

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

This bi-weekly publication is only \$1.00

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Wishing you the Happiest New Year!

Archaeologists find 1900 year old artifacts in Mwoakilloa

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 20, 2013

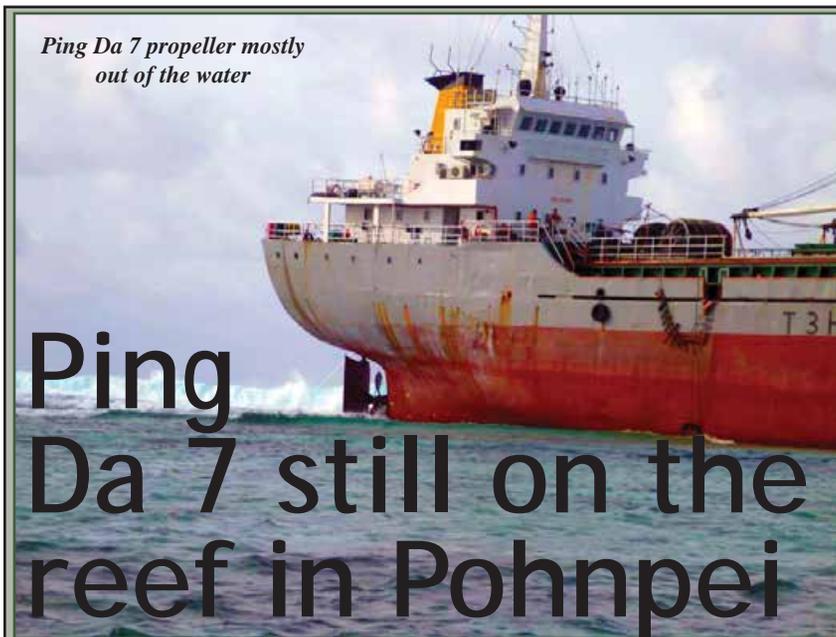
Pohnpei, FSM—A recent archaeological discovery on Kahlap, Mwoakilloa reaffirms the theory that as long as 1900 years ago people travelled amongst Pohnpei, Mwoakilloa, Ahnd, and Kosrae.

Recently a group of archaeologists sought the approval of the Mwoakilese community to excavate a three meter test unit (a systematically dug hole). Community members gave that approval and in November, 2013, Adam Thompson, Aaron Poteate, and Emily Gibson began their work. The test

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Aaron Poteate inside the excavation in Mwoakilloa



Ping Da 7 propeller mostly out of the water

Ping Da 7 still on the reef in Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 23, 2013

Pohnpei, FM--The Ping Da 7, a massive refrigerated fish carrier has

been "parked" on one of Pohnpei's northernmost reefs since approximately 5:20 a.m. on December 11. The ship is loaded with 75 metric tons of Intermediate Fuel Oil (IFO), 75 metric tons of Marine Gas Oil, eight metric tons of lube oil, and an unspecified amount of refrigerant that would have been used to keep fish frozen in its two massive freezers had they made it into the harbor to transship them.

Informed sources say that so far the hull of the vessel has not been breached so none of those volatile environmental contaminants are currently leaking. Eyewitnesses say that last week's heavy surf did move the vessel further onto the reef.

The only word we have been able to get from governmental sources came in the form of a press release from the See "Pohnpei Reef" on page 4

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AVAILABLE NOW! Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

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BFSM Member **FDIC** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

ONPA digs into National Government travel expenditures

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 9, 2013

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—An audit by the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) says that in fiscal years 2010 through 2012 the National Government spent an average of approximately \$6 million per year for travel within the FSM and abroad. It says that significant improvements are needed on internal controls on travel expense to ensure that the government is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

“We are concerned that responsible staffs are ignoring the existing guidelines and requirements in their handling and processing of travel activities within the government,” wrote Haser Hainrick, the National Public Auditor in his executive summary. “As a result, government funds are more prone to waste and abuse.”

The last ONPA audit of National Government travel activities was in 2005. Hainrick wrote that the previous audit pointed out numerous deficiencies in the handling and processing of travel activities. He said that the previous audit recommendations were not implemented and that as a result the current audit contains similar issues and weaknesses.

The audit findings include the following:

1. Ineffective monitoring and reviewing of travel advances and documents resulted in various non-compliances.
2. Travelers with outstanding and/or overdrawn travel advances were still issued travel advances.
3. There was an inadequate internal control procedure in writing-off travel advances/overdrawn advances.
4. Travels funded by outside sponsoring agencies were not refunded to the government.
5. There was non-compliance in the handling of non-government employee travel.

In his management letter Hainrick indicated his belief that attitudes are changing. “The new administration of the department (FSM

Department of Finance and Administration) is keen to improve operations.” It was an interesting statement to make considering that the Secretary’s response disagreed with many of the particulars of the audit and the ONPA evaluation of management response said, “It is our opinion that some of the explanation(s) made in the management response are mere excuses.”

By phone, Mr. Hainrick said that the statement in the management letter was based on previous consultation with the Secretary and the good working relationship ONPA has with the Department. He stands by his statement and says that he looks forward to good things in the handling of travel activities of the National Government.

On finding one, the audit says that travel accountants failed to implement internal controls in order to strictly monitor travel advances and review travel documentation. It additionally said that the newest accountant in the Travel Section lacks the necessary training.

Auditors sampled 439 travel vouchers and supporting documents. They found that of the sample documents:

- 158 (36 percent) were filed after the 10 working-day deadline for filing after the completion of travel.
- 100 (23 percent) were not processed on time. Either claims were paid or no notice of overdrawn amount was made beyond the 10 working-day requirement from the date the Travel Expense Report and Vouchers were submitted to DFA.
- 127 (29 percent) lacked proper documentation such as original airline boarding passes and airline ticket stub and others.

It also said that some airfares due to a travel agency have been long outstanding. Out of the 20 sampled airfare expenses, the supporting documents for three airfares were missing, two were partially paid, and seven were not yet paid.

In his response, Secretary Ikosia disagreed with the particulars of the first finding in terms of total numbers. He also said that

in the case of lost boarding passes, the department had been accepting alternative documentation of the travel such as immigrations stamps in a traveler’s passport.

Finding two said that DF&A issued travel advances to employees who had not cleared outstanding or overdrawn travel advances, a practice that is not allowed under the Financial Management Regulations. Auditors said that the problem of travelers with two or more outstanding or overdrawn travel vouchers is pervasive throughout the government. At the end of the audit period they found that \$988,323 worth of travel vouchers have accrued in the books for travelers with two or more outstanding or overdrawn travel vouchers.

The audit said that DF&A wrote off \$344,042 worth of travel advances as uncollectable. DF&A provided a detailed listing of the travel advances to President Mori by a memo dated April 4, 2012. The memo was just for his information and not for his approval. The actual write-off was reflected as adjustments to the books effective in fiscal year 2011.

The audit said that there were no records reflecting that collection efforts had been tried and exhausted in pursuing the collection of amounts due before recommending the write-offs. It said that the listing included some active employees who are still working for the government. The outstanding travel advances of resigned employees were not reflected in the employment clearance form for settlement, or the outstanding travel advances were not updated when the clearance form was signed. The specific reasons for the individual write-offs such as death, termination, retirement, repatriation, or other reasons were not documented.

Sometimes outside agencies fully fund travels for government officials. Most times, outside funding agencies don’t pay for travel expenses such as per diems until after the traveler arrives. Sometimes that process takes several days. Meanwhile, the employee needs to be able to pay for expenses until they receive travel money from the outside agency. However, the audit discovered that travel advances were issued

to two employees with notations that they were to collect the advance from the sponsor and pay back the advance to the government. The employees never reimbursed any amount of the \$2,294 they collectively received as an advance from the government, and the Travel Section did not make any follow-up on the two reimbursements.

“Because this is based only on the sample population, we believe that more travel advances were not be reimbursed for travels that were fully funded by outside sponsors,” the audit said.

The audit said that the problem occurred because of the absence of written policies and procedures, lack of monitoring or follow up, and because the Travel Section relies only on the traveler’s initiative to return the amount of travel funds advanced by the government.

Financial Management Regulations say, “If a traveler is not an employee (of the government), that person would have to be a board member of a board of directors for the government. Others, who are authorized by the official approving the Travel Authorization (TA) should be with a written invitation naming the said traveler.”

