in the world to natural hazards, which can cause millions of dollars of damage, and threaten the lives of tens of thousands of people. Eight Pacific nations sit among the world's top twenty countries with the highest annual losses, on average, from disasters as a proportion of GDP.

Japan, the World Bank and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) have teamed up with Pacific island nations to launch the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Pilot. It will test whether a risk transfer arrangement modeled on an insurance plan can help Pacific island nations deal with the immediate financial effects of natural disasters.

The pilot relies on state-of-the-art financial risk modeling techniques and is the first ever Pacific scheme to use parametric triggers, linking immediate post-disaster insurance payouts to specific hazard events. This joint

effort will allow Pacific island nations to access earthquake and tropical cyclone catastrophe coverage from reinsurance companies at an attractive price.

“We know all too well the financial impacts of natural disasters and are fortunate to have post-disaster assistance from donor countries,” said Lisiate 'Akolo, Minister for Finance and National Planning in Tonga. “This project will allow us to better respond immediately to phenomena like tropical cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis.”

“This program offers immediate emergency funding in the aftermath of a major disaster and will help stabilize the Pacific Islands' economies so their efforts to respond to an emergency situation can be maximized,” said Japan's Ministry of Finance. “Japan's participation in this program is in line with our commitment in mainstreaming disaster risk management at the Sendai Dialogue.”

“The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Pilot is the first of its kind in the Pacific. This is an excellent opportunity to see whether insurance might work for Pacific island countries and to explore options for financing disaster responses in the future,” said Dr. Russell Howarth, Director of the SPC Applied Geosciences and Technology Division.

“Governments' access to emergency funding

will help them quickly respond to the needs of their affected people,” said Franz Drees-Gross, World Bank Country Director for the Pacific. “It is especially important for vulnerable countries like those in the Pacific, which must frequently deal with natural disasters.”

The World Bank will act as an intermediary between the Pacific Island nations and a group of insurance companies selected through a competitive bidding process – Sompo Japan Insurance, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance, Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance and Swiss Re. AIR Worldwide provides the underlying risk modeling for the transaction.

The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Pilot is part of the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI), a joint initiative of the World Bank, SPC, and the Asian Development Bank with financial support from the Government of Japan, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the European Union. PCRAFI, launched in 2007, aims to provide the Pacific island nations with disaster risk assessment and financing tools for enhanced disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

...COM

Continued from page 6

Pohnpei Campus Acting Dean Grilly Jack further explained about a stigma that is attached to the word vocational as they are used in the high schools. The word vocational discourages students from enrolling in vocational programs. The current terminology that the college uses is career and technical education. He said that the college currently offers nine certificate and associate of applied science degree programs. The programs are accredited and articulated with the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Jack shared that the college has established advisory councils for the career and technical education programs to solicit community participation and ownership by informing the college of community training needs.

The Pohnpei State senators who were present during the meeting expressed their support of the college. President Daisy mentioned that other Pohnpei leaders were also vocal in their support of the college following the SNLC and so was Governor Ehsa during their courtesy call on him earlier. President Daisy extended on an invitation to all to visit the college.

Regent Enlet closed the meeting by expressing sincere thanks for the community members in attendance, which shows community interest in the future of the college. He concluded the meeting by stating that when it comes to moving forward, places and institutions do not move. It is the people that move. He invited everyone to move forward with his or her support of the college.

The college's vice presidents present during the community meeting were Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance Frankie Harriss, Vice President for Instructional Affairs Mariana Ben Dereas, and Vice President for Cooperative Research and Extension Jim Currie.

...Suit

Continued from front page

The State says that Miju Mulsan won the bid for the management and operations contract, beating out Liancheng whose bid was rejected by the State.

Liancheng is a separate company from Luen Thai but was its strategic partner in the bid process. If Liancheng had won the bid, Luen Thai would have operated the facility as it currently does.

The complaint says that Miju Mulsan's bid was for \$108,000 per year for a period of 10 years after which they would increase the amount of the rent payment by 10%, an amount that the complaint says is less than Liancheng offered to pay effective immediately.

The lawsuit says that Liancheng, Luen Thai's strategic partner, offered \$120,000 per year for the same site for a period of 10 years, but the Government rejected Liancheng's bid saying that it did not meet bid requirements. The civil complaint says that the bid did meet all of the requirements of the Request for Proposal, and that it also made other additional offers.

