

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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PO Box 2222 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone 691-320-6547 Kpress@mail.fm www.kpress.info

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Hardcore Pohnpei boxers show their metal at exhibition

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 26, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Fists flew and blood flowed at tonight's Pohnpei Boxing Club exhibition at the dimly lit Pohnpei Islands Central School gymnasium.

The exhibition started at 5:30 pm with members shadow boxing, punching on the two sets of "focus mitts" the club currently owns, and sharing its two punching bags.

The equipment that the club currently owns was donated by Dongwon Industries at the request of their employee, Jung-hee Yoon who goes by the English name of "Hugo".

In November of last year Hugo told The Kaselehlie Press that he wanted to help Pohnpei young people "to keep a healthy mind, body, and the brilliant futures from confidence," by sharing his love of boxing.

Concerned that the program would be overwhelmed with participants, sports authorities in Pohnpei identified 20 trainers who were to have begun training on November 5 at the Pohnpei Youth Center. The idea was that the trainers, after they were trained, would be able to train up and coming boxers.

It didn't work exactly as planned because the identified trainers were inconsistent in their attendance. Other experienced boxing trainers stepped in to help Hugo train possible competitors for regional competitions with an eye toward the lofty goal of sending some competitors to the 2016 Olympic competition. When Hugo leaves Pohnpei to take on another assignment for his employer, he will leave three trainers to train 18 male boxers and seven female boxers.



See "Boxing" on page 5

Genesis Wellness Center and Dental Clinic holds blessing ceremony for new facilities

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Balloons and bright ribbons adorned the entry ways to the brand new, state of the art Genesis Wellness Center at 9:00 this morning.

Dozens of invited guests and interested people crowded under a tent in the parking lot between the two buildings of the Genesis complex for a blessing ceremony. Guest speakers included Lt. Governor Marcelo Peterson, FSM's Assistant Secretary of Health Marcus Samo, and Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte.

Mr. Iriarte spoke both in Pohnpeian and in English. During his speech he formally gave the blessing of Pohnpei's traditional leaders to the new fitness center. At the end of the speech he



See "Wellness Center" on page 7

Blood Donation Myths and Facts

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Pohnpei joins the world in dawn ANZAC Day commemoration

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2013

Pohnpei, FM—Before the sun peaked over the hills of Paliats, people of all ages and many nationalities began to arrive at the residence compound of the Royal Australian Navy for the 98th Anniversary Dawn Service commemoration of ANZAC Day on the shores of the Nett River. Pohnpei's commemoration was one of thousands held at dawn on April 25 all over the world.

ANZAC Day marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The young soldiers of the ANZACs fought and fell in their thousands on battlefields in many foreign lands. Each year dawn services are held to commemorate the ANZACs and their remarkable example of self sacrifice.

Father Ken Urumolug led the crowd in prayers and also in the singing of the hymn "Abide With Me".

Chief Petty Office Andrew Hamilton read the famous poem "In Flanders Fields".

Lt. Commander Geoff Hart Davies gave the ANZAC Day address, "For Australians and New Zealanders, ANZAC Day is a time to reflect with pride and gratitude.

"This year will mark 98 years since the first brave young Australian and New Zealand soldiers rushed ashore at Gallipoli, unaware they would create a legacy and an enduring identity that defines today's Australians and New Zealanders.

"The legacy of ANZAC lies at the spiritual heart of Australia and New Zealand. The legacy is for all of us, an eternal possession we should value and cherish forever.

"Our ANZAC legend, which embodies the values of courage, determination and mateship defines our national character.

"ANZAC Day is a significant date in our commemorative calendar. On this day, we remember the young lives lost and pay tribute to the many who have died at war. We pause to reflect upon the loss of men and women, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and mates, whose bright futures were cut short, defending our democracy and the values we uphold.

"Many communities have their own war memorial, which record the names of those lost and which stand as an everlasting reminder of the high cost of war. It is the responsibility of all of us to continue to encourage young Australians to seek a greater understanding of the ANZAC spirit and encourage them to ensure it is never lost."

Various representatives laid memorial wreaths on the war memorial. One wreath was laid in memory of all servicemen and women who have paid the supreme sacrifice. Another wreath was laid on behalf of the Australian Defence Force; another on behalf of all Micronesian members and veterans of the US Armed Forces. A wreath was laid on behalf of the FSM National Police, and one each on behalf of all Australians and New Zealanders. A wreath was laid on behalf of the National Government and people of the FSM, another on behalf of the people of the USA, and another on behalf of the people of Japan.

The wreath laying ceremony was followed by a reading of the Anzac Ode followed by the sounding of the Last Post and one minute of silence. Following the silence reveille was sounded while Jack Bricknell raised the Australian flag and Chanelle Tallon raised the New Zealand flag.

The dawn service ended after the playing of the National Anthems of Australia and New Zealand.

The dawn service was followed up by the traditional gunfire breakfast on the grounds of the Kangaroo Court.



LCDR Geoff Hart-Davies



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Library Week 2013

Pohnpei Public Library

This year Pohnpei Public Library celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a "Library Week," from April 15 to 19. The theme for this year's celebration was "Reading: The Lighthouse to the World."

Three Schools visited the Library to participate in the events on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. ECE Students from Lukop, Senpehn and Mand Schools had the opportunity to come to the library for a story and crafting activity.

On Friday evening, the library held a special celebration to commemorate the anniversary and to recognize essay and art contest winners. The program began with an invocation from Senator Ishmael Lebehn. Head Librarian Lester Ezekias welcomed everyone. This year the library was fortunate to have Mr. Kone Ramon, one of the founders of this library to be the Keynote Speaker. He spoke mostly about the birth of this library, those supporters that worked so hard during those days trying to get funds and books for this library.

The program ended with the presentations of awards to the students who were selected as winners for the art and essay contest.

Art winners were Jasian Elias, Sapwalap ECE; Teeshantra Amor, Sapwalap ECE; Mailani Fred, Sapwalap ECE; Rhea Buensalido, CCA, 2nd grade; Nicole Florentine Adams, CCA, 2nd grade; Aisha Abraham, CCA, 2nd

grade; Hervin John, Awak School, 7th grade; Zachery Penias, Awak School, 7th grade; Kurt Cantero, Awak School, 8th grade; Movanski Camacho, Awak School, 8th grade; Hadley Joshua Jr., Awak School, 8th grade; Yuchie Leopold, 9th grade, CCA; and Nelsin Mack, 11th grade, MHS.

Essay winners were Valerina Cantero, Awak School, 8th grade; Janice Joseph, MHS, 9th grade; Sonsha Paddock, CCA, 9th grade; Christine Tantay, SDA, 10th grade; Carmen Elias, MHS, 10th grade; Harvey Jose, MHS, 10th grade; Mimitane Weital, CCA, 11th grade; Shania David, CCA, 11th grade; Joyceleen Saul, MHS, 11th grade; Berman Ohry, MHS, 12th grade; Karla Capelle, CCA, 12th grade; and Mark Jones, CCA, 12th grade.

