

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Highland clearing may have been significant factor in recent Pohnpei water shortage

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 19, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—“I’ve been with PUC forever,” said Leerenson Airens, “but this was the worst I’ve seen.” Airens is the Manager for Water Works at Pohnpei Utilities Corporation. He was talking about the level of the water in Pohnpei’s small reservoir on the Nanpil River during the recent period of low rainfall. “During the last big El Nino in the 90’s the water level went down but not like this. It was never this low,” he exclaimed.

Clearing of land in the highlands may well have contributed to the recent rapid depletion of water stores at the Nanpil reservoir. Airens said that the level fell so low in the reservoir that water could not get into the pipe that feeds Pohnpei’s water system. His department installed several feet of extension pipe in order to get water from the dangerously low reservoir into the system.

Pictures taken by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei show the level of the reservoir at about a foot and a half near the dam’s sluice gate.

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A brief glimpse at the Pohnpei State Strategic Development Plan

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 20, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—As published in the Christmas Eve issue of The Kaselehlie Press, on December 18, 2012, Pohnpei's Governor Ehsa rolled out the Pohnpei State Strategic Development Plan during a ceremony in the large conference room in Peilapalap. The plan is subtitled "Planning for Pohnpei's Sustainable Future as the World Park: 2023 and Beyond," and is 282 pages in length.

Printing of the plan for distribution has still not been completed and The Kaselehlie Press has had a loaner copy for only two days. We received it with the promise that we would return it by tomorrow. We have had very little time to digest the plan.

According to the Public Information Officer for the Pohnpei State Legislature, the responsible committee has not yet begun hearings on the plan.

The Governor's Message that prefaces the plan says that it was created over the course of two and a half years by several planning committees and includes the work of nearly 200 people who were directly involved in the planning. He also says that more than 4000 others attended more than 150 public awareness meetings on island, on Pohnpei's outer islands, and in Pohnpeian communities abroad. He writes that the Traditional Leaders have unanimously adopted the World Park concept.

"Through an act of Pohnpeian self-determination, they and many others have developed a road map forward for developing our State in a sustainable manner utilizing the World Park concept," he writes in his introductory letter. The plan "addresses our many needs and the ongoing decrement in Compact funding, and recognizes the end of Compact II in 2023."

The plan refers to "Compact II" and its "termination in 2023" in several places in the report. In fact, there is no such thing as "Compact II". The Compact treaty the FSM has with the United States was amended in 2004 but it is not a "new" Compact. Under the amended treaty, the amount of money provided as sector grants to each of the FSM States and to the

National Government decreases each year. The annual decrement amount is instead deposited into a Compact Trust Fund which the FSM will be able to access beginning in 2023. Since its inception the Compact Trust Fund has performed abysmally in terms of interest earned. The Compact does not "terminate" in 2023 as the Pohnpei State Strategic Development plan states, the sector grants terminate, and the treaty remains in place until the parties agree to terminate it.

Despite the problems with that particular terminology used frequently in the plan, it appears to be well thought out, well prepared, and well organized. Admittedly, we have only had time to perform a very brief scan of the document.

The plan begins with explanations of Pohnpei's current situation, and its economic challenges. It explains the concept of a "World Park", and moves on to an explanation of the process of the Strategic Development Plan itself.

The next section in the Plan is a listing of the mission statements for each of eight sectors. With the exception of the environment sector, each of the mission statements also lists broad strategic goals. The eight sectors are Agriculture, Education, Environment, Fisheries, Health, Infrastructure, Public, and Tourism sectors.

The next section of the plan begins by listing the mission statements for each of the sectors. Each of the broad goals is listed on a matrix that also lists specific actions or projects, and measurable objectives for each activity in order to accomplish the broad goals.

There is no matrix listing for the Environment Sector. No specific activities or outcomes were listed, and no broad goals were established for that sector.

The plan concludes with a matrix of rationales for each sector. On that matrix is listed the output targets along with an explanation of why the specific outputs were chosen. For instance, the first listed output in the Agriculture Sector is "To increase each crop's yield by 10% by 2015." As the rationale for that specific output the matrix says, "A 10% target is achievable using Pohnpei-stated priority crops (stable crops and important food and market crops.)"

As we were finishing this article an employee of The World Park office came to our office with a PDF copy of the plan. Beginning with the March 11 issue we will begin a series of articles on the SDP. Perhaps by the time we've covered all of the sectors, the Environment Sector will have come up with some goals and outcomes.

FSM launches the National Emergency Operation Center

FSM Information Services

February 14, 2013

After months under construction, the National Emergency Operation Center was formally dedicated on February 13 with a ceremony that brought in officials from the National Government, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the International Organization for Migration, visitors from the state governments who were in Pohnpei for various purposes and other supporters.

Mr. Mosese Sikuvou, Deputy Director, Disaster Reduction Program at SPC said that the FSM was one of four Pacific countries that opted to use a specific European Union (EU) funding for construction of Emergency Operation Center and procurement of equipments for the center's operation.

"Over the last 12 months, SPC completed construction of emergency operation centers at all the four states, and we are hoping, working with you, that as soon as practicable, if not already done, this will be occupied and become fully operational", Mr. Sikuvou said.

He also said that SPC has been working with the FSM, with support from EU, to strengthen institutional capacity building for disaster risk management.

Mr. Sikuvou spoke of activities in the pipeline that would ensure investments such as the EOC are sustained not only through new initiatives but also through strengthening existing risk management schemes that have been in place the past several years to ensure better coordination. These activities include training at the end of the month for the actual management of the center.

Speaking on behalf of President Manny Mori, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert welcomed everyone and thanked SPC and EU for enabling the renovations and construction of such centers.

"With the completion of this one in Palikir, we are grateful there is now better and improved coordination of all aspects of disaster management", Secretary Robert said.

The Secretary also congratulated Director Andrew Yatilman and his Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) staff for the new office building into which they will soon be relocated.

"Now we can feel safer going to sleep knowing someone is watching over us", was Mr. Robert's last line which prompted jolly approval from his audience.

Constructed by the APSCO in Pohnpei, the new sturdy building will be the location for OEEM which is the focal entity for environment and disaster related issue.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Pacific Trailways makes Nana Laud accessible through trail building

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 21, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—During a small, private ceremony in his conference room, Governor Ehsa presented certificates of achievement to students from Rei Taku University. They were the first organized group to have climbed Nana Laud on a new trail that runs 10.4 miles from the village of Nanwel Pehleng, Kittu.

The trail was established by a recently established non-profit organization that calls itself Pohnpei Trailways, Inc.

Martin Jano, the corporation's Secretary said that the Rai Taku students were the first organized group of tourists to use the trail but the Embassy of Japan was the first on island group to use it besides the volunteers who cleared the trail. A group from the Embassy climbed to the top of Nana Laud in December of last year, just a couple of months ago.

The students from Rai Taku University climbed Nana Laud on February 9. They spent the night in the nahs that Pohnpei Trailways built on the summit, and returned the next day.

Jano said that Keiko Uyama, who is a Board Member of Pohnpei Trailways went to Japan to advertise the new trail. He said that over 400 "mountain climbers" expressed interest in coming to Pohnpei to give the trail a try.