The Governor's letter to Mr. Samuel Chou, President of Liancheng in care of Luen Thai was dated December 20. The complaint said the letter did not arrive

at Luen Thai until January 3. "We have carefully reviewed your company's proposal and I regret to inform you that your Company was not selected for the bid to manage and operate the P.F.C. fish processing facilities. Although your proposal includes relocation of the FSM Petroleum across the street and developing the area for container space, and leasing of the cold storage facilities, those were all beyond the scope of work in the RFP," the Governors letter said.

A letter from Liancheng seeking arbitration on the matter said that the Government erred when it selected a lower bid on the basis that Liancheng's bid included items that were outside of the scope of the RFP. Luen Thai's lease provides explicit recourse to address disagreements, and also provides an arbitration process.

Its complaint says that the Government has refused to enter into any arbitration.

According to a letter written to the Governor by Liancheng, the date of the rejection letter was the same date that Derrick Wang, one of Liancheng's representatives left Pohnpei after having been told that the decision would not be made for "some time" since the economic committee had not met.

On January 20, Yalmer Helgenberger, consultant to the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture wrote an email to Mr. Derrick Wang. "This is to officially inform you that the Lease Agreement on Management and

Operation of PFC Facility has been signed between the Pohnpei State Government, Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Miju Mulsan Company on January 15, 2013," the email said. It further said that the State was in the process of also leasing the cold storage facility and ice machines to Miju Mulsan, which Helgenberger wrote, "are definitely needed by Miju to facilitate the operation of PFC. We therefore, regretfully informing you that all those requests verbally made in my office before you left Pohnpei, none of them could be accommodate at this time."

The email ended by inviting Liancheng to consider "other business opportunities aside PFC and the other components facilities that supports the operations of the PFC."

Luen Thai says in its complaint that it did not submit a bid in response to the RFP because their lease, which was written by the Pohnpei State Government, explicitly grants them the Right of First Refusal. They say they relied on that right which they say should have given them opportunity to meet or beat any bid that came in.

Luen Thai says that it will not leave the facility on February 6. LTFV says that it needs at least six months beyond February 6 to vacate the premises "no matter what event occurs." Its complaint says that its lease requires a six month notification of the termination of the lease.

Your threat that Luen Thai Fishing Venture., Ltd., intends to remain at the PFC facilities beyond February 6, 2013, '... no matter what event occurs' is most regrettable. Nevertheless, our government's duty is bound to enforce our laws", a letter signed by Pelson Moses, Acting Administrator of Pohnpei's Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture said. The letter was dated January 21.

During a telephone interview on Monday, Mr. Moses said that the situation was simple. Luen Thai did not submit a bid in response to the State's RFP, and Liancheng's bid did not prevail, so the State signed a lease with Miju Mulsan.

The lease is attached as an exhibit to CA 2013-001. The complaint says that the State now has two lease agreements for the same property.

The main complaint requests the court to compel arbitration pursuant to the terms of the lease agreement. It also asks the court to issue a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to maintain the status quo during the pendency of arbitration. It requests judicial review of the decisions awarding the bid for the PFC lease to Miju Mulsan. It asks the court to either issue an order compelling the award of the bid to Liancheng, or to set aside the whole process and establish a new bid and bidding process. It is also asking for money damages which the complaint says would be proved in court.

The defendants filed a motion for

a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction concurrently with its main complaint.

Yesterday morning, Senator Aurelio Joab, who chairs the Resources and Development standing committee of the Pohnpei Legislature, said that his committee has been holding hearings on the matter since last week. He said that the Legislature has been left out of the decision making processes regarding Pohnpei's fisheries for far too long.

As part of his committee's work, Senator Joab developed a timeline of events beginning on October 16 when Mr. Itaia Fred, who was then the Action Administrator of OFA, issued the RFP for the management and operation of the PFC facilities in Dekehtik. The timeline says that on December 6, a letter was prepared to terminate the lease agreement between Pohnpei State and Luen Thai. Fred did not sign the letter.

On December 12, Fred sent a letter to the OFA Consultant, Mr. Yalmer Helgenberger, "expressing his concerns and disappointment over the proposed termination of the lease contract." The timeline says that Mr. Fred felt that insufficient information and consideration was presented in the execution of the official decision.

On that same day, Governor Ehsa sent a memorandum to all of his cabinet members and immediate staff officers informing them of his decision to designate Mr. Pelson Moses, Aquaculture specialist of OFA as the new Acting Administrator of OFA. That same day, Moses sent a letter to Luen Thai notifying them that their lease agreement had been terminated.