Pohnpei Public Library wants to express its gratitude to the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their contributions and support that made this Library Week successful.

Businesses include Ace Commercial, Ace Office Supplies, Amcres, Bank of FSM, Black Sand Store, DJ Store, Do It Best, Imelda's Shoes, JG Store, Leo Etscheit's, MicroPc.fm, Panuelo Enterprises, PCR Nantelik Restaurant, Pohnpei True Value, VCS, Pohnpei Clean Living, JEF's Small Loan and The Village.

Organization and Individual Volunteers and Contributors include Sen. Ishmael Lebehn, Sen. Sendilina Lekka, Mr. Miquel Ordoneze, Mr. Kone Ramon, Ms. Janelle Santos and Mr. Ben Taylor,

Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their contributions to the library and the Adopt-a-Magazine Program: Mr. Aaron Nighswander, Mr. Alex Zuccarelli, Mr. Steve Kielbasa, Mr. Anthony and Cheri Zuccarelli, Mr. Dan Norton, Ms. Sandra Perkins, Ms. Nercy Simina, and Ms. Yvonne Neth.

"When you are growing up there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you."

— Keith Richards



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FSM Telecom again compares well in the Pacific region according to report

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 2, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—As the World Bank pushes Information and Communication Technology (ICT) reforms in the Pacific region, data on a report released by Network Strategies, a New Zealand based telecommunications consultant suggests once again that FSM Telecommunications Corporation is an anomaly in the region.

Network Strategies did not specifically say in its report that FSMTC is a unique Pacific monopoly but its data suggests that conclusion. According to FSMTC Chief Operating Officer Fredy Perman who returned this week from a telecommunications conference in Apia, Samoa, the author of the report constantly pointed FSMTC's uniqueness out.

The report says that for low-level mobile use, the cheapest deals are in Tonga, Fiji, Timor-Leste, FSM, and Samoa, and the same countries also have the best deals for typical prepaid users. The highest price for that service is in the Marshall Islands, at more than twice the price for the same plan in the FSM. Palau, and Digicel Vanuatu costs at least twice what those same services cost in the FSM.

The same countries have the best prices for typical prepaid users. PNCC Palau had the highest typical prepaid user price at \$100 followed by PMC Palau and the Marshall Islands. FSM's typical prepaid user price is just over \$20.

For SMS-based usage, the Cook Islands has the best plan followed by the two telecom providers in Tonga, and the FSM. FSM's price is at about \$27. Bemobile Solomon Islands was the most expensive for this type service at just over \$80. PNCC Palau, Digicel Vanuatu, and Telecom Vanuatu were the next highest prices.

FSMTC continued to fare well when Network Strategies included American Samoa, Norfolk Island, and the French Territories. FSMTC's customer monthly spend for typical prepaid mobile service is about \$16. The best deal was provided by ASTCA American Samoa at about \$7 followed by Timor Telecom, Digicel Tonga, Bluesky American Samoa, TCC Tonga, and Digicel Fiji. FSMTC was seventh lowest on a list of 25 providers. Most expensive was OPT New Caledonia at nearly \$70 per month followed by PNCC Palau at nearly \$60 per month and Telecom Cook Islands at approximately \$44 per month. NTA Marshall Islands price is approximately \$28.

"In Kiribati, Timor-Leste, PNG, and the Solomon Islands consumers struggle to afford even a low level of cell phone usage," the report says. In those countries customers pay between approximately 13 and 14 and a half percent of their average monthly income on mobile services for low volume use. The per capita Gross Domestic Products of those countries start at about \$1800 in Timor-Leste, to about \$2500 in the Solomon Islands. In

the FSM where the per capita GDP is about \$3500, customers spend approximately 6 percent of their average monthly income on mobile services for low volume use.

Though Palau prices are much higher than in the FSM, customers in Palau spend approximately 4 percent for the same low volume mobile use. Palau per capita GDP is approximately \$15,000, over four times higher than in the FSM.

In the Marshall Islands the per capita GDP is about \$6200, about 75 percent higher than that of the FSM but their customers spend just over 10 percent of their average monthly income on low-level mobile use.

The numbers and comparisons are about the same for prepaid services for typical usage. Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and PNG are the least affordable countries. The percentage of monthly income for this service in Palau increases to about 5 percent, and the FSM it's about the same as above.

Customers in Timor-Leste should be prepared to pony up nearly 35 percent of their hard to come by average monthly income if they want SMS-based usage. It's about 12 percent for the same service in the FSM. RMI is at about 13 percent in its larger economy. Palau, which has a per capita GDP more than 50 percent higher than the combined per capita GDP's of FSM and RMI is at about 4 percent.

On analysis of low level use of mobile data services which is defined at 100MB, 30 calls and 100 text messages per month some countries drop out of the comparison because they don't offer those services including Palau and RMI. FSM and Timor are tied at about \$30 a month, the lowest of the nations compared. Bemobile PNG charges over \$150 for that service. Digicel Nauru is the next highest at over \$80 a month.

In terms of average monthly income spent on such a service Solomon Islands is the least affordable at over 25 percent. Though Timor-Leste tied for the lowest price for the service, because of a low average monthly income it was the second least affordable country at over 24 percent. PNG is just behind Timor-Leste. Customers in countries with relatively high per capita GDP's spent less of their average monthly income for the same service likely because they had more monthly income to spend.

Where FSMTC doesn't look quite so good on the report is in the area of market penetration. Amongst the nations the report compares, FSM ranked third lowest in terms of market penetration of mobile services to its customers and had the fifth lowest per capita GDP at \$3500.

Palau has a significantly lower population than the FSM and has the highest per capita

GDP of the countries listed. As a result, Palau has achieved approximately 75 percent market penetration.

"RMI has the lowest penetration rate, is a monopoly and offers no data services. Though it charges high rates for some levels of usage, it fares moderately on affordability" report coordinator Dr. Suella Hansen wrote in an email.



A news story by Giff Johnson in Islands Business subtitled "NTA left out as bank prepares new ICT policy" quotes National Telecommunications (NTA) General Manager Tommy Kijiner as

saying that NTA has achieved a much deeper market penetration than that for which they are being credited, or more appropriately, discredited. He suggests that there has been a disconnect between the World Bank and the National Government on the one hand, and NTA on the other.

World Bank promised \$3 million to the RMI government if it would eliminate its legal bar against telecommunications competition. According to the Island Business article, the government can use that money any way that it sees fit. Kijiner wonders why, if the World Bank thinks there is a problem with NTA's service didn't the Bank give NTA the money to help them to improve what it needs to improve.

World Bank representative Natasha Beschorner who has been working with FSM's Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure and with FSM Telecommunications Corporation on ICT reforms skirted our questions saying that if I wanted to know about World Bank involvement in the FSM we could discuss that directly.

We sent another email and asked her if the telecommunications monopoly is ended by statute in the FSM, would the end result will be greater connectivity for the average potential telecom user across the FSM. We also asked if she thought that FSM customers would end up paying less for their connectivity than they currently pay and to explain why she thought so. She did not respond to that one.