One needn't be a "mountain climber" to use the new trail. Jano said that after driving to the trailhead at Nanwel Pehleng the 10.4 mile trail follows the mountains at the top edge of Pohnpei's skyline and features beautiful vistas all along the trail. He said that it is not a strenuous trail like the three other access points to Nana Laud in Nett, and Madolenihmw.

He said that the people from the village are not currently charging an access fee for the climb. They hope to one day provide local food, tourism materials and package tours for climbers. Guides are available and certainly should be paid for their time and expertise.

Jano said that even I could do this trail. Perhaps I'll take him up on that and write an article about the experience.



Rei Taku University students speak with Governor John Ehsa

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Taiyo Micronesia Corporation declared one million dollars dividend

Dawning of success for Tuna Commercial Fisheries Development in the FSM

FSM Information Services

February 13, 2013

On February 8, 2013, the President of Taiyo Micronesia Corporation (TMC), Mr. Toshio Abe, made a courtesy call on President Manny Mori in Palikir. Joining President Mori at the meeting was the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert.

After just one year since his first meeting with President Mori, Mr. Abe returned and shared with the President the good news that during the seven months of operation of the Taiyo Micronesia Corporation (TMC), a joint venture between Taiyo A&F Co., Ltd. Japan and the FSM National Fisheries Corporation, the TMC Board of Directors declared a \$1million dividend to be divided among its share holders.

One of the conditions of the joint venture arrangement is that the TMC will underwrite a feasibility study for a possible shore-side processing plant for Katsuo-bushi (dried bonito) in the FSM. Another competitive and more profitable component of the joint venture is for TMC to introduce modern and best equipped fishing vessel into FSM. Arrangements for this component are being discussed with local fishing authorities.

Accompanying President Abe were H.E. Eichii Suzuki, Japan's Ambassador to

the FSM, Mr. Peter Sitan, President/CEO of NFC and other staff members of the Japan Embassy and the corporation.

President Mori welcomed and congratulated Mr. Abe for the good news and encouraged Taiyo to expand its operation in the FSM. He assured Mr. Abe that the FSM Government will continue to support the TMC business activities in FSM. Noting job opportunities and the intension of shore-side investments, President Mori expressed the need for TCM to bring to shore its by-catch to be processed as animal feeds for pigs, chicken and possibly mangrove grabs. President Mori urged the local partner to speed up the process of establishing a new fishing corporation that will better serve as a fishing joint venture partner with foreign investors such as Taiyo of Japan.

NFC CEO, Mr. Peter Sitan stated that a significant step had taken place in promoting a model of cooperative arrangement between Japan and the FSM. He called the quick TMC success a "demonstration of strong positive result" facilitated through cooperation between industry and government policy makers and a core of dedicated employees. He further commented on the industry's need for government support and how TMC showcased success when government-industry collaboration is in place.

The TMC experience is in line with President Mori's policy of encouraging foreign investment, which is spearheaded by the Department of Resources and Development in collaboration with relevant departments, offices, agencies and state counterparts.

The President's focus on attracting foreign investment in the tuna fisheries sector is complemented by sub-regional initiatives, which has enabled TMC to fish in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the eight PNA (Parties to the Nauru Agreement) member countries under one fishing permit. This support allows preferential treatment to certain vessels hosted by PNA member countries which meet established eligibility criteria.

According to Mr. Sitan, this is the first time a dividend has been declared for a fishing company in FSM within his 30-plus years experience in fishing operation in the country.

President Mori obtains views on ETG investment in Yap and urges progressive information sharing with communities

FSM Information Services

February 13, 2013

On February 1, after a series of consultative meetings with Yap State leaderships, traditional leaders, the private sector and NGO's regarding the Chinese ETG investment proposal, President Manny Mori shared with Governor Sebastian Anefal and the Yap State Legislature a document on what transpired at those meetings with recommendations.

ETG stands for Exhibit and Travel Group, a Chinese business with overseas investments and operations.

President Mori indicated to both Governor Anefal and the Yap State Legislature that moving forward with the scaled-back ETG investment would be in the best interest of Yap State and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). However, he stressed that the decision to allow ETG to proceed rests with Yap State.

The President decided to take on the consultative meetings in mid-January in hope that conclusive leadership decisions can be achieved soon enough. He said in his meeting report, "because of the current impasse and the lack of a clear understanding of the role that the national government has in terms of foreign direct investments, I though it is incumbent on me, as President, to address the issues directly with the concerned

parties and see how I can bring their divergent views together towards a more accommodating and acceptable alternative".

In the same report, President Mori stated that the initial ETG investment interest in Yap was to include the construction of 10,000 room hotel facilities, golf courses, casinos, a convention center and other "entertainment support facilities".

"I must say that I also have concern about the initial scale of the project", the President highlighted before saying that the investment plan has been dramatically reduced so that no golf course and casino will be included and that only 1,500 hotel rooms will be constructed. He went on to say that further demands for scaling back and restrictions on the investment may not be financially viable for ETG, risking cancellation of interest altogether by the Chinese investors.

In terms of economic benefits, the President envisioned increase in tax revenue from various ETG-related infrastructure constructions and creation of new services and jobs. It is anticipated that tax revenues to Yap State resulting from the ETG investments will be even greater if the proposed Value Added Tax scheme is implemented.

President Mori spoke of the lack of information and the unanswered worries by the general public as complicating situations. He encouraged the leadership and ETG to engage the people as far as providing details and transparent information to cast away misunderstanding and create openness. He also spoke against providing wrong information as doing so will only provoke ill feeling toward investment and development in general.

Other issues that were commented on by the President in his meeting report touched upon some impacts and their possible remedies in areas having to do with land issues, environmental protection and cultural way of life.

"This ETG tourism investment proposal may be one of the answers to our desire to bring about meaningful development to our islands. We may not see another opportunity like this ETG proposal in our lifetime especially if there are no legitimate reasons to reject the investment proposal at the scaled-back level", President Mori wrote at the end of his meeting report.

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...Water

Continued from front page

After rains that began about a week ago the level of the water at the Nanpil reservoir is nearly back to "normal" levels.

On February 11, Chip Guard of the Weather Forecasting Office in Guam wrote that in the first 10 days of February, Pohnpei had received only 0.17 inches of rain at the Pohnpei weather station. The average rainfall during the month of February is 10.6 inches.

Guard ran computer models that indicated that rain should increase within the 10 days following the 11th of February. The models predicted two inches of rain between February 12 and 16. They predicted that as much as an additional 8 to 12 inches of rain could fall between February 17 and 21.

According to Eden Skilling of the FSM National Weather Service, as of February 19, 4.67 inches of rain had fallen at the weather station during the month of February.

Guard said in his email that February is Pohnpei's driest month according to the monthly averages of rainfall. Since 1952 there have been 10 years with February rainfall less than five inches. Only three of those years experienced a March that was equally dry, and those were in the year

following a strong or moderate El Nino. "That is not the case now," he wrote.

January's rainfall was 10.99 inches, just over an inch less than the monthly average, an amount Guard wrote was "more than sufficient to sustain vegetation, river flow (although somewhat reduced) and ground water."

Long story short, predictions are that rainfall in Pohnpei over the next few months will probably increase. April and May have the highest average levels of monthly rainfall.

"One month of dry weather is not unusual or serious," Guard wrote.

The Nanpil reservoir should not have receded to such a dangerously low level in such a short period of time.