On December 14 Speaker Peter Lohn sent a letter to the Governor expressing the Legislature's concern over the termination notice. The letter "stated our expressed position on maintaining the status quo until a long term plan is finalized by the State leadership," the timeline says.

On December 17, Mr. Helgenberger submitted his review and analysis of the bid proposals to Governor Ehsa. He recommended that the contract should be awarded to Miju Mulsan, of Seoul South Korea.

On December 20, Governor Ehsa signed a letter notifying Liancheng that their company's bid had not been accepted. On December 24 he sent a letter to Miju Mulsan notifying them that they had won the bid.

On January 16 and 17, V6AH, Pohnpei's State radio aired a public announcement saying that the signing ceremony had been held between Pohnpei State Government and Miju Mulsan for the management and operation of Pohnpei PFC facilities.

The defendants in Civil Action 2013-001 have 20 days from the date of filing in order to make their response.

AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (ARDS) INTAKE YEAR 2014

Opening Date: 01 February 2013
Closing Date: 25 March 2013

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2014 for full time undergraduate and post-graduate study in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Awards cover full tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY STUDENTS MUST:

- Have completed an Associate Degree or equivalent, or due to complete by **June 2013** with minimum GPA of 2.8, OR
- Be over 25 years with High School GPA 2.8 or above and have a minimum of 5 years work experience related to the field of study.

Students just finishing High School are **NOT** eligible.

Expression of Interest Forms are available at:
the Australian Embassy website www.fsm.embassy.gov.au
the FSM National Scholarship Office
Pohnpei Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
Kosrae: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
Yap: Dept of Resources & Dev, Scholarship Office,
Chuuk: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
the COM Financial Aid Office, Pohnpei
the Australian Embassy, HE Building (next to Sea Breeze Hotel)

All completed Expression of Interest Forms should be submitted to the appropriate Scholarship Boards office above by 25 March 2013.

Remengesau sworn in as President of Palau's 9th Constitutional Government

By *Marilyn Manibusan*

Hundreds of people witnessed the official installation of Palau's 9th Constitutional Government on Thursday, January 17, 2013, at the National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Palau.

Returning President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., as well as Vice-President Antonio Bells, were sworn in by Chief Justice Arthur Ngiraklsong, officially installing the 9th Constitutional Government of the Republic of Palau. The Swearing-In Ceremony for the President and Vice-President took place after senators and delegates of the 9th Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK) took their oath of office in their respective chambers

It was a smooth transition as former Palau President Johnson Toribiong and newly sworn-in President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. held hands before the traditional turnover of the Ongall from Toribiong to Remengesau.

Among the local people, tribunal chiefs and leaders of the Republic, the swearing-in ceremony was attended by regional, national and international dignitaries from different countries. Mr. Stuart Beck, the U.N. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative was also present. Congratulatory messages were also read from Presidents of different countries, such as the United States of America, Japan, Republic of China, Kingdom of Sweden and the Federated States



Swearing-in of Palau's Vice President



Toribiong-Remengesau uniting for Palau

of Micronesia.

What the President intended to be a humble ceremony turned out to be an elevated inauguration by the generous contributions of the people of Palau, friends and supporters. Remengesau thanked the leaders of the various governments for their continued support to Palau in the country's ongoing efforts to rebuild the country from the damages caused by Typhoon Bopha. Acknowledging the presence of some of these countries, Remengesau pledged to further strengthen Palau's relationship with its friends and allies around the world.



Swearing-in of Palau's President

Education on climate change and disaster risk reduction education program underway in Micronesian schools

The International Organization for Migration

IOM, the International Organization for Migration through the CADRE Program (Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education), has launched a special program of 12 lesson modules for year 8 science students in schools designated as being at risk in the event of climate-induced natural disaster. The purpose of these lessons is to raise awareness on the causes and risks of natural disasters in Micronesia as well as the effects of climate change on FSM communities. The CADRE program not only raises awareness but also encourages students to identify ways to take action to better prepare for disasters and adapt to the effects of climate change.

IOM staff work with local teachers to administer the lessons, and all lessons are based on the FSM and RMI science curriculum benchmarks.