According to finding number five, that policy was not uniformly followed. As example the audit said that four non-employees were provided travel money in order to attend the Micro Island Fair in Guam for a total of \$4199.44. One TA in the amount of \$1386.36 was issued for airfare and per diem to a non-employee to travel from Chuuk to Guam and back in order to “meet with the constituents residing in Guam.” A TA in the amount of \$367 for per diem and “other” was issued to a non-employee to travel from Chuuk to Pohnpei and back in order to “attend 17th Congress inauguration”. Another non-employee was given a \$500 per diem for travels to Honolulu in order to “meet with constituents” residing there.

No written invitations naming the non-employee travelers were attached to the TA’s.



The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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Spirit of giving broadens during 62nd Operation Christmas Drop



*By Airman 1st Class Emily A. Bradley
36th Wing Public Affairs*

12/11/2013

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam - More than 200 Airmen from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and Yokota Air Base, Japan, joined with community members from Guam and Micronesia to celebrate the 2013 Operation Christmas Drop opening ceremony here Dec. 10.

The event marked the official start of Pacific Air Forces' annual humanitarian airdrop mission throughout Micronesia during the holiday season, which has occurred for the past 62 years.

"The 36th Wing is very grateful to be able to work hand-in-hand with our wingmen from Yokota Air Base, our wingmen from the 734th Air Mobility Squadron and the community of Guam in this combined effort," said Col. Reid Langdon, 36th Operations Group commander.

Col. Robert Blagg, Yokota's 374th Operations Group commander, and Manny Hechanova, a University of Guam representative who provides vital liaison between islanders in Micronesia and airdrop mission planners, joined Langdon onstage to honor the generous contributions from donors and volunteers.

"Today, we are honored to partner with local community leaders and volunteers here in Guam, whose generous giving and support for this operation has been remarkable," Blagg said. "These boxes--filled with goodwill, joy and hope--represent the tireless efforts of a team of volunteers who embody the spirit of giving."

Hechanova agreed, stating that the

momentum that builds with each year's planning and execution is infectious for all of those involved.

"We are saving lives every day and ensuring they have a good Christmas once again," Hechanova said.

Following the ceremony, two C-130 Hercules aircrews from the 36th Airlift Squadron took off from Andersen to conduct the first OCD airdrop missions. The first flights began the dispatch of 300-pound airdrop bundles ready for delivery to islands located in the Federated States of Micronesia, approximately 350 miles from Andersen. First on the crews' list were Ifalik, Faraulep, Piig, Falalis, Eauripik and the Woleai Atoll.

This year, aircrews are slated to deliver 32,000 pounds of supplies, clothing and food to 57 islands over the course of the weeklong mission.

Operation Christmas Drop is the longest-running humanitarian mission backed by the Department of Defense. The annual mission began in 1952 when an aircrew assigned to Andersen was flying over the Micronesian island of Kapingamarangi when they noticed residents waving to them. The crew gathered items on the aircraft, circled around and sent a container of supplies down on a parachute.

Though the islands are self-sustaining, volunteers look forward to giving as much as they can in the spirit of the holiday season. Donations include water, rice, canned food, clothing, books, school supplies, gardening items and toys.

"These people are not in crisis; however, we are making their quality of life much better by providing them supplies," said Master Sgt. Bobby Lynch, 2013 OCD committee president. "This mission is also an excellent opportunity for our Airmen to train."

The 18 missions flown during OCD serve as a chance for C-130 aircrews to practice low-cost, low-altitude



airdrop tactics, techniques and procedures. The capability is transferrable across a variety of mission sets, from combat operations to humanitarian relief and disaster response.

"We train all the time for real-world operations, and this kind of thing is what we dream of," said Maj. John Chrampanis, 36th Airlift Squadron C-130 pilot. "We were just in the Philippines helping them recover, and now we are here doing this humanitarian mission. It's nice to be able to make an impact."



...Pohnpei Reef

Continued from front page

Department of Justice which simply said that the vessel is "owned by Jiang Hai Ping of Zhejiang province, China, operated/chartered by New Shipping Co., LTD, of Nanjing, China and registered in the Republic of Kiribati with an international call sign of T3HF2."

It also said that "the President and the Governor of Pohnpei State have activated a joint task force to assist the owner and vessel operators in removing the vessel from the reef in the safest way possible and putting in place emergency measures to prevent further damage to the reef and environment."

Pohnpei's Attorney General said that he could not discuss the legal ramifications of the accident because he hadn't yet filed suit in court.

We have been unable to confirm much at all about what is currently happening with the Ping Da 7 and have been forced to get as much information as we can from people who have been directly involved though they are not official sources. One of those sources said that last weekend insurance investigators from the vessel's insurance company were on island looking

into the matter.

Larry Adams said that his company did assist with his tugboat at the request of Caroline Fisheries Corporation, the vessel's shipping agent, but his company has not been hired for the salvage operation. Adams said that his company assisted through Saturday, December 15. He said that he didn't know if any company had been hired yet.

Adams said that he went out to see what was happening last Thursday afternoon but because of high and dangerous surf he was not able to get anywhere close to the vessel. He said that as best he could tell crew members are still aboard.

Unofficial sources are now saying that the vessel was not under steam when it went onto the reef as was previously reported. Those sources are now saying that when the vessel arrived early that Wednesday morning the port's pilot service was not yet open, and wouldn't open until 7:00 in the morning. Apparently the crew shut the engines down and drifted while waiting for the pilot service to open. They did not hit the reef head on as was reported but instead, drifted onto the reef broadside.

Again, the only "official" information we have been able to obtain was the small press release from the FSM Department of Justice.

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ISSUES ADVISER

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum was founded in August 1971 and comprises 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific. Its Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues.

The Forum's administrative arm is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings.

The Forum Secretariat is also mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Pacific Plan for strengthening regional cooperation and integration.

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

About this Opportunity

An exciting opportunity exists for a Regional & International Issues Adviser to join the Strategic Partnerships & Coordination Programme. Reporting to the Director, Strategic Partnerships & Coordination, you will be responsible in leading the liaison and coordination of the Forum's work with those of its key stakeholders in the region and internationally. Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Coordinating implementation of partnerships under Pacific Plan;
- Coordinating overall relations between the Forum and its dialogue partners;
- Coordinating relations between the Forum and other regional organizations;
- Providing effective representation of the Forum's interests at selected regional and international meetings; and
- Managing staff as required.

Applicants should have an advanced university degree in social science including international relations and they should have at least 7-10 years experience in coordinating regional and international development issues and development partnerships. Applicants must also possess a sound knowledge of the international concerns and interests of Forum members and of the regional positions on these concerns and interests. Applicants should be willing to travel economy class.

About the Benefits

The appointment will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR 38,509 to SDR 57,763 per annum. At the 1 December 2013 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD109,214 to FJD163,820. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available.

To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country.* Deadline for applications is 24 January 2014.