Airens said that when the water levels began to drop and water rationing became necessary he called the Conservation Society of Pohnpei. For several years, CSP has been involved in a public information campaign on watershed management and the dangers of planting high. Airens said that he thought it was important to show CSP what was happening, what PUC was doing, and to solicit CSP's help in getting information out about the crisis.

Airens refused to point the finger of blame. "It's everybody's problem," he said. "We all need to work together."

Eugene Joseph, Executive Director of CSP said that the problem is not necessarily plantations in the highlands, the top of Pohnpei's water shed. The problem is the clearing of land associated with planting. He said that people are clearing land and cutting down riparian trees in the highlands.

Riparian trees by definition grow on or near the banks of rivers. They serve a variety of purposes in the watershed, and in the ecosystem of the island. Their shade keeps down the growth of negative nutrients that cause harmful bacteria to grow within rivers. They also serve as filters that accomplish the same purpose. Their roots also hold down topsoil which would otherwise wash away.

Giving a simplified explanation, Joseph said that when riparian trees are cleared there is nothing to keep rivers within their banks, or to direct water into already existing rivers. Water has no conscience. Unless it is contained, it always seeks its lowest level. It doesn't care what course it takes, and always takes the path of least resistance. Whether that course is the Nanpil reservoir or the ocean, water doesn't care.

PUC General Manager Feliciano Perman said that based on last year's water sales, PUC delivers an average of 1.7 million gallons of water per day to customers in Pohnpei.

Though the Nanpil reservoir has been the main source of water for most of PUC's

customers, it is not the only source of water. PUC owns and operates several wells that can pull water up from the aquifer deep below the surface of the island. If all of the wells were functioning there should be more than enough water for the needs of the residents of Pohnpei, but they are not.

Perman and Airens said that PUC has ordered parts to repair some of the wells that are not functioning. The utility has also ordered nine new pumps that will enhance the utility's ability to deliver water to its customers. Three of those pumps are being delivered by air freight in order to get them up and running as quickly as possible.

Perman said that when all of the parts and pumps are on line, PUC will be able to deliver 1.2 million gallons of water per day directly from Pohnpei's deep aquifer. That capability will significantly ease the pressure on the Nanpil reservoir which is not filling as fast as it once did.

Perman said that when the recently completed Palikir pipeline is put into service after certification, the productive wells in the Palikir area can be called into service as a redundant water supply for PUC water customers.

Some PUC customers in Pohnpei still have erratic water delivery service. PUC is still trying to iron out a water delivery problem in the Sekere community that has existed for months.

The Sekere community is serviced by a water tank that is located on the premises of the power plant in Nanpohnmal. The power plant is uphill from the Nanpohnmal water treatment plant so water must be pumped up the hill to fill the tank. Airens says that the tank serves as a sort of buffer between Sekere customers and the water treatment plant. When demand is low, the tank fills. When it is high, it empties. When it is completely empty, water still flows through the tank as a result of water pumped from the treatment plant along with the gravity of the downhill feed leading away from the tank.

But somewhere between the tank and the downhill customers in Sekere there is a leak that PUC employees have not been able to find. For several months the utility has been forced to turn down the water flow during night time hours while it tries to find the leak.

Airens said that when water pressure is low it is important to boil water from the tap before using it for drinking. When the pressure is low groundwater can siphon into any leaks in water pipes, and can carry with it any number of contaminants into the water in the pipe.

Perman said that while PUC is aware of most leaks in the system he encourages residents to notify PUC if they spot a leak in any of its pipes.

"Like anything the water system is not perfect", Airens said. "We are working hard to make it as good as it can be."

IOM empowers FSM educators to stabilize natural disaster casualties

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Emergency Advisor has been travelling across the FSM training teachers and principals as Emergency First Responders (EFR). The rigorous training prepares the trainees to take decisive action during the "golden hour" following a serious injury or health emergency in order to preserve life, prevent permanent injury, and stabilize a patient using first aid and CPR techniques. According to IOM's Advisor, "The trainings include such subjects as scene assessment, barrier use, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), serious bleeding management, shock management, spinal injury management, injury assessment, illness assessment, bandaging, and splinting for fractures or dislocations." This training is envisaged to empower the graduate to support his or her community in the face of any disaster, natural or man-made, that threatens life.

On January 28th IOM trained and certified a total of 31 Emergency First Responders in Weno, Chuuk. The trainees were teachers chosen by the principals of eight selected Weno elementary schools. In addition to conducting EFR training, IOM also conducted a simulated emergency evacuation drill at Sapwuk Elementary school on Weno to test the realism, effectiveness, and practicality of the School Emergency Management (SEMP) Plan, and empower administrators to edit the SEMP to address any shortcoming that may become evident.

Meanwhile on Yap, IOM assisted in conducting another simulated emergency evacuation drill with the Yap State Division of Public Safety and Fire Division to test the recently written SEMP at Tomakaw Elementary School. The very next day, IOM then conducted EFR training at the Yap Small Business Development Training Facility in downtown Colonia, Yap. IOM Trainers certified 13 personnel, including both principals and teachers drawn from five high-risk Yap schools as EFRs. (All 12 selected schools in Pohnpei were completed during 2012).

In all states, Emergency Medical and Evacuation Kits containing supplies necessary for stabilizing a wide variety of injuries including burns, severe blood loss, and broken bones as well as evacuation materials will be distributed to selected schools from which trainees are drawn, ensuring that they will have the equipment on-hand to fully utilize their new skills.

These training activities, as well as the creation, implementation, and refinement of the SEMPs, are conducted under the Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (CADRE) Program funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and are made possible through the cooperation and assistance of the National Department of Education (NDOE) and Division of Public Safety (DPS), as well as the individual support of the participating schools, principals, and teachers of the FSM.

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Hundreds attend “Japan Festival”

On 16 February 2013, a Japan-themed Festival was held by the Japanese Embassy in Pohnpei, FSM in celebration of the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the FSM and Japan.

This half-day event was filled with many performances and activities that offered a little glimpse of Japanese culture.

The festival was opened with a traditional tea ceremony by Mrs. Suzuki, wife of the Ambassador having Mr. and Mrs. Pretrick, Deputy Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs, as main guests, along with a beautiful Koto performance. Other performances such as martial arts, sushi demonstration, and Eisa, a traditional Okinawan folk dance, the ‘Great

East Earthquake’ charity song with dance were also demonstrated. Small booths for activities such as games and calligraphy, and snacks were also set up for the guests’ enjoyment.

FSM President Emanuel Mori, Deputy Secretary of Dept. of Foreign Affairs Mr. Samson Pretrick, his wife, and US Ambassador Doria Rosen were among the 500 people who attended this exciting event.



Opportunities Announced for Study in Australia in 2014

13 February 2013

The Australian Ambassador in Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall Islands, His Excellency Martin Quinn, is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2014 Australia Awards Scholarships provided under the Australian Governments overseas aid program.

Australia is offering around 2,300 students from over 90 countries the opportunity to study at Australian institutions in 2014, with around 2 awards available to candidates from the FSM, Palau, and Marshall Islands.

The best and the brightest students will be selected on the basis of demonstrated leadership qualities, academic achievement and their potential to impact development in North Pacific. Last year 2 scholars were selected from the FSM and Marshall Islands to study in Australia in 2013.