Dr. Hansen did respond. To the first question she replied, "Certainly some of the other countries in the region have experienced dramatic increases in availability of mobile services following market liberalisation, as shown in the presentation. However I can't comment on FSM's particular circumstances." She suggested that we might want to talk to World Bank about that, but World Bank did not respond to the question.

To the second question she wrote, "Again I can only make general comments. Typically if it is possible to introduce a well-functioning competitive market then we would expect to

see more competitive offerings coming to the market. However if it is just one monopoly replacing another then the outcomes may not be so favourable to consumers, so it helps to ensure that the market is ready for competition and the regulatory settings are appropriate... At the end of the day it can be quite complex. The best outcomes for the consumer in the Pacific appear to have occurred in countries where the former monopoly operator has been able to compete vigorously with the new competitor (e.g. Tonga, Fiji, and more recently Samoa now that SamoaTel has been taken over by Blue Skies and is really ramping up competition)."

World Bank holds to the theory that competitive pressure results in greater connectivity and better affordability for telecommunications customers which in turn stimulates the economy. But there seems to be a fair amount of evidence that things don't always work that way.

Dr. Hansen referred us to a paper entitled, "Affordability of mobile services hampered by quasi-monopolies in the Pacific" on the "Network Strategies" website (www.strategies.nzl.com) written by Shynaz Musa. The article provided an analysis of some markets where competition did precisely what it was supposed to do—specifically, Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa. It lists Palau as well but though competition is allowed in Palau the services offered by the two providers is compartmentalized.

In some markets ICT reform didn't quite turn out the way it was planned. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), essentially the private sector arm of the World Bank, approved a \$40 million loan to Digicel in 2007 in order to help the company to enter the market in PNG. It approved another \$80 million loan in 2009, and a \$26.8 million loan in 2011. The loans "allowed Digicel to rapidly deploy mobile infrastructure in the more populous parts of PNG, achieving a market share of over 70% in the mobile market by 2011, that is, within four years of entering the market," industry paper said.

Meanwhile, the cash strapped incumbent Bemobile PNG languished. It could not compete. Bemobile PNG is still in operation but Digicel is what the paper calls a "quasi-monopoly". Connectivity in PNG increased dramatically. Prices did not increase quite as dramatically but they did increase. The article says that since 2011, prices have begun to fall off a bit.

The ICT regulation toolkit warns against unfair competitive advantages by an incumbent operator but The Network Strategy paper says that in some Pacific island nations they are seeing evidence of precisely the opposite. The paper goes on to explain the mechanism by which Telecom Vanuatu has found it very difficult to compete with Digicel Vanuatu. Vanuatu now has about 80 percent market penetration but it costs about 9 percent of the average monthly wage for the lowest level of mobile phone service.

See "FSMTC" on next page

...FSMTC

Continued from previous page

In Nauru there is about a 65 percent market penetration but according to the Islands Business article on the RMI, the incumbent telecommunications provider in Nauru has gone the way of the dodo. Nauru customers pony up nearly \$50 a month for SMS services, and nearly \$40 a month for low level mobile usage plans.

FSMTC's Chief Operating Officer, Fredy Perman said that he learned in a conversation with Nauru's Minister of Communication during meetings in Apia, Samoa this week that Digicel Nauru cut fixed line services in Nauru so that communication is now by cell phone or the Internet. We were unable to verify that information before press time.

"The unique characteristics of the Pacific means that building a ubiquitous network is often a challenge for an incumbent operator without deep pockets. A combination of factors such as small populations spread over large distances, rugged terrain, a number of small islands and a large number of rural / remote dwellers has historically meant that incumbent operators have struggled to

provide universal service. Prematurely ending an operator's exclusivity in the market also may mean that inadequate time is allowed for the operator to prepare for impending competition. In these circumstances the introduction of a competitor with access to funding and the absence of regulatory intervention can lead to a playing field tilted against the incumbent, allowing the new entrant to dominate the market within a very short space of time," the Network Strategy paper said.

It warned that active regulatory involvement is required to ensure a level playing field for the former monopoly operator against the new entrant. Otherwise, regulatory intervention will only be "the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff for incumbents".

"While competition has been viewed as the mechanism to encourage investment, lower prices and increase uptake/use of mobile services, in both PNG and Vanuatu a quasi-monopoly has formed following market liberalization allowing the dominant operator to maintain service charges above competition levels," the Network Strategy paper says. "The unique challenges of infrastructure rollout in the Pacific coupled with incumbent operators that were ill-prepared for competition meant that the new

entrant has been able to rapidly acquire a large market share to the detriment of end-users. For example, as we have illustrated, real prices have actually increased since the early days of competition in PNG whereas in Vanuatu mobile service prices remain relatively unaffordable in relation to income levels."

No one knows for certain what might happen in the RMI when ICT policy changes. What is known is that NTA in RMI is on the hook for a \$30 million loan from when it bought into the Guam to Majuro fiber optic connection. It's already missed several loan payments and because the RMI government is the guarantor for the loan its government had to make the payments. If NTA goes under because it is not ready for competition then the RMI government will be on the hook for the payments.

In the FSM it is illegal for the National Government to guarantee a loan for FSMTC. In fact, FSMTC's credit rating has increased the FSM's credit rating. FSM Petroleum Corporation is also contributing to the FSM's credit rating. FSMTC will be paying its \$30 million loan for the next 15 years if it lasts that long. If it doesn't, telecommunications will likely be run by a foreign "quasi-monopoly".

... Boxing

Continued from front page

The Pohnpei Boxing Club has filed an application for non-profit status and has been applying for grants to keep the sport alive in Pohnpei.

"We have three more years as a goal to train and get both male and female members ready to compete as amateur boxers in the 2016 World Olympics," Erick Divinigracia wrote in an email. "It's a lofty goal, but one that is attainable as long as we have support from the community and other organizations."

Divinigracia, who is an attorney at the law firm of Ramp and Mida said that he learned about the boxing program when he read the November article in The Kaselehlie Press. He previously trained in Bellevue, Washington before he moved to Pohnpei last summer. "With no boxing gym on the island, it was a great relief to read that Hugo, with help from his employer, Dongwon Industries and the Pohnpei Sports Authority and FSM National Olympic Committee were starting this project to introduce the sport to Pohnpei," he wrote.

"The membership has increased and the participants' skills have improved faster than I could ever have imagined," he wrote.

Divinigracia is now the head trainer and the treasurer for the Pohnpei Boxing Club. He has had experience training boxers with all sorts of experience, from beginners with absolutely no skills to national Olympic finalists. "One thing that I have found that separates the kids from Pohnpei to people back home," he wrote, "is that they all generally have this inherent natural power

when they punch! Power in boxing is one of the greatest assets a boxer can have and is the one skill that cannot be taught no matter how much you train. It is something that you are born or raised with. So whatever Pohnpeian mothers are feeding their kids, its working!"