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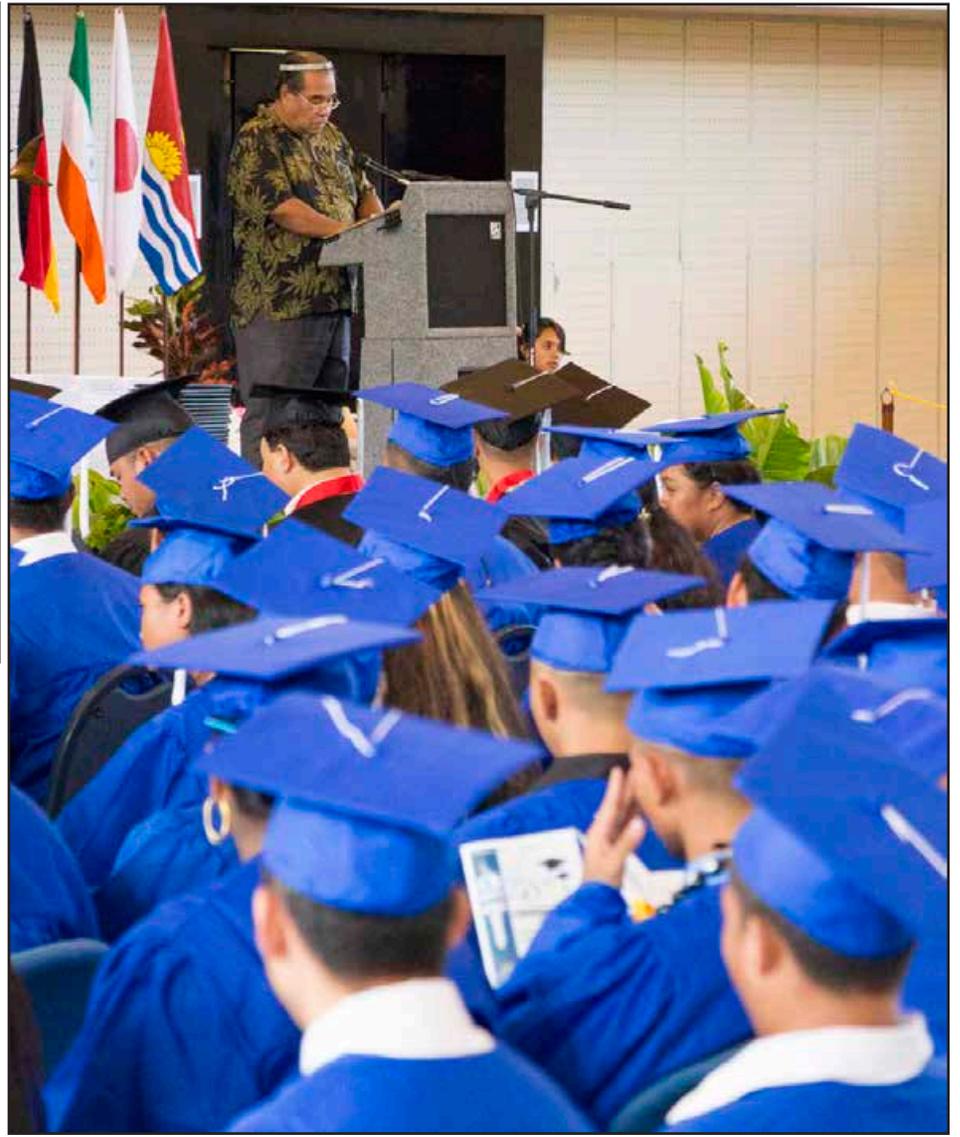
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College Celebrates 58th Commencement Exercises



December 19, 2013

Palikir, Pohnpei - The National and Pohnpei Campuses celebrated their 58th Commencement Exercises on December 19, 2013 at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center. Over 500 attendees were present to witness the marching of the graduates including dignitaries and leaders of the community.

management for their efforts towards re-affirmation of its accreditation. Dr. Rufino challenged the graduates to have a strategic plan for their future.

The top two academic honors were given to valedictorian Mary Joyce Pulmano and salutatorian Loveleen Sepin.

College President & CEO Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. gave the welcoming remarks and shared that "this is the time for students to recognize and celebrate their academic accomplishments. For the parents and families of our students, commencement provides yet another point of pride." President Daisy recognized and thanked the faculty for their significant contribution to the education of the students and to the future of the FSM.

The Admissions Records & Retention Office says that among the 221 students from the National, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae campuses that will graduate this fall:

- 19 will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Guam
- 1 will graduate with a Master of Arts in Reading from the University of Guam
- 30 will graduate with a Master of Arts in Education with specialization in postsecondary educational leadership from the San Diego State University
- 81 will graduate from the Summer 2013 COM-FSM programs

The commencement address was given by Dr. Rufino Mauricio, Secretary, Department of Education for the FSM who then congratulated the college's

Dr. Rufino Mauricio delivers the commencement address



COM Standard Bearer



Class Valedictorian Mary Joyce Pulmano delivers the valedictory address



...Artifacts

Continued from front page

excavation was intended to build upon work done in Mwoakilloa two years ago 30 meters away from the test unit dug in November.

Thompson, who headed up the project, said that the test unit he dug two years ago was about five meters away from the taro patch in the center of Kahlap and was one meter wide by one meter long. He said that they dug down to a depth of two meters before they hit beach sand that held no artifacts.

Three radiocarbon tests were performed on the layers of soil above the beach sand and returned dates of 1400, 1500, and 1600 years ago from the middle layers to the deepest deposits.

Within the 1600 year old level was two volcanic rock pieces. One of the rock pieces was a stone tool fragment. Geochemical analysis showed the rocks to have come from Pohnpei.

In the layer of soil dated to 1400 years ago were two rocks found not to have come from Pohnpei. Thompson believes they may have come from Kosrae. One of the "non-Pohnpeian" volcanic stones had red paint on it. Previously, Kosrae sites dated to 1400 years ago have contained rocks with red pigment on it. Thompson said that Dr. Felicia Beardsley believes those stones may have been associated with the worship of certain spirits but that to say any more on that theory would be pure speculation.

Thompson said that he believes that since people were bringing volcanic stone for use as tools and possibly as object of worship from Pohnpei and

Kosrae to Mwoakilloa between 1400 and 1600 years ago, Mwoakilloa served as a stopping point for people traveling between Pohnpei and Kosrae.

This year's dig was at the tallest point in the center of the islet which Thompson said people had been building up over the history of the island in order to protect themselves from storm surges.

"As people built up the islet, they accidentally locked objects from those time periods in the ground for us to discover," he said.

Though the team will not know the dates of the layers of their November excavation until after radiocarbon tests are completed, their discoveries allow them to make some informed inferences.

The oldest artifacts that have so far been discovered in Pohnpei and Kosrae have been radiocarbon dated to be 1900 years old. Artifacts that old have been found only in three places, Nan Madol and Ahnd in Pohnpei, and Lelu, in Kosrae. All three of those sites contained pottery. The pottery was made from clay soil which was molded into the shape of a bowl and then baked in an oven until it was hard. The type of clay soil that was used for the pottery found at the above sites can only be found on volcanic islands. Thompson said that before this year's excavation in Mwoakilloa, no other pottery has been found in any other context in Pohnpei or Kosrae.

Thompson said that in this year's excavation they found a few small pieces of pottery in the deepest layer which appear to have been washed by ocean waves. They therefore believe that layer to have been at least 1900 years old though they will not know for sure until radiocarbon testing is completed.

Also in the deepest layer they found a shell with fine etchings. He said that like cave paintings the find represents something significant but they currently have no idea what the etchings mean.

Because of the presence of pottery at the deepest level of the excavation the team surmises that Mwoakilloa was first settled 1900 years ago at the same time as Pohnpei, Ahnd, and Kosrae by a common ancestral culture.

The excavation in 2011 reveals that travelers were still sailing amongst the islands 1400 to 1600 years go.

Thompson said that no one really believes anymore that people first settled Mwoakilloa, Pohnpei, or Kosrae by accidental drift. The recent excavation further solidifies the idea that the islands were intentionally settled and that aspects of the culture on Pohnpei and Kosrae were shared by Mwoakilloa at that time.

Shallower layers of this year's excavation revealed how the culture had changed over time in Mwoakilloa. In the middle layers of the test unit, quite a few dog teeth were found showing that many dogs were being eaten during that time.

The team also found an abundance of other artifacts including shell tool fragments and shell beads. Thompson said that stones stacked within the profile are believed to be a house foundation from the time that beads were made. Since some of the beads are incomplete, Thompson believes that those beads were made right at that site and that some slipped into the foundation while they were being made.

They also found a tattoo needle made of dog bone and, in the deepest layers, the oldest shell adze found on the island.

Much analysis is left to be done. The people of Mwoakilloa gave their permission for the team to remove human teeth found in the excavation and to have their DNA analyzed. Thompson believes that analysis may provide clues to the origin of early settlers.

They will also test dog teeth found at the site in order to find out the lineages of dog breeds and from where they might have come.

PhD Candidate Aaron Poteate of the University of Oregon will conduct the analysis of faunal material gathered at the site in order to assess how the diet changed over time. That information will provide indicators about how well the people were surviving through the cultural and environmental changes that took place around them.

Thompson says that of all of the artifacts he has ever found, the etched shell in Kahlap, Mwoakilloa is probably the most interesting, though he has no idea what the red pigmented etchings mean.

"Each of the symbols is similar but each has a slightly different pattern and number," he wrote. "One suggestion was that they represented genealogies. The person etching the patterns is remembering his or her lineage and the relations to many different people. Another suggestion is that these may represent sailing patterns to different islands. As the person is chanting the directions the symbols help them to remember the chants.

"Many alternative ideas may come to mind (such as) winds (or spirits). Currently, we are looking for any symbols from around the Pacific that may look similar, such as cave paintings."

He said that the shell has proven difficult to care for because if allowed to dry out the symbols fade quickly. If kept moist, the symbols reappear.