Australia Awards Scholarships provide recipients with the opportunity to obtain a tertiary qualification at one of Australia’s world class universities. They also provide recipients with the chance to experience life in Australia and build strong links with Australian people and organisations.

The Australia Awards Scholarships offer future leaders the chance to strengthen their knowledge and leaderships skills, with the goal of contributing to development in their home country.

Australia Awards Scholarships open on 1 February 2013 and close on 30 April 2013.

For further information on the Awards go to <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/australia-awards/>

For online applications and guidelines please go to www.fsm.embassy.gov.au



IOM enhances Yap Elementary School preparedness

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

COLONIA, Yap—On January 29th through the 31st the International Organization for Migration (IOM) facilitated a three day School Emergency Management Planning Workshop with 11 principals at the Yap Small Business Development Center. The primary objective of the training was to develop School Emergency Management Plans for selected high-risk schools on Yap which will help ensure the students are safe from harm if there is a disaster during school hours. These plans are also part of the school accreditation process under the FSM National Department of Education (DOE) standards, and the draft plans created during the workshop are to be submitted to the National DOE Director for review and approval. As part of the process, each school is scheduled to test their plans by running simulated evacuations supported

by the DOE, the Division of Public Safety (DPS), and the IOM. In addition, teachers will be trained as Emergency First Responders, and Emergency Medical and Evacuation Kits (EMEK) containing supplies necessary for stabilizing a wide variety of injuries including burns, severe blood loss, and broken bones will be distributed to the selected schools.

Principals were provided with emergency plan templates and lectures on the subject of emergency management from Mr. Constantine Yowblaw from the Disaster Coordination Office, Mr. Jesse Haglelfeg and Dr. Peter Hasugulmal from the Department of Health Services, Lt. Collin Heise from the Division of Public Safety, and Mr. Arnold Yokbay, Acting Director of Department of Education. Also assisting in facilitation was Mr. Juan Hagilmwaal from the Special Education Program.

The workshop was conducted with funding from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) in coordination with the Yap State DOE and Yap DPS as part of the Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction & Education (CADRE) Program targeting five public elementary schools across the island.



Sekere Elementary School in Pohnpei conducts Madeu (cinnamon tree) planting

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Sekere, Pohnpei - On Thursday, February 7, 2013, Year 8 Sekere Elementary School students planted cinnamon trees on the slopes behind their school as an activity of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction & Education (CADRE) Program.

Sekere Elementary School is one of 50 schools throughout FSM and RMI involved in CADRE activities, which includes a year 8 science module designed to raise awareness and help students identify ways to better prepare for disasters and adapt to the effects of climate change. Eighth graders of Sekere Elementary School have learnt about tsunamis, typhoons, flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion and landslides. The cinnamon tree planting is part a session teaching children about the causes and effects of landslides. Ten cinnamon trees, donated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), were planted on the school grounds. The cinnamon tree (also known as madeu in Pohnpei) was recommended by USDA NRCS as it is indigenous to Pohnpei, is good for slope stabilization and in addition is used for medicinal purposes.

This project was made possible by the IOM, the Pohnpei State Department of Education, the students and faculty of Sekere Elementary School, the USDA NRCS, and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).



Students at Sekere Elementary School planting trees for slope stabilization

You are cordially invited to our 3rd display & sale of "Micronesian Half-Pearls"

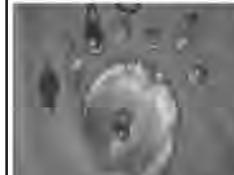
Date: Saturday, 1st of March, 2013

Time: 10am—4pm

VENUE:

**Cooperative Extension Service Office
A new building next to COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus
Gym in Kolonia**

College of Micronesia Land Grant Program has been working on pearl quality improvement research for commercial farms. As this training project is ready to commercialize, we would like to introduce you the world finest and rarest pearls, "Micronesian Half-Pearls" from our work at Pakin Atoll, Peniou island and Nett Point in Pohnpei.



All the pearls were graded and priced by certified staff and the COM pearl scientist. The second charity display and sale may be organized in April 2013

The College of Micronesia-FSM Board of Regents will hold its March 2013 meeting in Guam on *March 12 - 13.*

The meeting will take place at the FSM Consul General Office, located within the Guam International Trade Center Building in Tamuning.

Board meetings are open to the general public.

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Telephone: (714) 2831155
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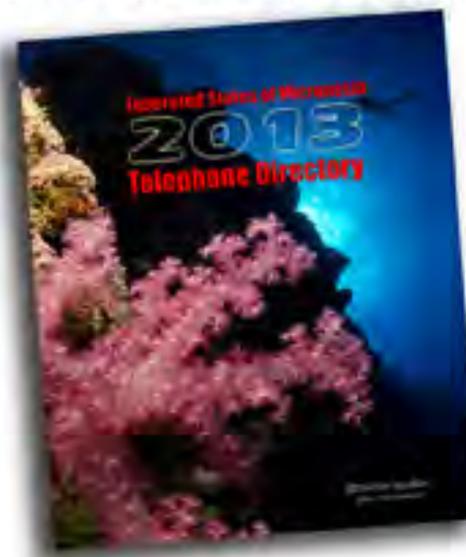
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(L-R): Mary Joy Santos (Judge), Amanda Abelo (Winner), Bill Jaynes (Judge) and Shanti Sigras (Judge).

Watch for the next contest
KARAOKE 7
 coming this May

Cupid's
 Bar & Grille



TOP FIVE (L-R): Jackson Winn (4th), Sheri Gay Gatague (3rd), Amanda Abelo (Winner), Yasuo Yamada, Jr. (2nd) and Johnson Asher (5th).

1st Round

Daniel Lopez, Jr.	116.1
Johnson Asher	114.75
Amanda Abelo	112.5
Jackson Winn	110.8
Yasuo Yamada, Jr.	110
Juanito Serran	106.84
Arnold Sicat	106
Markina Fredrick	105
Sheri Gay Gatague	100.75
Jason Gamboa	100.1
Noel Sikat	98.75
Jerry Nicanor	96
Jeanie Marie	94
Frank Arbiso	92.75
Keoni Welley	89.25
Roland Figuerva	88.5
Jennifer Carpio	88
Jose Karry	86.75
Oren Forward	83
Greg Navitsky	82

2nd Round

Sheri Gay Gatague	120
Johnson Asher	113.5
Jackson Winn	109.5
Amanda Abelo	108.25
Yasuo Yamada, Jr.	104.5
Markina Fredrick	103.5
Juanito Serran	101.5
Daniel Lopez, Jr.	100.5
Arnold Sicat	96
Jason Gamboa	95

FINAL Round

Amanda Abelo	129
Yasuo Yamada, Jr.	120.5
Sheri Gay Gatague	117.75
Jackson Winn	107.95
Johnson Asher	105



PowerPoint screen shots gives a glimpse into proposed “Service Tax”

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 21, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—A presentation at the Pohnpei State Leadership Conference on February 12 provided an outline of the kind of tax Governor Ehsa is proposing for Pohnpei State. He told Senators that he thinks his plan should replace the National Government’s Tax Reform plan.

According to the Pohnpei State Legislature’s Public Information Officer, the Legislature has not yet received a Bill from the Governor’s office for Legislative consideration. Other than the PowerPoint presentation we received late this afternoon, the Kaselehlie Press has received no other details of the Governor’s proposed plan.