The education modules have been launched in Pohnpei at Sekere and Sokehs Powe Elementary Schools, and in Yap at Tomakaw Elementary School, with other schools scheduled to commence throughout this quarter. Nine schools in Chuuk will commence next week and three schools are targeted in Kosrae. This program is also being implemented across 16 schools in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The CADRE Program is supported by AusAID, the Australian Agency for International Development. IOM staff are grateful to the school principals and classroom teachers, traditional leaders and community members whose participation and assistance are indispensable in the successful implementation of this program.



RMI students participate in a CADRE lesson

Identifying hazards, vulnerability and the capacities in Yap communities

The International Organization for Migration

On 22nd November and 12th December, 2012 the International Organization for Migration, in close coordination with the Tomakaw Elementary School, conducted the first Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Mapping (HVCM) Exercise with community members in Maap Village, Yap. The 2 day event took place at the school during the afternoons. A total of 40 community members of all ages, including men, women, and children participated over the course of the event.

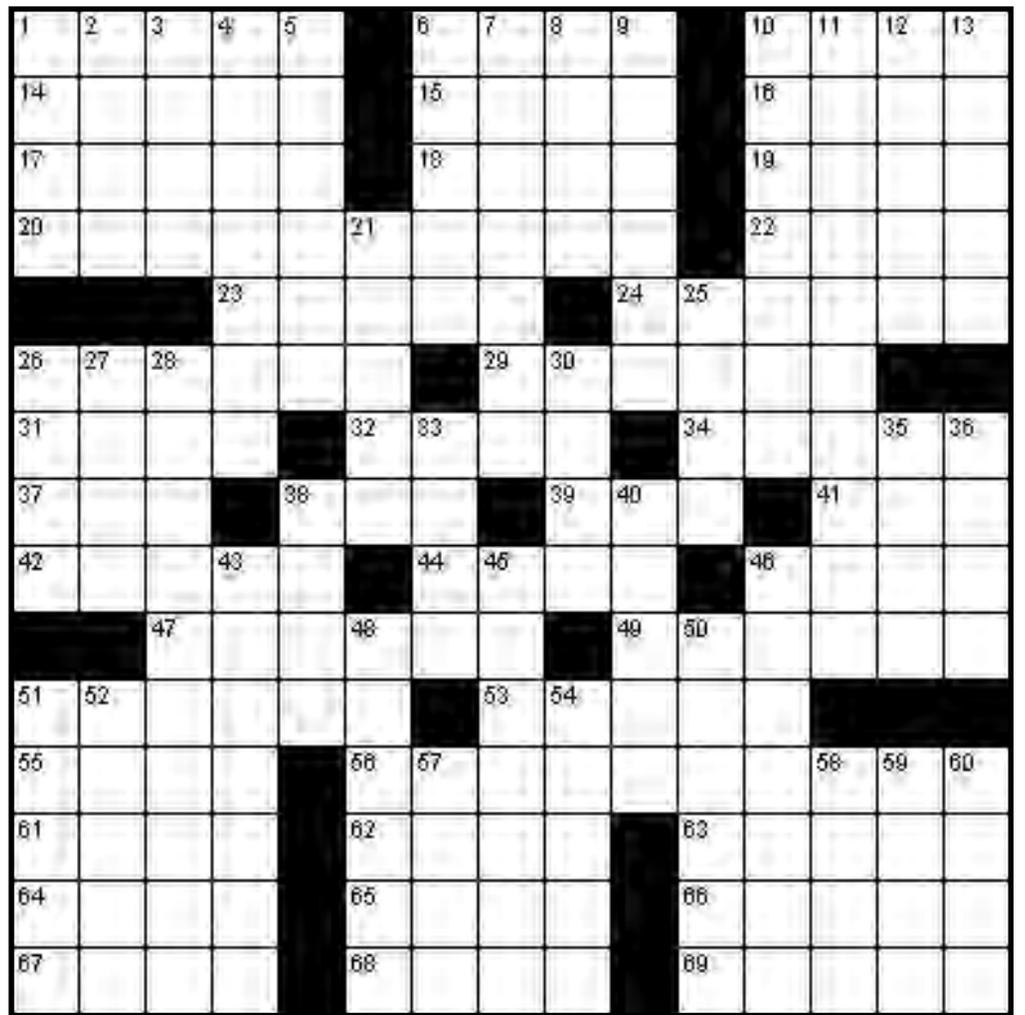
The HVC Mapping Exercise is a participatory community based exercise focusing on the development of a community profile which identifies community hazards and vulnerabilities as well as resources and capacities that could be used as assets in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. Components of the profiling include physical mapping of the community, and the development of a hazard matrix detailing natural hazards, such as flooding, drought risk, and typhoon vulnerabilities. After identifying these strengths and vulnerabilities, participants drafted their own community action plan for adapting to climate change and managing disaster risk.