Kenneth Welles, the President of the Pohnpei Boxing Club is also a trainer. He learned to box during his time in Wilmington, North Carolina. "Right now there are just three of us. We're hoping that we can attract some adults who want to learn to box and to train other boxers."

He also said that the Pohnpei Boxing Club is open to everyone of all ages and skill levels.

Gorman Booth, Junior is the Vice President of the club. Welles said that Booth is learning the sport and helps with the training as well.

The club has high aspirations and it is obvious from talking to the officers of the club that excitement is also high. If the exhibition this evening is any indication, the young people who are training as boxers are also very enthusiastic. They have a long way to go, and a good deal of discipline that needs to be learned but they are certainly working hard.

The sky is the limit, or at least it will be if the club can overcome their one limiting factor—the lack of equipment. The Dongwon Industries donation went a long way toward getting the boxing program started but more is needed.

Divinigracia said that currently the 30 active members must share three pairs of boxing gloves, two pairs of

training gloves, two sets of head gear, two set of focus mitts, two punching bags and two jumping ropes. "The boxing club's biggest concern is the safety and health of its participants. Each of the members should have at the very least, their own gloves, mouth guards and hand wraps, which only a handful who have trained abroad possess."

The organization has filed for non-profit status and has begun to seek grants. They've written two grant applications so far. One of them seeks assistance to purchase more equipment and to purchase a boxing ring. Right now, the boxers train and spar on a concrete floor. They've written another grant application in order to help renovate the Pohnpei Youth Center in Dolonier,

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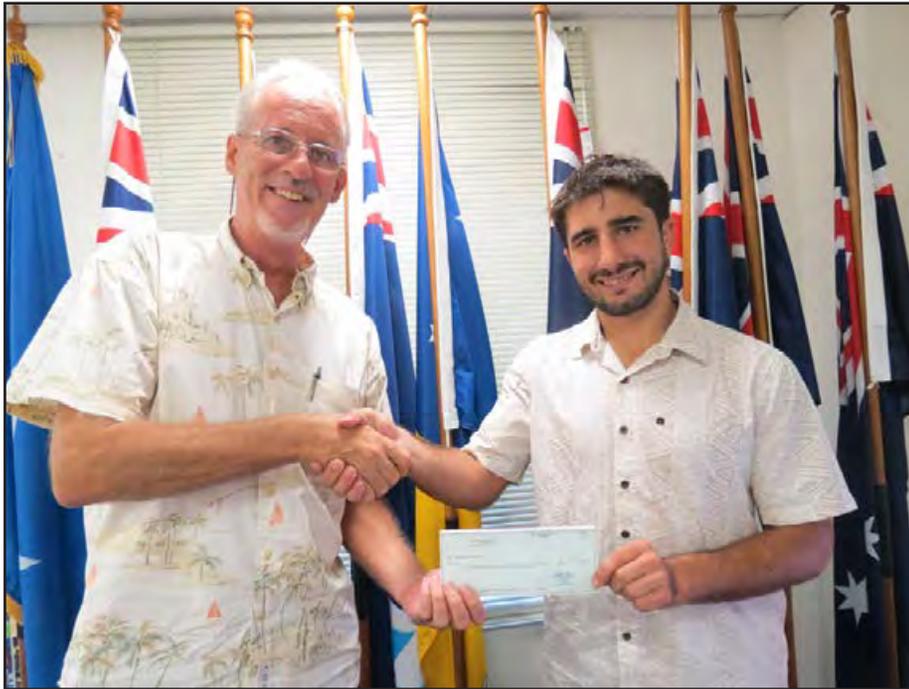
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which is where the boxers train.

Though they have written grant applications that will be helpful, the club will need community support. Even if they do get new equipment they will need material to hoist and hang the equipment and mount them on the building. They will also need financial support if they are to take boxers to regional competitions as they prepare Olympic hopefuls.



Australian Embassy donates camera equipment to KPress



On April 22, 2013 the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei awarded \$2,048 to The Kaselehlie Press for the purchase of new photographic equipment and related supplies. The grant was awarded through the Embassy's Direct Aid Program. Nikola Pejic, Third Secretary and Vice Consul presented the check to Bill Jaynes, Managing Editor of The Kaselehlie Press on May 1, 2013 and said that the grant committee strongly recommended the award of the grant to the newspaper.

The Kaselehlie Press is a non-profit newspaper that published its first issue under the name Rohng En

Pohnpei on November 30, 2000 and continues to publish on a bi-weekly basis with the idea that shared knowledge is empowers the people.

"Nearly seven years ago the Australian Embassy provided a similar grant to The Kaselehlie Press. It was a workhorse camera that took thousands and thousands of pictures but just finally wore out. Since then we've been operating with borrowed equipment," Jaynes said. "We couldn't be more grateful for the contribution of the Australian Embassy to our important work, and we consider it to be a vote of confidence."

Palau "graduates" from U.S. Peace Corps service

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

April 30, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—According to a report in the Marianas Business Journal Palau will "graduate" from the U.S. Peace Corps program in August of 2014. After the four volunteers who are currently serving terms in Palau, the U.S. Peace Corps will end its service there.

The Peace Corps will have served Palau for 47 years by the time it ends its service there.

Peace Corps officials delivered the word to Palau President Tommy E. Remengasau on April 9.

The article says that the closure of the program in Palau is due to Palau's rating on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index. Its rating on that index showed that Palau no longer has a high need of Peace

Corps services.

"This is a mark of success in the abilities of two people to work together to achieve something good. Based on assessments and recommendations, we feel that Palau is now ready to be graduated from the program," said Peace Corps Country Director Renwick Nelson.

"Palau will be the fourth country to graduate from the program. Three countries that have graduated are Romania, Bulgaria, and Antigua," Nelson said.

According to the article when President Remengasau thanked the Peace Corps he told the representatives that Peace Corps volunteers were instrumental in providing his own English language education. He said that the volunteers had made a significant contribution to Palau.

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 Ref. 11764 PRICE: \$3,440 HONDA HR-V Year 2000 AT 1,600cc PETROL Mileage 59,000km Color Silver	 Ref. 12215 PRICE: \$4,190 HONDA CR-V Year 1998 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 41,000km Color Green II	 Ref. 11298 PRICE: \$4,850 SUZUKI ESCUDO Year 1999 AT 2,500cc PETROL Mileage 40,000km Color White
 Ref. 12212 PRICE: \$3,450 TOYOTA RAV4 Year 1996 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 76,000km Color Green II	 Ref. 12151 PRICE: \$4,710 TOYOTA RAV4 Year 1996 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 33,000km Color Pearl	 Ref. 12113 PRICE: \$4,060 MITSUBISHI PAJERO IO Year 1996 AT 1,800cc PETROL Mileage 54,000km Color Silver
 Ref. 11742 PRICE: \$4,370 MITSUBISHI PAJERO IO Year 2002 AT 1,950cc PETROL Mileage 19,000km Color Blue II	 Ref. 11461 PRICE: \$2,440 MITSUBISHI MINICAB TRUCK 0.35 ton Year 1996 MT 650cc PETROL Mileage 29,000km Color White	 Ref. 12280 PRICE: \$3,680 MAZDA BONGO TRUCK 0.85 ton Year 1996 MT 1,800cc PETROL Mileage 99,000km Color White

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...Wellness Center

Continued from front page

surprised the audience and Genesis owners, Mr. Hermie Alfonso and Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso when he bestowed a traditional title on each of the owners.