The slides in the presentation define a service tax as being a “tax of 5% of the value of the service price received in relation to and in connection with buying of the following services (the extensive list comes later in the PowerPoint presentation) which shall be payable by the person receiving services.”

According to the presentation, while it would be the responsibility of the purchaser to pay the tax to the seller, it is the responsibility of the seller to pay the government all taxes that the seller collects by the 15th of each month.

As precedent, the PowerPoint presentation “pointed out” that Chuuk State has had a five percent service tax since December of 2009. Kosrae has a five percent “transaction tax” that the presentation says is collected on leases, lodging, meals, motor vehicle rentals, and video rentals.”

We cannot assume that the PowerPoint presentations list of taxable items in Kosrae was exhaustive. The same could be said about Pohnpei’s plan. Still, according to the presentation Governor Ehsa proposes to collect a five percent service tax on the following “services”:

- Lease of office, dwelling place, land and other space, occupancy of a hotel, motel, apartment room, lodging room, or accommodation provided under an occupation lease agreement;
- Restaurant meals
- Admission fees to theaters, cinemas, swimming pools, resorts and other amusement centers;
- Video tape, dvd, cd or film rental;

- Travel by cruise or tour ships and services provided by diving operators;
- Air and sea transportation services. (Outgoing passengers of Pohnpei where their final destination is outside of the FSM, irrespective of where payment of the service is made)
- Professional services
- Rental of a vehicle to transport one or more persons, including bus, min-bus, truck, motor vehicles, motor bike, motor scooter and bicycle, and rental of heavy and light equipment or machineries, but does not include a fare paid by a passenger of a bus or taxi
- Boat rental
- Construction services
- Services provided by money sending or receiving companies except banks or banking institutions and insurance companies, brokers or agents;
- Computer and electronic shop
- Plumbing services; Auto shop
- Refrigeration & Air conditioning services
- Port Service/Pilotage
- Shipping Agency fee
- Courier Services
- Stevedoring services (loading/unloading ships)
- Beauty shop
- Dress making/repair/alteration
- Professional Cleaning, Janitorial services and bulk laundry
- Commercial massage
- Security
- Internet/Fax/Photocopying

“The service tax shall not apply to a service which requires payment of not more than \$5 for the service rendered,” the presentation says. We take this strangely worded statement to mean that all transactions of five dollars or less would be exempt from collecting the service tax.

According to the presentation, the Governor expects that the proposed service tax would generate \$2.3 million in revenue.

No mention was made in the presentation about how the service tax would be enforced or how purchases would be tracked by any tax collecting authority.

**The list of “taxable services” is taken directly from the PowerPoint Presentation.*

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- ◆ Network: 800 & 1900Mhz
- ◆ Memory: 1GB+8GB
- ◆ LCM: 7.0WVGA 480*800
- ◆ Resolution: 1024*600
- ◆ Touch Panel: Capacitive
- ◆ Ext device: WIFI, GPS, Bluetooth, FM
G-sensor, L-sensor
- ◆ Camera:
Front: 2.0MP Back: 3.2MP
- ◆ Speaker: 8Ω/0.5W*2
- ◆ T-Flash: support to 32G
- ◆ Audio Jack: 3.5mm
- ◆ Size: 125*199.5*11mm
- ◆ Battery: 4000mAh
- ◆ Weight: 400g
- ◆ Support RFID
- ◆ Support IRDA by Extension module
- ◆ Support Barcode Reader by Extension module



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FSM pump prices steady; region continues upward spiral

Vital management cautions consumers that prices in the Federation are likely to increase in line with Guam

Vital

POHNPEI, FSM - If you live in the capital island of the Federated States of Micronesia, consider yourself lucky when it comes to prices at the pump.

Vital-FSM PetroCorp, supplier of fuel to businesses, governments, utilities and consumers in Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap and Pohnpei, has maintained a steady price since July 2012. Global oil markets have continued to fluctuate and both Guam and Saipan - the accepted benchmarks in the region - have continued to see increasing prices at the pump.

This week both Guam and Saipan gas prices hit record highs of \$4.97 and \$5.20 per gallon, respectively. Guam gas prices have moved twice in the last week for a total increase of 20 cents per gallon at all island gas stations. Pohnpei still maintains a pump price of \$4.90 per gallon.

Vital CEO Jared Morris, however, cautions FSM customers that the growing price differential between FSM and its sister states is not sustainable. "We have and we will continue to hold (prices) as long as we can, but international prices are on the rise and if trends continue at this level we will have to move upward in line with Guam," stated Morris from the company's headquarters in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

Morris added that FSM prices are lower than the regional benchmarks and it is unlikely that in the longer term the FSM can maintain a negative price differential.

"By the end of the month we will know if this is just a price spike. If sustained we will have little choice but to follow Guam and pass through a 20 cent increase to our customers."

Even with this potential increase, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae are likely to have lower fuel prices than Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

International oil prices were at record highs in the summer of 2008. FSM's all-time high reached \$6.22 per gallon (see graph below) that year. Guam's prices topped out this time last year, at \$4.88 per gallon.

Despite the anticipated increases, the FSM remains competitive, with pump prices nowhere near the levels they once reached.



UNESCO ICH workshop in Yap

Yap State Historic Preservation Office

March 26th-28th, 2013

It is an honor to announce that Yap State has been chosen to host a capacity building workshop for UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Program. This will be a three day event that will be held March 26th, 27th and 28th, 2013. The workshop is the first effort within the FSM to organize support for UNESCO's prestigious program and its goals to identify, document, and help protect and promote cultural diversity around the world. The FSM government has recently begun finalizing the process of becoming a member of this program

that will facilitate obtaining international support and promotion of our valuable cultural heritage.

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) can be many things, including traditional knowledge, craftsmanship, songs, dances, languages and numerous other elements of culture that are not passed down through buildings, artifacts or monuments. Yet, because these performances and other cultural expressions do not have a tangible, objective form, they can also be easily lost when not practiced over time. This is what UNESCO's program addresses by identifying forms of ICH which societies value and desire to maintain and protect for future generations. This program also specifically assists in efforts and projects that focus on those particular forms of intangible cultural heritage that are quickly disappearing.

This first event will be for Yap State and will only have one or two experts from outside the region—including the regional UNESCO representative. Details will be provided at a later date, but it is envisioned that the event should be a "grassroots" process, instead of one planned and managed by outsiders—since it is Yapese cultural heritage being considered, the people of Yap should take ownership and responsibility over how it is managed. Furthermore, this participatory and collaborative approach should help to foster a sense of ownership by all through empowering everyone in the process. Only when everyone feels invested in honoring their culture can a truly successful effort to do so be realized.

An ultimate goal would be to apply for inscription and recognition of specific forms of intangible Yapese culture to be on UNESCO's prestigious ICH lists. With inscription, Yap would not only receive much needed international recognition for its rich culture, but will also be able to seek outside assistance to help manage its cultural heritage more effectively. The goal of the workshop is "capacity building" and one result we hope to achieve with the workshop is to begin a process of widespread public support and

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Volunteer brings lacrosse to Pohnpei—all welcome to join

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 18, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—‘Lacrosse’, a game older than the combined ages of the United States of America and Canada has arrived in Pohnpei, thanks to WorldTeach volunteer, Jackson Winn. Winn teaches biology and Mathematics at PICS High School.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons each week he also teaches the sport of lacrosse to anyone who is interested. His sessions start at just after 3:00 in the afternoon and run until about 5:30 in the evening at the PICS field. There are no age or gender requirements and anyone who is interested in learning is welcome to join in.