HVC Mapping brought the community and families together, sensitized them to locally relevant issues of disaster vulnerability and preparedness, and scheduled further disaster preparedness empowerment activities for Tomakaw Elementary students under the CADRE (Climate, Adaptation, Disaster, Risk Reduction & Education) Program for the coming months. CADRE activities will include education for students on natural disasters, and activities targeted for the principals and teachers, including emergency management plans and emergency first responders training, which includes the provision of emergency medical supplies.

The CADRE Program is supported by the Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and aims to assist vulnerable communities in adapting to climate change and build their resilience to climate-induced hazards.



Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Low-priced
- 6 Troubles
- 10 Food for hogs
- 14 Spanish poet and playwright
- 15 Grandson of Methuselah
- 16 Showing a fancy for
- 17 Foreigner
- 18 One of the Gospels
- 19 Crockpot concoction
- 20 Five-foot line
- 22 Cork's place
- 23 Fine fiddle
- 24 Ship's officer
- 26 Kingdom in the Himalayas
- 29 Basic food
- 31 Infrequent
- 32 Island near Kauai
- 34 Melville adventure
- 37 Pen point
- 38 Like some vbs.
- 39 Sgt., for one
- 41 It paves the way
- 42 Astral hunter
- 44 Inkling

- 46 12-point type
- 47 Convert a message
- 49 "The Threepenny Opera" playwright
- 51 Cake
- 53 Grinding tooth
- 55 Author Hubbard
- 56 Handel oratorio
- 61 Leeds's river
- 62 Old World fruit tree
- 63 Plantain lily
- 64 Graycoats
- 65 Moslem leader
- 66 Terminator
- 67 Ancient ally of Sparta
- 68 Carry
- 69 Indian princess

DOWN

- 1 Thunder sound
- 2 Dig this!
- 3 22 across, poetically
- 4 Film maker?
- 5 Lightweight hat
- 6 Shoreline irregularity
- 7 Like a boor
- 8 Superior, e.g.
- 9 Himalayan guide
- 10 Penny-pinching
- 11 Germicidal
- 12 Metric unit
- 13 High spot
- 21 Big house
- 25 Doing
- 26 Chief city of Moravia
- 27 Tresses

- 28 Papal blessing words
- 30 Air
- 33 Unproductive
- 35 Apiece
- 36 Proof word
- 38 Quipu maker
- 40 Transmission medium
- 43 Unity
- 45 Fault
- 46 ___ non grata
- 48 Commencement

- 50 Bacon serving
- 51 Hostile look
- 52 Posthumous Plath book
- 54 Game played with deck of 40 cards
- 57 ___ sapiens
- 58 High spd. phone line
- 59 Suit to ___
- 60 Run quickly

Word Search - Kiddies -

- ball
- bench
- carousel
- children
- enjoyment
- frisbee
- grass
- hopscotch
- jungle gym
- ladders
- laughter
- monkey bars
- nannies
- pail
- parents
- sand box
- seesaw
- slide
- smiles
- spring horse
- sun_hat
- swing





Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Excelling Together for the People of the Pacific

The Secretariat seeks suitably qualified and experienced persons to fill the two vacant positions in its **Strategic Partnerships & Coordination Programme.**

1. Communications Officer (Band 9)

This position will be responsible to the Director, through the Communications and Public Relations Adviser for:

- providing of technical advice on communications issues and strategies;
- managing the production and dissemination of PIFS communications material;
- devising and implementing a strategy for efficient and sustainable maintenance of the Forum Secretariat website and intranet system; and
- assisting in implementing the Forum Secretariat Communications Strategy.

2. Communications and Public Relations Adviser (Band 11)

This position will be responsible to the Director for:

- developing and coordinating the implementation of the Secretariat's communication strategy and public relations activities and initiatives under the Pacific Plan;
- preparing, producing and disseminating of PIFS communications material including speeches, briefs, press releases, radio programmes and other documents;
- devising and implementing strategies for the efficient and sustainable maintenance of the Forum Secretariat website; and
- advocating an integrated and whole of Secretariat approach to communications and partnership initiatives.