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FSM expands diplomatic reach in Asia-Pacific

FSMIS/PACNEWS

POHNPEI, FSM --- The Federated States of Micronesia continues to expand its reach in the Asia-Pacific region. In a short official ceremony recently, the FSM and Mongolia signed a joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Mongolia.

The signing was done in Beijing, China by the two countries' Beijing-based ambassadors, Tsendenjav Sukhbaatar of Mongolia and Akillino H. Susaia of the FSM.

Both countries acknowledged the signing of the joint communiqué as the beginning of a new relation that will require both sides to work together and strengthen it throughout the years to come.

Susaia stated that much work is needed to further enhance the relations that the countries will build for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Susaia expressed the FSM government's desire to collaborate with Mongolia on issues of mutual interest at both the bilateral level as well as in the international arena. Staff of the two respective embassies witnessed the ceremony, with minister counselor Jackson Soram

accompanying Susaia from the FSM side. Both ambassadors directed their respective staff to commence the legwork to further enhance the relations, including the need to explore the need to cross-accredit ambassadors.

Mongolia is the 71st country with which the FSM has established diplomatic relations.

Meanwhile, the new United Nations resident coordinator and U.N. Development program resident representative to the Federated States of Micronesia based in Suva, Fiji has presented her letter of credence to Samson Pretrick, acting secretary of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs.

During the ceremony, Pretrick welcomed Lubrani to the FSM and congratulated her. He also thanked her for making time to visit the FSM to formally present her credentials.

Pretrick informed Lubrani that he was very happy to receive her letter of credence on behalf of the FSM government.

He noted that the letter and her visit reaffirm the close working relationship that exists between the FSM and UNDP.

He also expressed the FSM's appreciation for UNDP's role as an implementing agency for many projects in the areas of environment, conservation and biodiversity.

Lastly, he indicated that the FSM will continue to work with UNDP in the implementation of these beneficial projects.

Lubrani thanked Pretrick and expressed her readiness to work with the FSM government.

They discussed some areas which needed further cooperation and collaboration, especially the review of the U.N. Development Assistance Framework, the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and other U.N.-related issues.

Attending the ceremony, were Okeen Ehmes, country development manager of the U.N. Joint Presence, a representative from the World Health Organization, staff from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the FSM Public Information Office.

During her short visit in the FSM, Lubrani also paid a courtesy call on Vice President Alik L. Alik and the heads/representatives of each department and agency.

ONPA releases Audit on Food Security efforts in the FSM

Office of the National Public Auditor

The Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) announces the release of Audit Report No. 2014-01, Audit on the Management of the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security in the FSM. A digital copy of the report is available for public review online at www.fsmopa.fm and printed copies are available at the ONPA offices on Weno, Chuuk and in Palikir, Pohnpei. The audit was conducted pursuant to Title 55 of the FSM Code, Chapter 5 and in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The audit was undertaken by the Office of the Public Auditor of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as part of a cooperative audit initiative developed by the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions with the support of the Asian Development Bank, the INTOSAI Development Initiative and the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

The objective of the audit was to assess the effectiveness of the actions taken by key agency/agencies in developing and implementing strategic action plans to address the impacts of climate change on food security in the FSM.

There are two entities in the FSM National Government responsible for developing the overall action plans to

See "ONPA Food" on page 11

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[^]PROMO EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 31, 2013!



FSM and Japan - Celebrating



Message from President Emanuel Mori

It is with great pleasure that I extend on behalf of the entire leadership and people of the Federated States of Micronesia our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the 80th birthday of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan. We wish His Majesty peace, happiness and prosperity.

As we are also celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia, I would like to reiterate our pride and joy in reaching this historic milestone of our Diplomatic Relations. Last month, I had the privilege to have bilateral talks with Prime Minister Abe in Tokyo during which we reiterated the importance that we both attached to our bilateral relations.

As we celebrate together, Japan's National Day, we can take pride in our shared accomplishments and work together to address the challenges that lay ahead. It is FSM Government's strong desire to continue to work closely with Japan in pursuit of the shared aspirations and strengthening our friendship.

The Visit of Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Shunichi Suzuki, visited Federated States of Micronesia on September 7th and 8th, 2013, as "Special Envoy of the Prime Minister". During his stay, Mr. Suzuki paid a courtesy call on President Emanuel Mori, and held a bilateral meeting with Secretary Lorin Robert of Department of Foreign Affairs.

He also had meetings with the members of the FSM-Japan Friendship Society, representatives of Japanese residents in Pohnpei, and JICA volunteers.



Grant contract signing ceremony for Kosrae Road project and Weno Mobile Clinic



Courtesy call to President Mori

Message from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

I wish to join you to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on 16 December 2013, and extend my sincere gratitude towards all who have contributed to enhancing this important bilateral relationship.

Japan will never forget your friendship extended to us at the time of Great East Japan Earthquake. Taking this opportunity, I would like to renew my heartfelt gratitude to the people of the FSM.

In November this year, President Mori made an official visit to Japan, and we could have a fruitful summit meeting in Tokyo. As I stated during the meeting, the FSM is our neighboring country across the Pacific Ocean, sharing deep historical ties and basic values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

The Constitution of the FSM stipulates in its preamble that the "seas bring us together, they do not separate us." The seas have indeed brought Japan and the FSM together over the past 100 years. I understand that this phrase represents thought and insight that the seas are a global common as well as common foundation of our life. I therefore believe that Japan and the FSM should closely cooperate to maintain the sea open to everyone based upon the rule of law.

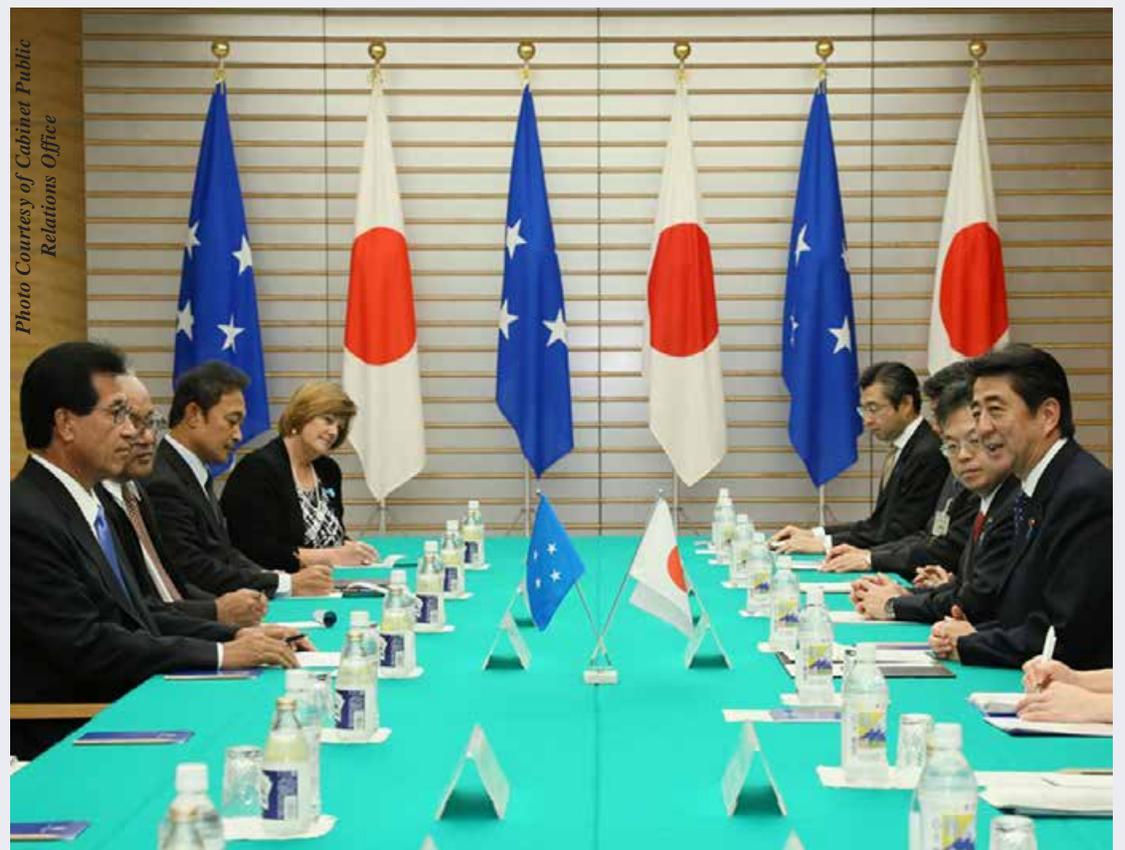
The history of exchanges between Japan and the FSM has passed a century during which various events have taken place. Yet, we should look forward to the future, respect this great ocean as a theater of activities and cooperation, for which we work together in order to achieve another 25 years with peace and prosperity.