“It’s kind of a mix between soccer and hockey,” Winn said when trying to describe the game.

Like hockey, lacrosse is played with sticks, except that in lacrosse the stick has a net on the end in which the ball is carried. It also starts with a “face off” at center field. Like soccer, players must not touch the ball with their hands. Like soccer and hockey, the goal is to get the ball into the opponent’s goal. Lacrosse is non-stop, full contact, and can be brutal, though Pohnpei’s three on three version is a kinder, gentler version of the game.

Though soccer has been around for thousands of years, hockey came much later than lacrosse and actually based its rules on the “modern” rules of lacrosse. Lacrosse was named by French missionaries but was played by Native North Americans as early as six centuries ago. Their version of the game was called “baggataway” and involved hundreds of players per team on a field that had no side boundaries. Goals were spread as far apart as half a mile. Games lasted for several days with breaks at sundown.

In the mid-nineteenth century, French settlers in Canada took up the game and developed the rules for the men’s game that are in place today. The field size is a much more manageable 60 yards wide and 110 yards long. Instead of hundreds of players per side they settled on 10 per side, three “attack men”, three “mid-field men”, three “defense men”, and one “goalie.” The game is divided into four 25 minute quarters, with the possibility of an additional four minute period in the event of a tie. Canadians loved the game so much that they made lacrosse the country’s first national sport. It is still Canada’s national summer sport. Hockey, once it was invented, became the national winter sport.

Winn has loved the game since he was a sophomore at Jesuit High School in Sacramento, California. His father started that school’s first lacrosse team and was Jackson’s first coach. The team is still going strong today. Winn later served as the captain of the University of California Santa Cruz lacrosse team, where he played until he tore his ACL (anterior cruciate ligament, one of the ligaments in the knee joint) a year ago.

Lacrosse players wear pads. In the men’s version of the game, the players also wear helmets. The players in Pohnpei wear no pads and play a scaled down “three on three” game on a much smaller field than regulation lacrosse players would play on. The Pohnpei game is friendly to first timers. Pads and helmets aren’t needed.

Winn says that while a core group of people who have learned to love the sport come out regularly, within the last few months there has been at least one “first timer” almost every time he holds an afternoon session.

“It’s a lot of fun, a lot of running back and forth and a great way to get some exercise,” Winn says. “Lacrosse is a good stress outlet. It’s a positive way to get exercise and to get out aggression.”

Winn imported six lacrosse sticks and plans to leave them in Pohnpei when his assignment as a WorldTeach volunteer ends in mid-June. He hopes that by the time he leaves island he will be able to find someone who will be able to continue. Meanwhile anyone is welcome to join him at the PICS field on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons.



Regular participants pause for a photo with Jackson at an afternoon lacrosse session at PICS High School field,



Sophomore J.C. Andrew opposes Jackson Winn

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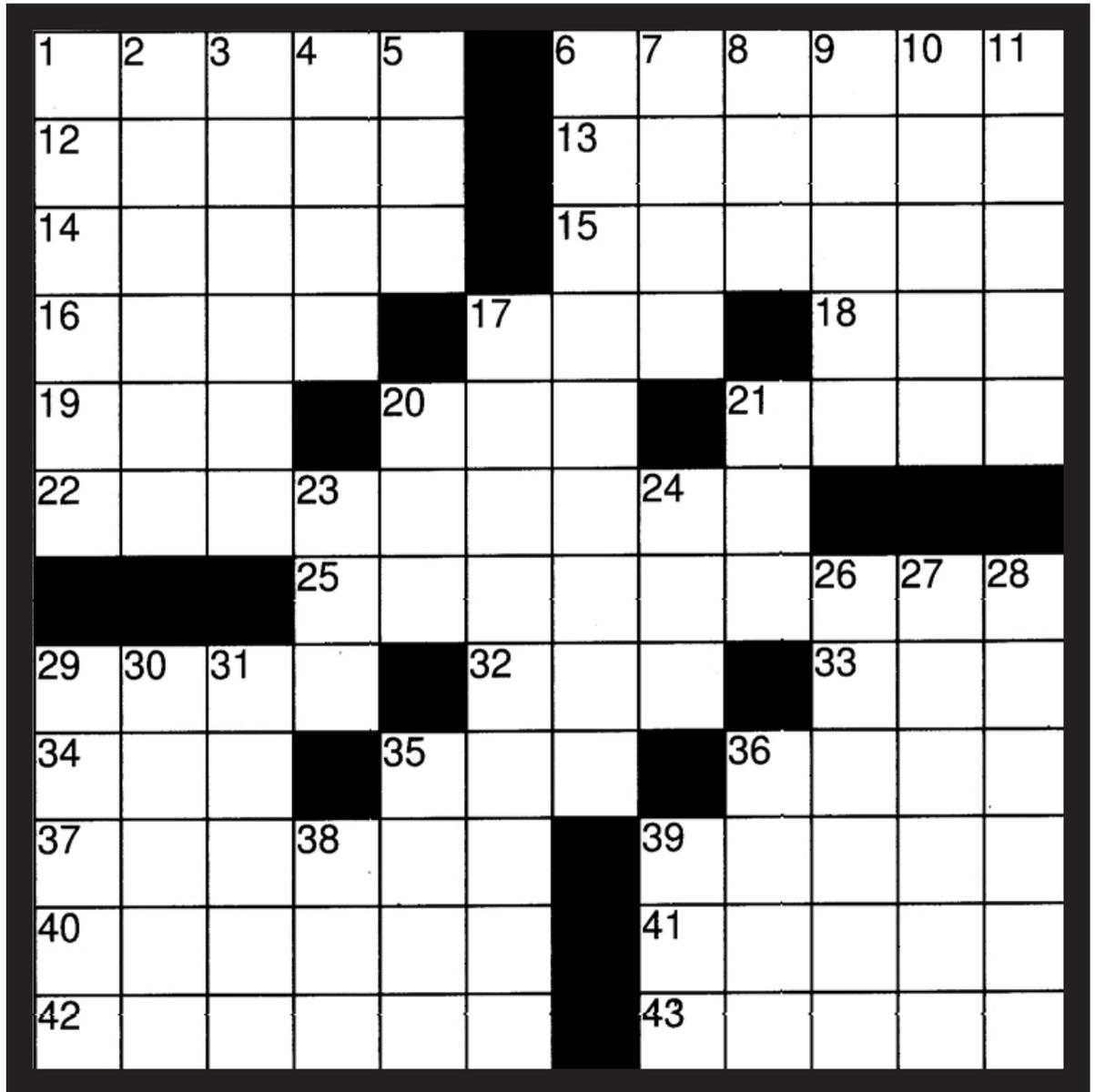
Crossword - It's Round

ACROSS

1. Like some vines
6. The ___ Game
12. Lunar lander
13. Got away from
14. Perk
15. Go around
16. Bush appointee of 2002
17. Busy one
18. Generation ___
19. Toothpaste form
20. Reading spot
21. Bombard
22. Local law
25. Change
29. Seek guidance
32. Dapper fellow
33. Cry about
34. Little boy
35. I will, shortly
36. Here or there
37. Broken apart
39. Played freeze tag
40. Maneuvers
41. More than good
42. Multitudes
43. Artificial