“We didn't see that coming until he asked for two mwarmwars to be brought to him, and that was when it suddenly dawned on me what was going on”, Dr. Abello-Alfonso wrote afterwards.

Dr. Marcus Samo read a letter by Dr. Vita Skilling, FSM Secretary of Health. “As you know, many people often associate healthcare with hospitals, but don't always associate wellness with hospitals. Well today, you are demonstrating that hospitals and wellness are cousins or maybe even brothers!

“The message that we are getting today through the establishment of Genesis Wellness Center is that fitness or exercise can play a significant role in good health- This facility is testament of your commitment and vision to instill good health in the lives of the people you serve in Pohnpei and the FSM,” the letter said.

The Wellness Center, which is beautifully constructed, has two main rooms along with the bathroom, shower and sauna facilities. One of the rooms is dedicated to cardio vascular exercise and houses treadmills, rowing machines, and other machines designed to exercise the heart. The other room has a stage and wooden “dance” floor for future planned aerobics classes. It also houses free weights, and dynamic exercise machines designed to build strength.

Mr. Alfonso says that the center currently has two fitness training experts on the staff, one male and one female. They previously worked at “Fitness First” and “Slimmers”, two famous gyms in the Philippines. Both of the trainers are also physical therapists. They will be on duty to guide clients on the use of the state of the art exercise equipment and to guide them according to individual needs, and individual fitness programs.

He says that Genesis will be recruiting two more Gym Instructors as the demand increases.

The gym is open for business. The currently scheduled



Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte addresses the crowd

hours of operation are 7 am to 9 pm, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

The center has day use rates of \$5 per person. The monthly fee for membership is \$50. Mr. Alfonso says that it doesn't currently have a “family plan” but said that such a plan could be arranged and discussed.

He said that the MiCare Board of Directors has approved Physical Therapy Services for their members. Genesis is waiting for the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by both parties, and is hoping to have that in order before the end of May.

During the opening and blessing ceremony Genesis also opened a new dental clinic. Mr. Alonzo said that the clinic would be accepting MiCare members beginning May 1.

Father Ken Urumolug blessed the new facilities.



Father Ken Urumolug

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Over 650 elementary school students attend Earth Day celebration



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM

April 22, 2013 - This year's Earth Day event participants saw over 650 elementary school students in attendance for a day of awareness raising and action on environmental issues held at the venue of the Pohnpei Cinema parking lot and theaters. Earth Day has a 19-year history on Pohnpei and has traditionally, as it has this year, entailed environmental education and clean-up projects. This year's theme was "The Face of Climate Change".

The day started at 9:30 with a proclamation from Governor Ehsa on the importance of Earth Day for the future of Pohnpei which was delivered by Lieutenant Governor Peterson. Important messages were delivered by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM). The speeches culminated in a rousing address by his Royal Highness, the Iso Nahnken of Nett. Students from Pohnlangas and Enipein Elementary schools put on humorous skits related to environmental protection that stoked energetic laughter from the audience.

Organized by the Joint Risk Management Network, made up of climate change and disaster management agencies, Earth Day 2013 principally targeted 8th grade students. Over 650 students from 15 elementary schools across the island, 30 teachers, and over 100 members of the public showed up to watch climate change movies and visit educational activity stalls. The Department of Education generously provided use of buses for transporting the numerous students.

Movies screened by Pohnpei Cinema free of charge included a Mwoakillesse warrior dance performed in the water reflecting the current challenges modern youth face due to climate change. A Micronesian Conservation Trust (MCT) documentary, "Micronesia's Changing Climate," showcased the unique regional challenges and adaptations. The free cinematic exposition ended with a screening of "The Lorax," a story of greed, environmental destruction, and the hope that the new generation can bring.

Students rotated through the educational activity stalls

established by government, civil society, and environmental entities; some "painted the face of climate change" with IOM, others learned about solar energy technology and climate change with SPC, and were exposed to environmentally sound agricultural practices by the College of Micronesia and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). There were stations provided by CSP, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and MCT providing education on the Micronesian Challenge, as well as by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), FSM Department of Resources and Development (R&D), and OEEM educating the youth about the functions of the national government, and photo opportunities with US President Barak Obama organized by the US Embassy. The Rotary club demonstrated the simple, reliable, and effective technology of solar water stills.

The students' newly acquired knowledge was tested and rewarded through quizzes, raffles, and prizes, Earth Day T-shirts were distributed, and there were impromptu "dance offs" between schools during the lunch break. By 3 o'clock the tired but happy students went home. One student claimed that "this was as fun as sports day with all the other schools...only more educational."

In the evening, Pohnpei Cinema presented a free a screening of "The Island President," an inspirational story of climate negotiation leadership by the then President of the Maldives, who fought to minimize the effects of climate change for his country. Earth Day concluded with a traditional Pohnpeian storyteller recounting tales of local culture and traditional resilience with excellent translation provided by the day's Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Ricky Carl of TNC.

In addition to the hard work of the Joint Risk Management Network members, special recognition must be given to the Australian Embassy through the Direct Assistance Program for their financial contribution to the day. Also of note is the generous contribution of GIZ, IOM, CSP, TNC and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and in particular private sector partners of LP Gas, ACE Hardware, ACE Office, NAPA and ABCOR. Prizes were also kindly donated by Image Salon, Pohnpei Cinema and ACE Hardware.

North-REP launches awareness materials on Earth Day 2013

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Pohnpei

Wednesday 1 May 2013

The North Pacific ACP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency project (North-REP) launched its educational awareness campaign on Earth Day, 22 April 2013, at the Pohnpei Cinemas in front of hundreds of elementary school children. The event was organised by the Joint Risk Management Network, of which SPC is a member.

This year's theme for Earth Day is The Face of Climate Change. The North-REP tent presented the new awareness materials for the first of three topics on renewable energy and energy efficiency, save energy – good practices, with flyers for children on how to save energy in their homes and in their daily activities. These materials will be disseminated through the public school system to children across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), along with a game that teaches energy saving tips.

The educational materials will be displayed in English and in local languages in most hardware stores, supermarkets, utility lobbies and airports in all four FSM states. An information desk will be placed at each location and brochures, flyers, and posters will be on display from mid-May to November to help educate the people on saving energy, on the benefits of using energy efficient appliances and on producing their own energy.

Along with the educational materials, a website (<http://www.spc.int/northrep/>) and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/northrep) have been created to showcase the events surrounding the implementation of the various renewable energy projects that are managed by North-REP in the four FSM states and across Micronesia. So far, the page has seen 1,137 weekly visitors and hosts an energy game that can be played to test your energy knowledge. Please visit these pages for more information on North-REP and its activities.