President Mori's visit to Tokyo

President Mori and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a bilateral meeting on October 31 at Prime Minister Abe's Official Residence, highlighting on the importance that the FSM Government places on the Commemoration of the FSM-Japan diplomatic relation as well as the on-going interactions in the areas of investment and the business sector.

The ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between FSM and Japan was held November 1st, 2013. At this reception President Mori gave remarks to acknowledge that the two countries shared values such as the love of family and respect. President Mori thanked the Government and people of Japan for years of friendship and mutual cooperation underscoring the strengthened historical ties between Japan and FSM.

FSM opened its Embassy in Tokyo 1989 and in 1991 Japan reciprocated with the opening of its Embassy in Pohnpei.



A bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



25 Years of Diplomatic Relations



Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM)

Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) is a summit-level meeting which has been held every three years since 1997. It is a forum where the Government of Japan and leaders from the Pacific Island countries openly discuss various issues that they are facing in order to build close cooperative relationships and forge a bond of friendship between the two countries.



In May 2012, PALM 6 was held in Okinawa, Japan, under the theme "We are Islanders - For Growing 'Kizuna' in the Pacific."

Building on previous commitments of the PALM process, the leaders discussed ways to enhance cooperation with particular focus on five areas: response to natural disasters, environment and climate change, sustainable development and human security,

people-to-people exchanges, and maritime issues.

Each contribution that is provided to the FSM by the Japanese Government falls under those particular topics agreed to in PALM.

The following are a few of Japan's most recent contributions to the FSM:

Project for Improvement of Domestic Shipping Services

Under the Transportation Sector within 'Sustainable Development and Human Security', a General Grant Aid for the Improvement of Domestic Shipping Services was provided to the FSM Government in September 2013. This project in the amount of one billion one hundred ten million Japanese Yen (equivalent to 11.65 million USD) will be utilized to build a new vessel that will assist the current operating Caroline Voyager with its duties, which was also provided to the FSM by the Government of Japan.



Caroline Voyager



Solar Panel Project at the President's Office and COM National Campus



Improvement of Pohnpei International Airport



Pohnpei Catholic School's new classrooms from the Government of Japan

Cultural-Related Events

The Embassy of Japan has celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations through two Japanese festivals in Pohnpei so far. One was held on February 16th at PCR Nantehlik Restaurant during which various Japanese arts, games, dances, and types of food were presented..

The second festival was held on October 20, 2013 at the COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus Gymnasium and the students of COM, Ohmine and Kolonia elementary schools took part. Visitors from Kochi Prefecture from Japan joined as well.



"Yosakoi" dance by Kolonia Elementary students



"Sorabushi" dance by Ohmine Elementary students



Ambassador Suzuki



Display of beautiful Japanese Kimono



Taking pictures in Japanese Yukata



Trying out Japanese calligraphy



Madame Sugako Suzuki performing the art of the Japanese Tea Ceremony

FSM First Lady Emma Nelson-Mori keeps December 25 Christmas giving tradition with hospital patients

FSM Information Service

December 26, 2013

This Christmas marks the sixth year that the Federated States of Micronesia First Lady Emma Nelson-Mori has made visits to patients and their families at the Genesis Hospital and the Pohnpei State Hospital on Christmas Day.

While it is not easy for family and friends to spend the Christmas Day at the hospital, this annual tradition by the First Lady brings holiday cheer to those who find themselves confined to the hospitals on this very day.

Done by the first Lady on hers and the President's behalf in the giving spirit of Christmas, a less obvious significance of the day for the First Family in relation to their tradition is the fact that the President's birthday falls on the 25th of December.

Mrs. Mori visited all wards and greeted each patient with a gift and cake.

The First Lady was accompanied by her granddaughter, two nephews and staff from the President's Office.

As the First Lady and others got busy at the two hospitals, Chief of Staff Leo Falcam Jr. and Special Assistant to the President Pelsesar Petrus visited the Pohnpei State Jailhouse in Nett and delivered food as part of the President's Christmas gift-giving.



First Lady Emma greeted a young boy patient during visit at the Pohnpei State Hospital on December 25, 2013. Family members look on with appreciation

Editor's Note: The First Lady visited the hospital room of my four month old grandson who was admitted with pneumonia on Christmas Eve. By happenstance, we were the last family she visited on that day but we are certainly not the least grateful.

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fsmtc

ONPA Releases Inspection Report of Chuuk State Tax and Revenue Office

Office of the National Public Auditor

The Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) announces the release of Inspection Report No. 2014-04, Inspection of Chuuk State Tax and Revenue Section fiscal years 2010 -2012. A digital copy of the report is available for public review online at www.fsmopa.fm and printed copies are available at the ONPA offices on Weno, Chuuk and in Palikir, Pohnpei. The inspection was conducted pursuant to Title

55 of the FSM Code, chapter 5 and in accordance with the 2011 Quality Standards for Inspection issued by the U.S. Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

The 'Chuuk State Tax and Revenue Office' is responsible for implementing the state tax and revenue laws. It ensures that citizens and businesses pay the correct amount of state taxes and fees to the government.

The objective of our inspection was to determine whether the Chuuk State Tax and Revenue Office's compliance function implemented the efficient and effective processes to ensure taxpayers' compliance with Chuuk State tax system.

Based on our inspection, we concluded that although the Chuuk State Tax and

Revenue Office had implemented some measures to ensure taxpayers' compliance with the tax system, there was still opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the processes in order to ensure improvement in the taxpayers' compliance.. The office did not have a complete tax audit manual and it also lacked regulations with the implementing procedures and guidelines for efficient and effective conduct of its tax audit function, collection and enforcement of all the required taxes under the Chuuk State tax law.

As a result, the potential for tax revenue collections was not maximized, which in turn, has contributed to lesser government funds for urgent and needed public programs and services to improve the welfare of the citizens. We highlighted a number of areas of tax administration and collection that needed improvement.

- About \$1.2 million assessed liabilities for sales taxes and penalties have long been pending for collection
- Two tax delinquent cases involving about \$ 661,000 referred for legal action not resolved in a timely manner
- Absence of strategic planning process to define priority and focus for tax audits

See "ONPA" on page 15

Pohnpei State Hospital conducted a Quality Assurance Seminar with JICA Volunteers

JICA

On December 4 and 5, 2013, committee members of the "5-S" Committee of Pohnpei State Hospital held a two-day seminar on Quality Assurance to enable management level staff to have a proper understanding of the concept of 5-S (Sort, Set, Shine, Standardization and Sustain) and to know how health personnel are capable of improving their present workplace environment. Facilitators include, Mr. Edgar Santos

(Chief of Administration), Ms. Berno Hedson (Clinical Nurse Supervisor), Ms. Pelihna Moses (Quality Assurance) and Mr. Andy Welson (Maintenance Supervisor).

A total of 35 participants were present at the two-day seminar, all were management level staff and representatives. The participants learned the "5-S concept", "Situation analysis methodology", "Action plan development", "Monitoring and evaluation of 5-S activities" and as well as Preventive Maintenance of medical equipment. After the training, attended staff will train and support their

colleagues through further periodical trainings that include on-site informal trainings. All health facilities in Pohnpei State are expected to be fully aware

of this participatory approach of 5-S to assure the improved health service provision.



Islands Business posthumously names Pacific activist as 2013 Pacific Person of the Year

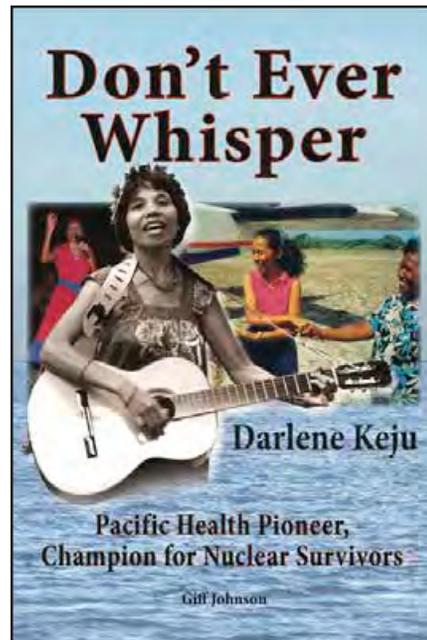
By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 24, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Islands Business has posthumously named Darlene Keju-Johnson as its 2013 Pacific Person of the Year. The article appeared as the publication's cover story in December 2013 and can be found at www.islandsbusiness.com.