DOWN

1. Unhands
2. Hard worker
3. Ancient
4. Mistake
5. Thus far
6. Flower type
7. Red ender
8. Overhang
9. Maxim
10. Cold spot to not lick
11. Capable
17. Like the good Spock
20. Trial test?
21. caress
23. Creepy me
24. Knows how
26. Van Gogh work
27. Beat at the buffet
28. Record player
29. Opulent
30. Totaled
31. Type of snake
35. About
36. Tab, for one
38. Big reference, for short
39. Gladys Knight associate



K Press Puzzle Pleasure - K Press Puzzle Pleasure



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

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| APPLE PIE | PANCAKE |
| BACON | PEPPER |
| BROTH | PIZZA |
| BURRITO | POTATO |
| CALZONE | ROAST |
| CHICKEN | SAUSAGE |
| CHILI | SOUP |
| COCOA | STEW |
| COFFEE | STIR FRY |
| FRENCH FRY | STUFFING |
| GRAVY | TACO |
| HAMBURGER | TAMMALE |
| HOT DOG | TEA |
| LASAGNA | TOAST |
| OATMEAL | TODDY |
| OMELET | WAFFLE |
| ONION RING | WINGS |

Kosrae to update State Strategic Development Plan for 2014-2023

Kosrae State Government

KOSRAE, FSM - A new 10 year Strategic Development Plan for Kosrae will be developed during the 2013 fiscal year.

To guide the development of the plan the Strategic Development Plan Steering Committee held their first meeting on November 30th 2012 at the Administration building in Tofol.

Governor Lyndon Jackson during the opening remarks noted "There is a need to update the long term strategic plan for the State of Kosrae to ensure a unified vision, guide development and aspirations into the future."

At the meeting, the project overview, planning documents and the co-chairs of Andy George, Executive Director, Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organisation (KCSO) and Steven George, Director of the Department of Resources & Economic Affairs (DREA) were endorsed.

DREA through its planning function has been tasked to complete this project with the help of the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Office within the Department of Administration and

Finance.

Consultations to develop the plan are scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2013. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will help facilitate sector based workshops to also contribute to the drafting of the plan. It is anticipated that the plan will be endorsed by the Leadership at the 2013 Kosrae Leadership Conference and by the Legislature by August 2013.

The sectors covered in the plan include Private Sector Development (Agriculture, Fisheries, Renewable Energy and Tourism), Education, Health, Environment and Gender (Gender, Youth, Seniors and Disability). The Long Term Fiscal Framework (LTFF), infrastructure and capacity building requirements will also be included in the plan and review process.

Kosrae State representatives have recently participated in the Development Partners Forum in Pohnpei and in the Pacific Island Forum Peer Review process. The clear message from these initiatives was that Kosrae must have a strong strategic plan to determine priorities before going

Pohnpei Sailing Club New Year's Cup 2013

Dana Lee Ling

Kolonia, Pohnpei - The Pohnpei Sailing Club concluded the three weekend New Year's Cup 2013 Sailing Race on Saturday February 8, 2013 at the Kapinga dock. Breezy winds provided challenging sailing conditions for the young skippers across all three Saturdays. In the finals four skippers competed in a series of races sailing Topper sailboats. At the conclusion of the final series, Lucas Picky had

captured first place, Deturo Dickepa took second, Jane Matakya came in third, and Yollanie Lucky was fourth. The club thanks Pohnpei Sailing Club Chairman Andrew Lucky, Race Committee Chair Kiyoshi Umezu, and Chief Race Officer Kazuo Ishikawa for their ongoing support.



Lucas Picky, Deturo Dickepa, Jane Matakya, and Chelsie Lucky (representing Yollanie Lucky)

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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.
- 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.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the Kids too! Call: 320-2496

Go Local! Go Ohmine Public Elementary School!

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

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) has been working with two classes of six graders at Ohmine Public Elementary School learning about the benefits of local food since last October.

In November 2012, each class created a Healthy Class Policy to encourage themselves to eat more local food/snacks at school. Ms. Jayleen Abraham's class has decided to "bring healthy local food/fruits for snacks and share on every Wednesday and Friday."

With this healthy policy, students have started bringing local food/fruits to school for their snacks to share with their classmates.

Ms. Abraham keeps a record of students who bring local food/fruits to school, which encourages and supports her students to bring more local food/fruits.

On Wednesday 13 February 2013, students learned the importance of eating a balanced diet made up with food from all three food groups (Energy food, Body-Building Food and Protective Food) and roles of dietary fiber, which is high in local food, in our digestive system.

Students also grated Giant Swamp Taro donated by Mr. Adelino Lorens, Chief of Agriculture. Grated taro will be sun dried and made into taro flour which can substitute for white flour. Making taro flour from giant swamp taro can support food security because of its long shelf life.

Students brought sour-sop, drinking coconuts and Pohnpei apples for their snacks.

IFCP would like to honor Ms. Abraham and her students' effort of bringing local food/

fruits for their school snacks and taking what they have been learning from IFCP seriously.

IFCP would like to encourage more teachers and parents to support their students and children to bring healthy local food/fruits for their school snacks.

Acknowledgement is given to Ohmine Public Elementary School for working with IFCP to teach students about the importance of local food.

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



Ms. Abraham's class, Ohmine Public Elementary School

Pohnpei EPA environmental surveillance laboratory certified

EPA

15 February 2013

Pohnpei – The U.S. Freely Associated States Laboratory Certification Program has re-certified the Pohnpei EPA Environmental Surveillance Laboratory to analyze drinking water under the Colilert® Method and marine and other surface water samples under the Enterolert™ Method. The certifications are effective until 2015.

Laboratory Acting Supervisor, Fermin Scaliem and analyst Quinton Lawrence were also re-certified as Laboratory Technicians for the Colilert® and Enterolert™ Methods.

Labs receive certification when they meet specific criteria, pass an on-site evaluation at least every two years, and have a certified technician on staff. Technicians are certified when they successfully pass a written exam and a practical demonstration of proficiency test. Certification provides assurances that the lab produces scientifically valid and legally defensible data, and that the staff are qualified to analyze water samples for bacterial contamination.

The certification audit was done by USEPA Certification Officer Josephine Regis.

Certificates were presented to the Pohnpei EPA Environmental Surveillance Laboratory and to individual technicians at an awards ceremony held at the Pohnpei EPA Office on Friday 15 February 2013.

During the ceremony, Mrs. Josephine Regis recognized the accomplishments of the lab in maintaining full certification for both drinking water and marine water. "Executive Director Albert Roby and his staff are very deserving of this re-certification, and we are extremely pleased to find that Pohnpei EPA has continued to uphold the highest level of laboratory practice standards since their initial certification in 2008." The recent renovation has upgraded the laboratory facility with its new paint and concrete counters making the lab termite free. The laboratory is an excellent facility that provides the water quality data necessary to move forward with protection of public health and sustainable economic development in Pohnpei State.

Yap High School student wins Lab Open Day Speech Contest in Hawaii

February 15, 2013

Yap Health Services and indeed all health services in the FSM are proud of the efforts of Dyanna Keiji, a senior from Yap High School. She won the regional Laboratory Open Day Speech Competition held in Hawaii on February 8, 2013, which was sponsored by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association and the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

Open Day events took place in each FSM hospital laboratory last year. Competitions were held to select state winners in speech and poster presentation categories. State winners were then brought to Pohnpei to compete for the honor to represent FSM in the regional competition.