North-REP is funded by the European Union and implemented by SPC.



Students at the North-REP tent – explanation on how an inverter works, FSM.

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10,576 bags of trash collected in this years Earth Day cleanup

Conservation Society of Pohnpei

Earth Day 2013 is an event that is celebrated by millions of people around the world to show how each and every one can help reduce the amount of pollutions that we people throw away every day. Pohnpei is proud to be one of the islands in the Pacific that take part in this year's Earth Day event. This year's Earth Day theme is "Face of Climate Change" and it's a theme that will drive every environmental agencies, and NGO's to take the lead in making a difference in this year's Earth Day event. The office of Environmental Protection Agency then coordinated an island wide cleanup event during the week of Earth Day and it was a successful one since all the municipalities took part in the event.

The cleanup event started in U municipality on April 22 and ended in Kolonia on April 27 which was a Saturday. Certain groups of people in Kolonia and Sokehs did a trash- a- thon to help safe guard their community environment for the betterment of young people. With the support of the citizens of Pohnpei along with the support of Pohnpei state government, agencies and NGO's, we were able to collect and dispose of an estimated amount of 10,576 trash bags around the island and disposed it at the designated dumping area in Dekehtik Island.

The office of Environmental Protection Agency is in full support of the celebration and believes that it to be an extremely beneficial event in promoting environmental awareness regarding climate change and solid waste reduction throughout Pohnpei State. As an island we are increasingly relying on our tourist image as a garden paradise island but litter on the streets and shores will slow this important economic driver. It would be the Organizing Committee's honor to continue more cleanup events for the overall beautification & enhancing efforts for our communities and island as one.

The office of Environmental Protection Agency would like to thank all the following departments, businesses, and Agencies and NGO's. Without your support and contribution this year Earth Day would not be a successful one and we look forward to your support in future events:

Department of Education, Pohnpei Visitors Bureau, Economic Affairs, Pohnpei Port Authority, Department of Health, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, Luen Thai Fishing Venture, Pohnpei Transfer & Storage, Ocean Care Company, JRM, CSP, US Embassy and Ace Hardware.



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- New Holland Skid Steer Loader LS 185, 85 HP, GP Bucket. \$ 14,900
- 2009 New Holland B95.B 4WD Backhoe GP Bucket. \$ 59,300
- 2008 Bomag BW-AD 120 Ride-On 42 Inch Roller, 2.5 ton Capacity, 950 Hours. \$ 26,000

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JICA supports health workshop for Pohnpei State health workers

Japan International Cooperation Agency

April 5, 2013

FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs held two two-day workshops for Vaccine Management and Cold Chain Maintenance on February 12-13 and a Surveillance Workshop on March 21-22. The workshops were conducted as part of the Project for System Improvement of Expanded Program on Immunization (JPIPS-2), supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The two workshops allowed participants to understand the basic epidemiology of vaccine and cold chain procedures as well as the critical role of outbreak disease investigation and surveillance focusing on vaccination preventable diseases. All together thirty-six participants from State Hospital, Public Health, Dispensaries, as well as Private Clinics were present. Facilitators and trainers were from National and State, including National Immunization Manager, Mrs. Louisa A. Helgenberger, Immunization Health Educator, Mr. Carter J. Apaisam and JICA Immunization Expert Dr. Naoki Nakazono.



Participants present at February 12-13 Workshop

Investigator Leelkan Southwick earns CFE credential

Office of the State Public Auditor
Yap State Government



Colonia, Yap

The Office of Yap State Public Auditor is pleased to announce that on April 18, 2013, Leelkan P. Southwick has earned the Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) designation awarded by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). Ms. Southwick is an Investigator employed by the Office of Yap State Public Auditor's Compliance Investigation Division (CID). Headed by Chief Investigator Sophia H. Pretrick, who is also a CFE, CID is a

newly created division within Yap OPA, which specifically handles allegations of fraud, waste and mismanagement. Coupled with its program objective to build capacity of the local investigator, the division's Manual of Operating Procedures requires that all its investigators become CFEs. Southwick began working on and eventually acquiring her CFE certification after she joined Yap OPA in May 2012, making her the fifth FSM citizen to earn the

CFE credential. Other members of Yap OPA who is also CFEs are Acting Public Auditor Patrick Zacchini and Audit Manager Oliver Dolosa.

In order to become a CFE, Southwick has met a stringent set of criteria and passed a rigorous exam administered by the ACFE. She has successfully met the ACFE's character, experience and education requirements for the CFE credential, and has demonstrated knowledge in four areas critical to the fight against fraud: Fraudulent Financial Transactions, Fraud Prevention and Deterrence, Legal Elements of Fraud and Fraud Investigation.

Chief Investigator Sophia Pretrick highly

commends Investigator Southwick's exceptional accomplishment through dedication, commitment and hard work.

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 60,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud world-wide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. Identified as "the premier financial sleuthing organization" by The Wall Street Journal, the ACFE has captured national and international media attention. For more information about the ACFE visit ACFE.com

U.S. provides \$7.3 million in Compact grant assistance payments in April

Embassy of the
United States of America Colonia

In April, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the United States Government totaling \$7,337,960. These payments were for Compact Sector Grants and Supplementary Education Grants, as listed below:

Education Sector Grants	\$2,560,000
Infrastructure Grants	\$1,981,960
Health Sector Grants	\$1,506,000
Supplementary Education Grants	\$ 720,000
Capacity Building Grants	\$ 185,000
Private Sector Development Grants	\$ 185,000
Enhanced Reporting and Accountability Grants	\$ 108,000
Environmental Sector Grants	\$ 92,000
Total Amount	\$7,337,960

This amount is provided as support and development to the States of the FSM and the FSM National Government as follows:

Chuuk	\$3,612,420
Pohnpei	\$1,553,206
Yap	\$1,238,097
Kosrae	\$ 922,637
National Government	\$ 11,600

Kosrae is in the spotlight again, with the dedication ceremony for their Public Safety Building, held on April 18, 2013. The expansion includes a prisoner's kitchen and a mental health wing. The project also included, renovations to the old building.

The United States makes grant assistance awards to support and improve the capacity of the FSM to develop the human, financial, and material resources necessary to improve and provide education, health care, private sector development, protection of the environment, public sector capacity building, and public infrastructure, with priorities in the education and health care sectors.