Islands Business says that the recognition comes because of "her combination of fearless advocacy with island-style innovation that isn't 'merely relevant' in 2013. Seventeen years after her death in 1996, her words and actions continue to speak to key issues confronting Pacific islanders today: nuclear legacies around the Pacific from weapons testing and accidents such as the ongoing Fukushima nuclear power plant radiation spills into the Pacific; how to design and implement effective community health and development programs; and how people from small islands can engage the outside world from a position of strength."

Her former husband, Giff Johnson of the Marshall Islands Journal and many other



Pacific publications submitted an adaptation from his book on her life entitled, "Don't Ever Whisper: Keju-Johnson —Pacific Health Pioneer, Champion for Nuclear Survivors".

The book has received wide public acclaim throughout the Pacific.

More information on the book can be found at www.donteverwhisper.com.



...ONPA Food

Continued from page 7

address the impacts of climate change on food security. The Office of Environmental and Emergency Management (OEEM) is responsible for climate change policy, addressing climate change issues and providing technical assistance to the four states (Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap & Kosrae) on any related climate change issues. The Department of Resources and Development is responsible for fisheries and agriculture and is responsible for addressing the nation's climate change issues in relation to the FSM's food security needs.

According to the reviews on the impacts of climate change in the FSM, the biggest threat to food security systems in the FSM is the projected impacts of climate change. As a small island developing country, the FSM is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change.

Poor policy and planning by R&D and OEEM has led to minimal actions. What has been done has been uncoordinated and inefficient with no assessment of whether the action is achieving improved food security.

As a result of the audit, the audit team identified the following weaknesses:

- No Comprehensive Action Plan to Address the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security
- Inadequate food security vulnerability assessment
- Inadequate food security policy (Agriculture policy)
- Duplication of efforts/overlapping activities between national and state as well as non-government organization (NGOs)

In addressing the weaknesses above, we have recommended the following:

- That both the FSM Department of R&D, in consultation with OEEM, to develop and implement a comprehensive Food Security Plan that complies with the food security policy and mainstreams the impact of climate change.
- That the OEEM and R&D should collaborate to work together to conduct a comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment/analysis that should integrate the climate change impacts on food security covering not only the low lying atolls, but the high atolls (ridge to ridge) and all the food components such as agricultural products, fish and food importation as well.
- R&D should develop and implement a Food Security Policy to address the impact of Climate Change on food security. The policy should include the following: Climate Change Impact on Food Security; actions to address the vulnerabilities; responsibilities to coordinate actions to implement the policy and implement individual actions; and, mechanisms for managing national-state consultation and coordination.
- The designated person to coordinate and monitor climate change/food security related activities and should assess whether the efforts administered by the national, state, communities, agencies, NGOs overlap and recommend that the budget for those activities be put into more productive use. Furthermore, the National should coordinate well with the State and NGOs in terms of planning to avoid any overlapping activities and should record all projects/programs to readily identify and avoid repetitive and overlapping activities.

Guests' Perspectives

Frequent travel disrupts delivery of services to the public

By Giff Johnson
Pacific Institute for Public Policy
pacificpolitics.com

Majuro, Marshall Island — In the development world of Pacific governments, NGOs, and donor agencies, overseas travel is little discussed but frequently undertaken. The list of conferences, workshops, program reviews, and trainings seems to multiply each year such that mid-level managers and politicians are able to spend close to half the year on the road — and frequently do.

The question, simply, is what benefit does the public from all the trips taken by government personnel? The benefits to the islanders who get on the travel circuit are numerous, but does it result in anything happening back home? Indeed, in some countries, such as the Marshall Islands, government workers are allowed to keep the frequent flyer mileage they accumulate, often in the hundreds of thousands of miles per year — which offers additional free travel. As Palau's special prosecutor demonstrated a few years ago, political leaders often piggybacked personal travel on official travel, with government footing the bill for both the additional airfare and per diem.

Often we find out about this travel on Facebook, as people post news of their travel to exotic locations: we see government people in Dubai, Tokyo, New York, Rome, London. Photos of people hoisting cocktails, standing in front of scenic attractions or feet up on the seats in business class seem to be the Facebook norm.

Because there is increased sensitivity among the public about the high cost of international travel, government officials when issuing media releases about the travel often highlight the fact that the trip was paid for by a donor. But this misses an important point: when government workers are away for weeks on end, it means they are not at home to implement programs and deliver services for the public. A not atypical conversation with someone in government these days goes like this:

Caller: Can we get together in the next few days to talk about this upcoming project?

Government official: I'm leaving on a trip in three days can we do it when I get back?
Caller: When do you return?

Government official: In about two weeks. So the caller waits the two weeks, then adds a couple more days, since quite often government officials do not return to work the day of their arrival or even the next day. Because the government worker has been away, he or she is difficult to reach because postponed meetings have multiplied and numerous people are competing for time. When the caller finally gets through, it

turns out the government worker is about to depart on another trip and so another couple of weeks goes by before they can get together. In the government reality of the 21st century, it can take months to meet with a government worker.

'The trip becomes the goal instead of being viewed as a stepping-stone to something else (access to grants or technical assistance, for example).'

Oddly enough, while most people — at least in the under-40 generation — are oriented to Facebook, posting frequent updates as they travel, it is often difficult to get them to respond to emails. On their return home, they reply to inquiries by apologizing for having been away. Yet in the digital world of email, where we are is of little consequence to maintaining communication. Yet travel seems to be an excuse for disengaging on the part of some government officials.

In recent years, fisheries officials have been required to travel almost as much as those in foreign affairs. Fisheries treaty negotiations with the United States and the European Union, technical and annual meetings with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Forum Fisheries Agency, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) itself occupy many weeks in every year. But in the eight PNA member nations at least, we have seen the benefit being brought home from these meetings: revenue to PNA members has quadrupled over the past four years as a consequence of PNA fisheries management actions.

But the benefits of government trips related to health and social services are less obvious, particularly as these government departments are on the front line of providing services to the public. When high officials or program staff in these areas is gone for three-to-four months a year, their programs suffer at home. Other staff will often apologize to their customers that they cannot make a decision or take action on a request until their supervisor returns from a trip.

The fact is that at least some of the one-week type trainings offered — 'production of information, education and communication (IEC) materials', 'using the media effectively', etc. — are of little value to government officials who are more focused on enjoying their trip than working. Photos abound of U-shaped meeting tables with dozens of officials sitting around, many with laptops on the table. How many of those computers are tuned into Facebook (or some other program) unrelated to the content of the meeting? Far too many, is my observation from attending some workshops. So if some at these workshops are engaged in social media while the training is proceeding, it's pretty obvious that they won't be able to bring much home from

the workshop.

Finally, audits in the Marshall Islands have from time to time noted that government does not always enforce the requirement that an employee submit an acceptable trip report before being eligible to receive the 15 percent balance due for their trip per diem. And even if an employee did produce a cursory report, did recommendations and information from the overseas travel get disseminated to other staff in their office or to other agencies that might benefit from the information? It appears that in many government offices, this doesn't happen.

The trip becomes the goal instead of being viewed as a stepping-stone to something else (access to grants or technical assistance, for example).

It is obvious that without government leadership that understands it needs its employees at home to deliver services, the overseas trip engine will continue on its present track. Certainly, attendance at some overseas activities is necessary and even important. But rethinking the number of overseas trips and the number of people who travel, sapping the strength of limited personnel in small islands, merits attention of governments in the region.

A volunteer's first Christmas in Pohnpei

By David Schelter

It was irony that sprang into being when the singers converged on my balcony, and it changed everything. I had been living in Pohnpei as a World Teach volunteer for over five months, although I had never lived more than eighty miles from where I was born, which was in the U.S., in Michigan. I was over fifty and I never remembered spending a Christmas season away from home and family. Yet there I was...

It was a December afternoon, days before Christmas. I left for Palm Terrace for a new can of evaporated milk. I wanted coffee. Having made my purchase, I waited with others outside the grocery store while the heavy rain pounded. When it let up to regular, I walked. I expected I would pass out of it; I did. My shirt has since dried. Then, with a fresh cup of coffee, smooth and creamy of course, I took up the most familiar spot for me in Micronesia, namely, my chair on the balcony. I thought about how it was Christmas time here, these many miles away from where I came.