Nelsin Mack, a junior from Madolenihmw High School represented FSM in the poster category, and Dynnaa a senior from Yap High School represented FSM in the speech category. While Nelsin Mack submitted an impressive poster, Janette Loeak from Ebeve SDA School, in the RMI won the poster competition.

The caliber of judging panel would have been enough to intimidate even the most experienced of public speakers: the panel included Dr Ursula Bauer, Director of the CDC Chronic Diseases and Prevention Unit, Dr Chris Whelan, the Director of the Hawaii Public Health laboratories, LCDR Dr Tai Chen HO, from CDC's Department of Quarantine and Immigration and Dr Ian Rouse, the Dean of the School of Medicine, FNU and Alicia Sitain from PIHOA.

Dynna spoke clearly and confidently as she told a story of a young woman who was grateful to her Drs and Nurses for saving her life after life threatening bleeding after giving birth to her son. Dyanna explained that although the Doctors and Nurses did indeed play a very important role in saving the patient's life; the behind the scenes work in the laboratory, in performing the blood tests to help with the diagnosis, in testing the donated blood for infectious diseases and in making sure the donated blood was compatible with the patient is often not appreciated. She explained the importance of the many unseen actors in health care who support our doctors and nurses.

Senator Raglmar was moved to make a floor statement at the 6th Session of the 3rd regular session of the 8th Legislature of the Yap State of February 14, 2013 when he heard the news of Dyanna's win. He begged the indulgence of the legislature as he read an excerpt from her speech:

"In the words of Benjamin Franklin, 'by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail'. It is our responsibility to prepare a brighter future for the generations to come. Medical Laboratory Science can help build that better future for your friends, family, community and country. Be a hero in the medical laboratory. 'Don't just make a difference. Be the difference.'"

Climate change adaptation in Micronesia

German-Pacific cooperation on Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change is a fact and small island countries, like those in the Pacific, are at the forefront, facing the impacts of climate change. These impacts will increase in the future and therefore sufficient and appropriate adaptation efforts are needed to reduce the vulnerability of the island communities at risk. Therefore Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are among those most vulnerable to climate change impacts, and there is an urgent need to progress adaptation and mitigation measures in the region.

In this context, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has strengthened its existing partnership with the German Government to implement a regional program to address this need. The program, 'Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region' (CCCPIR), is implemented by the German "Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit" (GIZ) in close partnership with SPC, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and the University of South Pacific (USP). The CCCPIR program is assisting 12 PICs from 2011 to 2015.

The GIZ is a federally-owned enterprise that implements technical cooperation programs on behalf of the German government. For more than 30 years, Germany, through GIZ, has been cooperating with Pacific Island partners in strengthening the capacity of people and institutions to improve the lives of Pacific Island communities. GIZ and its partners work together to balance economic, social and ecological interests through multi-stakeholder dialogue, participation and collaboration.

The potential negative impacts of climate change are of utmost significance for the small island states of the Pacific Island region, in particular for communities inhabiting atolls and coastal lowlands. Many of the region's countries are already experiencing climate change impacts. Likely future impacts may include lowland flooding, saltwater intrusion and coastal erosion, changing rainfall patterns, increased drought periods, increased cyclone frequency and intensity and rising sea level. It is necessary for PICs to effectively address climate change issues.

The reality however, is that most PICs lack financial and human resources to deal with the multifaceted impacts of climate change, be it on a strategic policy level or on a concrete implementation level. PICs are especially affected by the widening gap between increasing vulnerability and the lack of capacities to cope with the adverse effects of climate change.

The CCCPIR program is integrating climate change into the services delivered by SPC and SPREP divisions and programs in focal areas like mainstreaming of climate change into national and state policies and plans



Palau: Sea walls to fight coastal erosion

and implementation of climate change adaptation action on the ground. Information and knowledge sharing between countries will be supported to maximize benefits. The CCCPIR program builds on and complements existing and proposed initiatives at the regional and national level.

In early 2012 all Climate Change Advisors of SPC and SPC partner programs like GCCA, GIZ, AusAID, USAID met in Suva to develop a joint "SPC Climate Change one-team strategy" for the implementation of respective development partners' work plans. This will also ease the implementation burden of national counterparts by adopting a joint and collaborative implementation approach for all programs rather than programs implementing their activities separately and in isolation.

CCCPIR activities in the North Pacific Region

Mr. Fenno Brunken is assigned since August 2011 as a climate change advisor to the SPC North Pacific Regional Office in Pohnpei. He supports the Micronesian island countries Palau, FSM and RMI for the entire program duration until end of 2015.



Yap: Community consultations

In the North Pacific, it is reported that the consequences of climate change, such as sea level rise and changes in weather patterns will not cause new problems and risks rather they will gradually increase or exacerbate the frequency and magnitude of the risks and problems caused by existing hazards. Reducing the present risks to the people and infrastructure is the most effective way in reducing the coastal hazard risks posed by future climate changes.

In 2012 CCCPIR started to implement the following climate change adaptation activities:

- On the Regional Level a Media Training was conducted on the communication of climate change adaptation, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Twenty participants from Palau, FSM and RMI received an intense training on the use of different media and how to convey scientific and political climate change related messages to the public.
- In Palau the development of a National Climate Change Policy Framework was started in close cooperation with the EU funded SPCGCCA project. The objective of the framework is to build the resilience of the Palauan nation to climate change.
- In addition CCCPIR carried out a study on coastal changes and mapping of shorelines in the Rock Islands, Palau Koror State jointly with the SPC Applied Geoscience and Technology Division. Development of management plans for respective beach areas and awareness campaigns for local communities and dive operators will follow in 2013.
- In FSM the CCCPIR program is closely coordinating its activities with other ongoing pro-grams like GCCA, IOM, USAID, AusAID, etc. in the Disaster and Climate Change Network, carrying out e.g. the World Disaster Day in 2012 in Pohnpei.
- In Yap CCCPIR started a project on Community-based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (CEAFM) and Climate change Adaptation (CCA). The project carried out attachment training for two officers at SPC Headquarters which resulted in the development of Community Management Plans for three selected communities. In 2013 CCCPIR will conduct a workshop on the construction, deployment, maintenance and usage of near-shore FADs (fish aggregation devices) as well as the development and implementation of a coastal resources monitoring program. It is intended to extend this program to other FSM States in the near future.
- In Kosrae the CCCPIR program is developing an adaptive management approach to sustained coastal hazard risk reduction. Jointly with the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and SPC the program will perform an assessment of shoreline and development changes and redraft of the existing but outdated Kosrae Shoreline Management Plan from 2000. Next year a stakeholder engagement to discuss, redefine and finalize draft shoreline management plan to support donor identification will follow.
- In RMI CCCPIR supports mainstreaming climate change into the water and sanitation policy as well as the coordination with ongoing programs like IWRM and the development of awareness materials. Mr. Mathew Johnston is based in Majuro for six months to assist the EPA water and sanitation office.

The German Government aims to support ongoing and planned climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in the Pacific and will continue to jointly develop and implement those activities with the partner institutions and governments in the region.



Kosrae: Planning of shoreline management activities