Kosrae Public Safety Building

Position Announcement No.: PA-02-13
Date: April 22, 2013



EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The FSM Petroleum Corporation is a progressive state owned enterprise that values diversity and inclusiveness, and is committed to harnessing the local talent of Micronesians. We operate throughout Micronesia, with operations in Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap and Guam. The company employs some of the best people in the industry, and has a mission to develop and train our people *to be the best at what they do* in the Region. We are seeking the right candidate for the position of:

Electrical Tradesperson/Renewable Energy Technician

Reporting to the Engineer Manager, your principle responsibilities will be to provide electrical maintenance, testing, and inspections of all installed electrical equipment. The individual in this position will also assist in the construction, commissioning and other works involved in renewable energy systems (Solar PV), practices and processes in a safe and responsible manner. He/she is expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to the job at all times. This exciting career development opportunity is available to a suitably qualified professional and will be based at our Pohnpei Head Office in FSM. Some of the key responsibilities of the Electrical Tradesperson/ Renewable Energy Technician will include: electrical installation and commissioning of industrial motor drives, motor control centers, LV switchboards and electricity distribution, industrial local site power, lighting, power and both fixed and mobile tools and equipment; preparing, planning schedules, estimates and budgets for projects; and, coordinating activities associated with the manufacture, installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance or repair of equipment or systems.

Qualifications & Experience

Essential

- We are seeking an individual that works well under pressure, is well spoken, and able and willing to take personal leadership for his/her professional development;
- Possesses a current electrical workers license endorsed for electrical fitting;
- Has five years' post-trade experience;
- Experience in the construction, operation and maintenance of domestic and industrial electricity systems and operational planning, procedures and practices;
- Inspection, testing and commissioning practices;
- Experience in maintenance planning, condition monitoring and fault finding; and,
- Able to converse in the vernacular of at least one of our major operating locations and have a high proficiency in the English language.

Desirable

- Progress towards a diploma in engineering or project management;
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Salary

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FSM Office of SBOC releases FY2012 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the Compact Trust Fund

FSM Information Services

April 26, 2013

Palikir, POHNPEI - On April 26, 2013, the FSM Office of SBOC transmitted the Compact Trust Fund Committee's recently released fiscal year 2012 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement to FSM President Manny Mori and FSM Congress Speaker Isaac V. Figir.

According to the FY2012 Annual Report, the Trust Fund ended the fiscal year (as of September 30, 2012) with a significant gain in net asset value to \$257.3 million - a 30% increase from the fiscal year 2011 amount of \$198.5 million. The increase was due to a net investment gain of \$35.3 million and a US government contribution of \$23.6 million.

Overall, the Trust Fund had a dollar weighted rate of return (minus expenses and contributions) of 14.78%. The rate is the Trust Fund's second best return since inception in 2004. Since inception, the Trust Fund has grown an average of 3.8% per annum (net of fees), a significant improvement over fiscal year 2011's average of 2.2% annual growth.

The net annual investment gain was primarily due to strong performance in US and international public equity markets. The public equity growth was supported by growth in the diversified holdings of fixed income and alternative assets. The Trust Fund's asset structure is balanced to maximize investment gains and minimize investment risks.

Given the positive returns, an allocation of \$20.9 million was made to the "C" account for fiscal year 2012 bringing that account to \$41.2 million. The "C" account is an account, per the Amended Compact's Trust Fund Agreement, to potentially supplement

Trust Fund distributions in fiscal year 2024 and beyond.

In an official submission to President Mori, SBOC Director Evelyn Adolph noted that while the Fund's performance has improved in the last two years, projections remain that the Fund will still significantly fall short of the targeted amount required to provide a smooth transition from Compact sector grants when economic provisions of the Amended Compact are set to expire in 2023. Director Adolph indicated that, "Unless large contributions are made into the Compact Trust Fund, the FSM will not be able to meet its intended target in 2024."

As of the end of fiscal year 2012, the US government has contributed \$173.7 million and the FSM government \$30.3 million into the Compact Trust Fund. Despite ongoing efforts by the Trust Fund Committee and the FSM National Government to explore opportunities to attract additional donors to the Fund, there are currently no other contributors.

The Trust Fund requires close oversight and management by a committee, which, under the terms of the Amended Compact, is made up of five members, three from the US Government and two from the FSM Government. The FSM's current members are Mr. Aren Palik, President and CEO of the Pacific Islands Development Bank in Guam and Mrs. Rose Nakanaga, Assistant Secretary for Investment within the FSM Department of Finance & Administration.

For more information, please contact the Division of Compact Management at the FSM Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance & Compact Management (SBOC) at (691) 320-6260 or email slowe@sboec.fm.

Neth wins runner up prize in PNA/NFA World Tuna Day Art and Talent Quest

By Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)

PACIFIC REGION, 2 MAY 2013: The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) announced the winners of the World Tuna Day Art and Talent Quest today - a major new opportunity to showcase Pacific talent and passion for tuna.

Pohnpei's Yvonne Neth won a runner up prize of \$1000 for her charcoal work entitled "Bigeye Tuna Snared". She displayed that piece of art at a show in Pohnpei just before she sent it in to be entered in the contest.

Neth's explanation of the piece that accompanied her entry said, "I drew this piece as an awareness product. The circumstance of tuna is dire and I hope to communicate this pressing issue with this art piece. A tuna fish peers through a tear in the net, a hole mockingly too small for it to escape. It, like the rest of its kin, is trapped, snarled by nets as large as the greed that kills it.

"A friend of mine viewed this piece yesterday, and she said, "It's so sad. Why don't you draw the tuna in color -- they have beautiful color." My answer, "Yes, they do have beautiful color. And, yes, this piece is sad -- it's supposed to be sad. This is what it's like now, overfishing. Maybe after you see this, action will follow."

First Prize (USD \$3000) was awarded to Chelcia Gomeze (Solomon Islands) for her short story "When seagulls soar the seas again" a beautiful fable about a community whose tuna were lost

through unsustainable development then returned to their shores.

Runner Up prizes (\$1000 each) were awarded to Christopher Usuka (Papua New Guinea) for his poem "Drifting canoes" describing the experience of tuna fishing and Yvonne Neth (Federated States of Micronesia) for her artwork "Bigeye tuna snared" depicting the sadness of overfishing of tuna in an attempt to prompt action.

Special mentions (\$150 each) were awarded by the PNA to Lapieh Landu (Papua New Guinea) for a poem, Max Tihu (Papua New Guinea) for drawings and concepts and Tetaake Yee Ting (Kiribati) for an essay describing traditional fishing methods.

All prize winning entries can be viewed online at www.pnatuna.com

PNA Director Dr Transform Aqorau said: "With over double the amount of entries from last year, we were delighted with the range and quality of entries from all the PNA countries. However, the winning entry and runners up entries stood out as being original, high-quality works of art that celebrate the importance of tuna to our people and the need to protect this vital resource. I would like to congratulate all the winners and thank again our sponsors - our gold sponsor NFA from PNG and our corporate sponsors Trimarine International and Frabelle."

A booklet featuring the best entries from each of the PNA countries will be released at the Pacific Tuna Forum in September 2013.



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Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia

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The FSM Development Bank offers a unique investment opportunity to lease and operate a private hotel and restaurant/bar business in Colonia, Yap State. The business includes 9 eco-bungalows built from traditional materials, set on the hillside overlooking Chamorro Bay, and a restaurant/bar that has been in operation since 1991. A long term lease for the hotel/restaurant/bar premises, improvements, fixtures, equipment is available to FSM citizens and non-citizens through January 2063.