People seem to like Christmas here. Students and store workers wear red and white Santa hats. Lights are strung in more places than I ever would have imagined. One day a cab driver pulled in to the businesses across the street, and when his door swung open the street was filled with the music of Joy to The World—tweaked with a little island twang. At one point he tooted his horn in rhythm. During our Pohnpei Campus Christmas Party, I sang with a group of instructors and administrators. Luckily for us the open gym wall let the soft breezes pass to the Student Services area where we were gathered. When they reached us they cooled us, providing comfort while we ate tuna, a variety of prepared banana dishes, chicken and fish, rice, pasta, sweets, and cold, red Kool-Aid.

Such holiday engagement indicated a change for me. It was not too many early evenings before that when I was walking back from Simon's Market with AJ, a co-volunteer, that a car went by with its stereo up and its windows down. Christmas music spilled out. I was struck that it was not still summer. For me, it is like summer here every day and I forget. All my life I have longed for more summer. Very much of my life I have felt oppressed with the coming of fall because it meant the end of summer. Now, the happy Christmas music was out of the car and all in my space with its reminding quality all over me. I did not want it to be Christmas because I did not want summer to end.

"I'm not in the mood for that," I said, with a sentiment of rejection. "I don't want to hear Christmas music."

"Yet, there it is," AJ replied, brilliantly I could not but help notice.

Minutes later, as we ascended the final plateau to my balcony, people appeared below. "We are carolers," they told us. "Can we come up?" Soon the space was filled with nearly a dozen Pohnpeians, in a wide range of ages and appearances, along with a keyboard with music in it, and they started in. First they sang in Pohnpeian, then they did Feliz Navidad, followed by a short list of others before returning to Feliz Navidad and again to Pohnpeian. When they closed with O Holy Night and confidence seemed to wane on the part of the singers, I joined in. Together we filled the street with song.

I expect to spend Christmas with my co-WorldTeach volunteers. Two of our volunteers who teach high school in Kitti are house-sitting in town. We will have an afternoon dinner there, doing potluck with a main dish. The food will be good and I have determined to enjoy myself. I am afraid if I do not then someone might sing at me again.

Ah, let them sing anyway. It is the season for gratitude in my world, and I am full. Such a state makes all the sweeter my Micronesian Christmas, as it does the rich coffee that I sip, on the balcony of my endless summer.

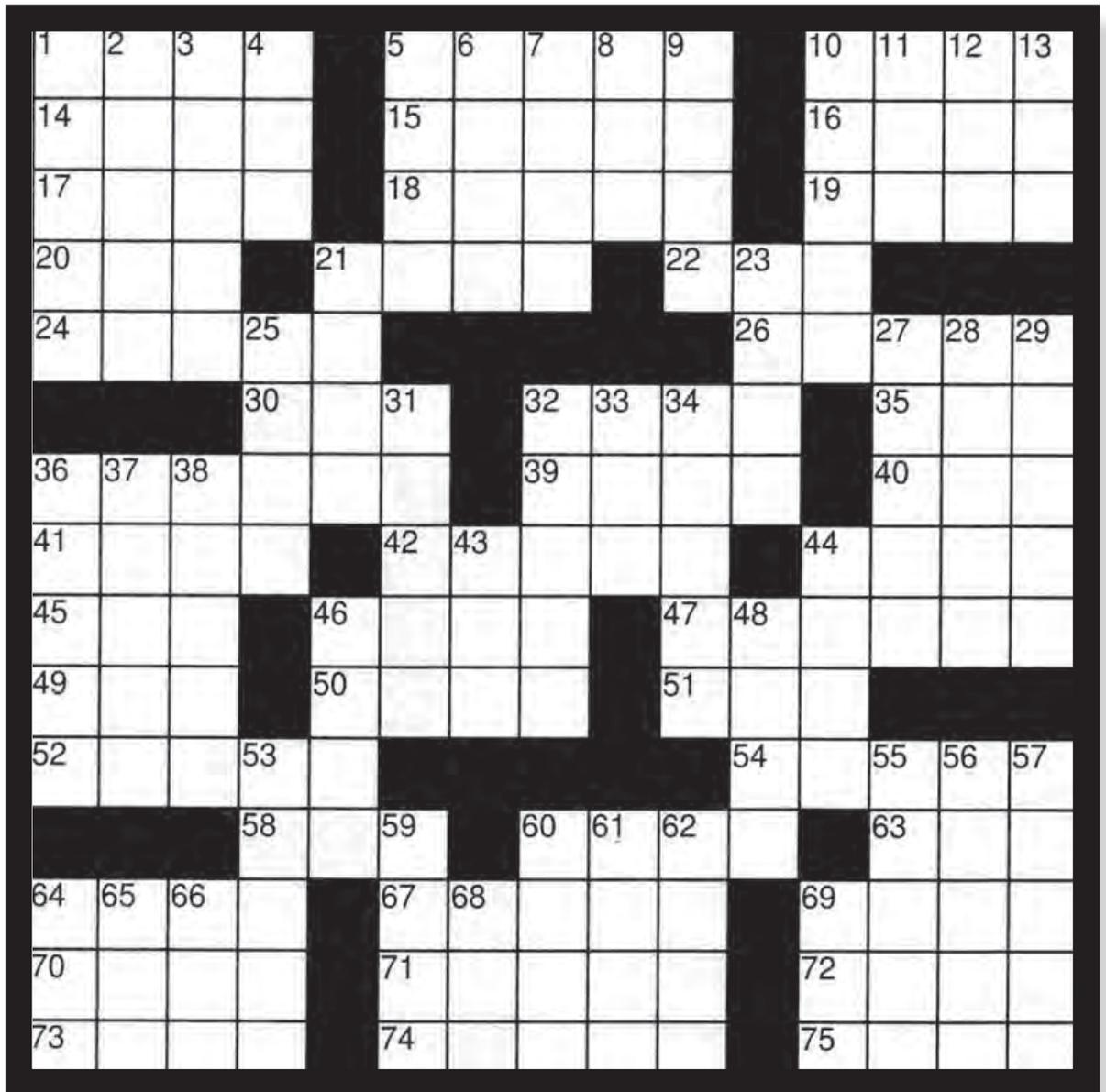
Crossword - Now That's A Lot!

ACROSS

- 1. Baja rahs
- 5. Stamps
- 10. Pts. and qts.
- 14. Cap-____
- 15. Trash
- 16. Sand
- 17. Jazz fans
- 18. "Halt, salt!"
- 19. Blvds. and rds.
- 20. Map abbr.
- 21. Plan part
- 22. Tarzan's pal
- 24. "Walk away ____"
- 26. Warms
- 30. Small flap
- 32. Las Palmas cash
- 35. RSVP part
- 36. Cash back
- 39. Latch ____
- 40. Jazz gp.
- 41. Track path
- 42. Bad lad's grab
- 44. Bawl
- 45. Ran
- 46. Charlatan
- 47. Warns
- 49. Change and ____
- 50. Aardvark snacks
- 51. Garland
- 52. Harsh
- 54. Warmth
- 58. Flap
- 60. Nana
- 63. __Baba
- 64. Smart
- 67. Hallway
- 69. Dash
- 70. 24-Karat
- 71. Gap
- 72. Staffs
- 73. Marsh grass
- 74. ADAs and TAs
- 75. Flank

DOWN

- 1. AMPAS award
- 2. Strand
- 3. Had
- 4. Grad. class
- 5. Bat a gnat
- 6. Mansard part
- 7. Stat
- 8. AF rank
- 9. ____trap
- 10. Match
- 11. D.C. Cab star
- 12. Draw
- 13. AL and WA
- 21. Pants part
- 23. "Rats!"
- 25. Catchall abbr.
- 27. MTMs
- 28. Lama's land
- 29. Smacks
- 31. Start
- 32. Standard and ____
- 33. Naval grad
- 34. Snach
- 36. Play parts
- 37. Match
- 38. Pass
- 43. ____ bran
- 44. Small dam
- 46. Catch
- 48. Slant
- 53. Ran a 10K
- 55. ____Lama
- 56. Chan man
- 57. Wash
- 59. Man____
Mancha
- 60. Scams
- 61. Nap
- 62. Mars
- 64. Y class
- 65. Cast
- 66. Wrath
- 68. 1948 pact
- 69. 911 abbr.