The appointments will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. Using the December 2012 exchange rates, the annual salaries for these positions will be in the range of:

- SDR 23,653 to SDR 35,479 (equivalent to FJD65,904 to FJD98,855) for Band 9 ; and
- SDR32,002 to SDR48,002 (equivalent to FJD89,167 to FJD133,748) for Band 11.

For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. Interested applicants are encouraged to obtain an information package containing the job description and remuneration details, which are available at www.forumsec.org. To be eligible for these positions, applicants must be a national of a Forum member country.* Both positions are based at the Secretariat's headquarters in Suva, Fiji.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva and can be sent electronically to jobs@forumsec.org.fj. Applications should be received by 4pm on the 15 February 2013. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both men and women to apply.

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A newspaper in Dallas relates,
That some premature triplets named Bates,
Moved into new quarters.
So said the reporters...
"They were weary of being womb-mates!"

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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.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too! Call: 320-2496

AusAID Small Grants Scheme funds a new IFCP project

By *Chizuru Seki (JICA)*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) received a grant of USD 20,000.00 from AusAID on January, 2013.

This grant is to support a new IFCP project: "Go Local" "Promotion and Utilization of Pandanus Food Crop for Climate Change Resiliency.

In 2011-2012, "Go Local" project for promoting local food for its "CHEEF" benefits (Culture, Health, Environment/Climate Change, Economy and Food

Security) was carried out in selected communities in Pohnpei and Mwoakilloa atoll, one of the outer islands of Pohnpei.

This new project will enhance the Pandanus project that started in Mwoakilloa during the 2011-2012 "Go Local" project and extend it to the rest of the outer islands of Pohnpei. This project will focus on food security, health, climate change resiliency, biodiversity, and economic development.

IFCP would like to express gratitude to Australian Embassy for their funding support.



Mrs. Johnson, IFCP Acting Director, receiving the check from Mr. Amor, Assistant Program Manager, Australian Embassy

Island Food Community of Pohnpei Outreach in Inpuspusah, Malem, Kosrae

By *Mona J. Tara*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Monday, December 31, 2012 was an evening of joy for awaiting the New Year to come and also reminiscing the memories of a loved one just lost. Over 30 children, adults and friends of Ninac Alice Tara gathered for an evening meal and to listen to the Island Food Community of

Pohnpei (IFCP) Standard Talk.

IFCP Standard Talk was presented by Mona J. Tara, IFCP Office Manager. With all the adults and kids at the gathering, CHEEF (C-Culture, H-Health, E-Environment, E-Economy, F-Food Security) benefits of our local food was shared, especially the nutritional values of taro as it was one of local food served that evening. Some of them claimed that it was their first time to learn that local food is good for health, not just starchy food. The crowd was happy to learn about the CHEEF benefits.

Most of the adults said that they would start adding more local food in their family's diet as this would help the younger generation in their lifestyle.

Special appreciation is given to the Inpuspusa family for making this evening enjoyable, memorable and also educational.

Special Thanks are given to Australian Embassy, Pohnpei State Government Subsidy, the US Embassy, UNESCO, Division of Public Health of Pohnpei Department of Health Services, Children's Healthy Living Program (University of Hawaii) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their funding support.

IFCP received a generous contribution from Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

By *Chizuru Seki (JICA)*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On Friday, 4 January 2013, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) received 1,200 dollars from Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) as a contribution to IFCP 2013 Fun Run.

IFCP would like to express its greatest gratitude for WCPFC and will use this donation conscientiously for the success of its Fun Run 2013.



IFCP staff received a donation from Mr. Aaron Nighswander, the finance and administration officer at WCPFC.

BUD LIGHT

POHNPEI

5K

FUN WALK/RUN

Pohnpei Rotary Club Scholarship Fundraiser
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2013
START - 7:00 AM

START/FINISH – PALM TERRACE
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From The Family of the Late Christopher Shoniber Scaliem

In Humble Gratitude

Words cannot adequately express our sincere and utmost appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the kind expressions to us on the passing of our beloved Christopher. Thank you for sharing our sorrow. Your most comforting expressions of sympathy, kindness, prayer and thoughtfulness are more deeply appreciated than any words of thank you can ever convey. Please be assured that you will always be remembered in our thoughts and prayers as well.

Thank you and God Bless You all.

The Family



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HE'S SHARPENED HIS
ARROWS.**

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