STORE PREMISES and POOL HALL



The FSM Development Bank offers for long term lease premises located in Balebat Village, a 5 minute drive from Colonia, Yap State. A portion of the store premises formerly known as SavWay Mart and attached pool room, with furnishings, equipment and shelving are available for lease to FSM citizens and non-citizens through January 2033.

UNDEVELOPED LAND IN FANIF MUNICIPALITY

The FSM Development Bank offers for sale fee simple ownership to parcel no. 021-E-01, Togogow Ni Lay, in Atliw Village, Fanif Municipality, as shown on cadastral plat no. 021-E-00, to FSM citizens only. This attractive parcel is adjacent to the public road and also to the ocean at the rear.

Please contact FSM Development Bank, Nora E Sigrah at email: noras@fsmdb.fm, phone: [691] 320-2840, fax [691] 320-6533, website: www.fsmdb.fm



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May 24rd, 2013



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Drive: Manual Transmission
Mileage: 17,509
may be different at purchase
Color: Silver
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Make: Nissan
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Drive: Manual Transmission
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College of Micronesia FSM Pohnpei Campus hosts Skills Expo

The Pohnpei Campus of the College of Micronesia FSM put on a well attended and well coordinated and organized Skills Expo on April 25 and 26 in its gymnasium in Daini, Pohnpei. The objective of the event was to promote the skills of Pohnpei Campus students and graduates to the local community and the local workforce.

The students showcased the projects on which they had worked including electronics, food preparation, carpentry, agriculture, solar power, air conditioning and refrigeration and others. Students were well versed and able to talk about what they had learned at the college.

The exhibition provided to the community, a closer look into the programs that are offered at the Pohnpei Campus which included: Hospitality and Tourism Management, Agriculture and Food Technology, Carpentry, Cabinet and Furniture Making, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Construction Electricity, Building Technology, Telecommunication, and Electronic technology.



What's in Pohnpei's Strategic Development Plan – Education Sector

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

April 30, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) is still in committee at Pohnpei's Legislature. So far, despite repeated requests, a link to download the plan still is not available on the website of Pohnpei's Executive Branch (www.pohnpeimet.fm).

In a previous article, The Kaselehlie Press summarized the contents of the plan for the Agriculture Sector. That article also explained how the well organized plan was laid out. The Education Sector's specific outcomes, activities, and outputs spans 23 pages, far too much information to summarize, and that information is already boiled down to its essentials. The following is the Mission Statement and the overarching Strategic Goals for the Education Sector:

EDUCATION SECTOR

MISSION STATEMENT

To recognize and strengthen the shared commitment of parents, extended family, and community to enable students to develop social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and vocational skills; to master languages in both oral and written forms; to engage in

traditional cultural practices; and to prepare all students to contribute to their communities in meaningful and positive ways.

Sector Rationale:

Education is the foundation for building the capacity of all Pohnpei citizens to meet the challenges of systemic development and the demands of self-determination. Both formal and informal educational strategies are needed to prepare citizens to undertake the demands of providing each economic sector with the skilled and knowledgeable human resources (leaders and workers). The Education Sector is positioned to provide high quality curricula, education, and training that nurture traditional values and knowledge, cultivate intellectual curiosity, prepare skilled workers, foster life-long learning, and improve the quality of Pohnpeian life.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: To improve the quality of instructional services for early childhood, elementary, and secondary education.

Rationale: Fundamental and long-term capacity building begins with enhancing the capacity of instructional staff at all grade levels. Enhanced teaching skills and educational expectations, supported by quality learning environments (SG5),

will underlay the human resources capacity for all sectors as Pohnpei's economic strategy evolves.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: To improve the quality of postsecondary education, matching the needs of economic and social development of the State in Pohnpei.

Rationale: Post-secondary education engagement with all sectors is essential to prepare Pohnpeians with knowledge and skills specific to each sector, to entrepreneurial development, and to governmental and human services support functions. High levels of leadership and worker capacity are necessary to achieve personal, community, and state success.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: To increase opportunities for successful completion of postsecondary education.

Rationale: Capacity building will require not only strong early childhood through high school education and training, but also higher level skills and knowledge to support specific areas of development in all sectors of the Pohnpeian economy. To effectively meet the missions and strategic goals of all sectors of the Pohnpeian economy, Education Sector leadership must

identify needed capacity, identify and develop a network of post-secondary education providers, and facilitate the preparation for, application and admission to, and successful completion of post-secondary education across diverse fields serving all sectors of the economy.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4: To improve existing and create new life-long learning opportunities.

Rationale: Strengthening the capacities of the Pohnpeian work force through targeted training programs will provide essential support to the growth of all economic sectors as stakeholders in each pursue the achievement of each Strategic Goal.

STRATEGIC GOAL 5: To improve the effectiveness of education support services and programs.

Rationale: In combination with instructional services and expanded training opportunities, educational infrastructure and human resources provide and maintain safe, clean and hazard-free environments that foster learning. High quality learning environments will contribute to enhanced learning and capacity growth within all sectors.

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- For information on Alcoholics Anonymous call 924-9197 or email lonestarahelicopters@yahoo.com
- 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.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at:
- rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
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Recess "Goes Local" at Ohmine Elementary!



Tasty local snacks for recess -

By Tomoko Mitsuhashi (JICA)

Every day at recess, students at Ohmine Elementary school in Kolonia come out of their classes ready to eat snacks. There are plenty of shops around the school, mostly selling Kool-Aid, cookies and other unhealthy sweets during the "recess rush".

One parent, however, has decided to do something to make students' snacks healthier. In January, Mihla Fredric started a shop which sells nothing but delicious local food a few times a week. Mihla sells papaya, soursop, coconuts, yam, pumpkin, daiduhj (banana fritters) and yam chips, among other things. The best part? Everything costs just 25 or 50 cents, so students can afford the tasty nutritious treats.

Mihla says she goes to her land in Madolenihmw to harvest local food for the students every weekend. She makes her snacks freshly each morning before opening her store. The students' favorite snack is the coconut ice-bar, made with coconuts and condensed milk. Students line up in front of the shop, and in no time the snacks are all sold out! It all started when Rosalinda Sienes, Ohmine Elementary's Vice Principal, spoke to Mihla about reducing students' intake of junk food. Mihla wants to help the school because she believes in going local and also because her son is a student there. She says she never expected so many students to be interested in local food.

Ohmine school's efforts to go local don't stop with Mihla's store, either. 6th Grade students have had ten "Go Local! Go Math!" lessons so far, which combine health information with math lessons. Students now know that local food is an important part of a healthy body, but until recently, they didn't have access to local food at the school. With Mihla's store, Ohmine is well on its way to raising healthy students with bright futures. Here's

hoping this movement continues at Ohmine and throughout Pohnpeian schools!

SPECIAL THANKS to Ohmine Elementary School, Mihla Fredric, Ben Taylor, JICA, Chizuru Seki and Island Food Community of Pohnpei.



Mihla Fredric, Tomoko Mitsuhashi & Ohmine student

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