K Press Puzzle Pleasure K Press Puzzle Pleasure



DINING

Is all this solving making you hungry? Then treat yourself to a nice meal at your favorite RESTAURANT. The 38 terms in this puzzle are all associated with dining out.

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

BOOTH
BREAD
BREAKFAST
BUSBOY
CASHIER
CHECK
COFFEE
COOK
COURSE
CUISINE
DINNER
DISH
DRINK
ENTREE
FARE
FISH
HOSTESS
KITCHEN
LUNCH

MAITRE D'
MANAGER
MEAT
MENU
MUSIC
NAPKIN
ORDER
PLATE
RESTAURANT
SALAD
SEAFOOD
SERVICE
SILVER
SOUP
SPECIAL
TABLE
TRAY
UNIFORM
WAITER

Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UNDP Resident Representative visits FSM GEF Small Grants Programme

FSM GEF Small Grants Programme Press Release

December 19, 2013

In addition to Ms. Osnat Lubrani's country visit agenda as the new UN Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Program Resident Representative to the Federated States of Micronesia

based in Suva, Fiji she also took time to learn firsthand the work happening in country by the FSM GEF Small Grants Programme.

by Pohnpei State and FSM Historic office are evolving to establish the site as part of the World Heritage listing.

On Saturday December 07, 2013 Ms. Lubrani site visited an aquaculture project at Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP) to witness in effect the alternative livelihood and income benefit potentials derived from aquaculture to select communities involved with the project at a project site in Madolenihmw. Mr. Simon Ellis Executive Director of MERIP generously hosted Lubrani and shared MERIP's vision in support of developing alternative benefits to communities, in particular adjacent communities located nearby Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network. It is the hope of MERIP that providing aquaculture incentive projects would help reduce inshore fishing pressures thus the connectivity of the initiative with MPA fishers communities.

Finally on December 10, 2013 as a concluding visit highlight Ms. Lubrani had the opportunity to launch a new SGP project with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) signing on behalf of UNOPS, and UNDP a project MOA which would provide \$50,000.00 USD in support of a project titled "A Community-Based Approach to Supporting the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) through Sustainable Management and Connectivity of Floras and People in Pohnpei, FSM". Acting Director Mary Linda Salvador of CSP signed project MOA on behalf of the CSP. Ms. Lubrani congratulated CSP on this occasion and glad to have signed the project in support of community-based implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS as pilot project demonstration.

For more information on the FSM GEF Small Grants Programme feel free to call its office at (691) 320-4192 or e-mail at joylynneg@unops.org.



Ms. Lubrani also had the opportunity to visit Nan Madol an ancient archeological site built upon stone and reefs a true engineering marvel as testament of Pohnpei's vibrant culture and unique heritage. Efforts

Ms. Lubrani SGP project site visit to MERIP aquaculture lab at PATS, Simon Ellis showing sample of aquaculture species and process



Ms. Lubrani launched ABS pilot demonstration project with CSP Acting Director Salvador

For more information, call
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 Yap Office Tel.: 691-350-2104
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IFCP Board is complete!

By *April Turner*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community of Pohnpei would like to welcome 2 new board members, making our Board of Directors complete. Alissa Takesy and Herman Sado were nominated by the Board and kindly accepted the important position of representing the leading health NGO in Pohnpei.

Our Board of Directors bring a wealth of experience from all sectors of the community – health, agriculture, education, government, private business, farming and community leaders.

Chairperson

Adelino Lorens

Vice-Chairperson

Moses Pretrick

Members

Engly Ioanis Rainer Jimmy
X-ner Luther Yvonne Hawkins
Alissa Takesy Herman Sado

Ad hoc officio

Bill Raynor

Island Food Community of Pohnpei appreciate the commitment, time and responsibility of being a Board Member of IFCP. Kalahngan en komwi!

Responsibilities of an NGO Board & its members

An NGO Board is legally, financially and morally responsible for the organization.

The key responsibilities for Board governance are generally:

- Decision making role
- Sets policies & strategies
- Mission & purpose fulfillment
- Support Executive Director
- Financial oversight
- Mobilize resources / fundraising
- Representation of NGO to the community

Try this decadent pie recipe for the holidays!

Banana Coconut Cream Pie

Ingredients

- 1 serving Go Local Pie Base
- 1 Akadah banana, sliced
- 1 Taiwang banana, sliced
- 1 Karat banana, mashed
- 1 jar coconut jam, 10 oz.
- 1 cup thick coconut cream
- 1 tablespoon tapioca starch

Method

- Place Akadah and Taiwang banana slices over pie base and cover with mashed Karat
- Heat coconut jam until runny and pour over bananas. Place in fridge.
- Heat coconut cream on low heat and mix in starch. Cook until thickened. Put in fridge until cool.
- Spread cream over pie and return to fridge or freezer. If frozen, place piece in fridge to thaw slightly before eating

Health Notes:

This pie can be stored in the freezer, and pieces left in refrigerator to thaw slightly before eating
Variation – sprinkle dried grated coconut on top of pie

Go Local Flour-free Pie Base

Ingredients

- 2 bananas, ripe
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 2 cups dried grated coconut
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil, plus extra for greasing

Method

- Blend or mix all ingredients until it comes together
- Press in a pie tin or tray lightly greased with coconut oil
- Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until lightly golden

Health Notes:

Grated coconut takes 2-3 days to dry in the sun. For best results spread thinly on trays in the sun and place in refrigerator overnight.

Cooking or fresh banana varieties can be used.

...ONPA

Continued from page 10

consistent implementation of the tax law

To improve taxpayers' compliance, the Chuuk State Tax and Revenue office needs to develop appropriate plans of action that include:

Strengthening the tax audit function and enforcement programs with the development of audit tools, improvement of internal control procedures and further strengthening of legal authority in order to achieve operational efficiency and effectiveness in the enforcement of laws on tax collections.

Collaboration between the Attorney General and the Director of the Department of Administrative Services to develop and

- Absence of tax audit manual resulted in lack of consistency in the delivery of tax audit services
- Absence of regulations that would improve the effective and

implement the control procedures to ensure that decisions on tax cases referred for legal action are quick, timely, decisive and not delayed.

Training and development for the management and the staff to:

- Develop and implement strategic and operational plans to focus the office's efforts on results-oriented tax audit activities
- Implement performance measures to guide actions and monitor the achievement of tax revenue goals and objectives
- Use tax gap analysis and risk assessment techniques to identify potential areas of taxpayers' noncompliance.
- Development and implementation of a tax audit manual to ensure consistency and quality in the delivery of tax audit services
- Development and promulgation of tax regulations, where appropriate, to implement the tax law

We discussed our findings and recommendations with the officials from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Attorney General Office and they all agreed with the findings. The management response from DAS is included as an Appendix in the final audit report.



Pohnpei Consumer Organization was a recipient of a \$3,800 grant from the Australian Embassy through the Direct Aid Program. Charge d'Affaires, Michael Kulesza, highlighted the need to create an inclusive global society, for all people, regardless of disability or which country they live in. The grant will go towards establishing Kosrae's Disabled Persons Organization. The aim of the organization will be to advance awareness and facilitate the needs of the disabled persons within Kosrae and promote equal opportunity for disabled persons within the FSM and the broader region.

Swim meet at the Pohnpei pool

Photos by Bill Jaynes - December 14, 2013



Improving Island Life...

KINISOU CHAPUR!
KALAHNGAN!
KULO MA LULAP!

Yap
United
Caroline Islands Air

FAA GRANTS & MATCHING FUND SUMMARY (2004-2012)

Year	Yap	Chuuk	Pohnpei
2004	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2005	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2006	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2007	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2008	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2009	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2010	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2011	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000
2012	~\$100,000	~\$100,000	~\$100,000

PROJECT FUNDING

State	Funding
Yap	\$32.2M
Chuuk	\$18.2M
Pohnpei	\$66.8M
Kosrae	\$90.5M

Under FSM President Mori and the FSM Airline Taskforce and the US Federal Aviation Administration:

- \$180M has been invested
- Generated \$4M in local tax revenue
- Provided over 150 local jobs
- Significant training of FSM Inspectors, Engineers, and skilled workers

LYON has been working in FSM since the 1970's and has had the privilege of being a part of these major improvements.
 Frank Lyon, Jr., P.E. Jim Lyon, P.E., LEED AP



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