

The **KASELEHLIE PRESS**
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Papua New Guineans rescued by "Yap Seagull" after nearly five months adrift

FSM Information Services and KPress

December 03, 2014
Palikir, Pohnpei—On November 23, 2014, at approximately 4:00 p.m., the Yap Seagull found a small stranded boat drifting in the FSM EEZ with 2 men from Papua New Guinea (PNG), Michael Bolong, 54, and Ambros Wavut, 28, located approximately 116 nautical miles south of Kapingamarangi Island.

The Yapese fishing vessel came across the PNG castaways after the men had been adrift for months. The Yap Seagull crewmen took the two men aboard the vessel and delivered them to the nearest port, arriving in Pohnpei on Saturday, November 29, 2014, at around 2:00 p.m. The drifters were cleared by appropriate authorities and claimed that a third person who was with them did not survive the ordeal. The third person, Francis Dimansol, 48 years old, allegedly died from severe health conditions

See "Rescued" on page 6

National & State team assists migrants and illegal fishers in Yap

COLONIA, Yap (Media Division) — A group consisting of a law enforcement team and a humanitarian assistance team held a meeting on Monday, November 24, 2014 to discuss and find ways on how to resolve the incidents which involved a green boat with 36 migrants onboard, and 4 Quang Ngai vessels found allegedly fishing illegally in Yap State waters.

of the FSM Department of Justice and Assistant Attorney General Tiffany Holloman of the Yap State Office of the Attorney General. Other members of the law enforcement team included CPT George E. Skilling of the FSM National Police, CHF Fanian Bamngin and CPT Calisio Rawel of the Yap State Division of Public Safety, and John Rabofalan and Dominic Tafleicheng, Jr. of the FSM Division of

The team is being jointly led by Assistant Attorney General Joses Gallen

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Pohnpei Auditors check out Pohnpei Port Authority



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 3, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei’s Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) recently released a performance audit of Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) for Fiscal Years 2011 through 2013. The audit was conducted at the request of the Senator Steven Edwin, Chairman of Pohnpei Legislature’s Standing Committee on Public Works, Transportation and Communications. The Senator asked OPA to look into four

specific matters. Of the four, OPA found problems in three.

PPA’s Board of Directors allotted \$150,000 to the Pohnpei State Government’s Airline Taskforce. The allocation was approved by Governor Ehsa on July 13, 2012. If it had ever been formed, the Airline Taskforce would have been charged with looking for another airline service for Pohnpei but it was never actually created. Just the same, OPA found that PPA had spent \$62,836 of the \$150,000 allocated.

The audit provided examples of the types of expenditures that came from the funds allocated to the Airline Taskforce. \$4,000 was spent on travel for two officials to Majuro for a “meeting with Nauru Airline”. PPA’s General Manager authorized the travel. \$9,692 was spent for PPA’s staff members to obtain annual certification training. \$4,035 was spent to send two people to attend the Council of the Pacific Islands Traditional Leaders Conference in Guam.

The audit recommended that PPA’s Board of Directors instruct the General Manager to stop making further expenditures from the \$150,000 allocation until the Task Force is formally created and its members designated. It recommended that the funds it has already spent should be reimbursed before the Task Force members are designated and that the funds should be transferred to the Pohnpei Treasury for the use of the Task Force.

PPA’s General Manager agreed with the finding.

OPA was also charged with looking into the reasonableness of the increase in airport departure fees from \$10 to \$20 during FY 2013. PPA’s General Manager said that the reason for the increase was to accommodate the operating expenses of the airport terminal expansion.

Finding number two admits that the Port was operating at a loss prior to the increase in departure fees and that afterward revenues had increased. Still, OPA opined that the Manager should have prepared an analysis to ensure that the increase of the departure fee sufficiently covers the increase of expenses. They recommended that the Authority’s management should exercise good governance and ensure that increase in service fees are supported with analysis for purposes of transparency.

Again, PPA’s General Manager agreed with the finding and committed to doing so in the future.

Of PPA’s nearly \$4 million of revenue in FY 2013, \$224,300 (just over 5%) came from airport departure fees.

The third finding had to do with Travel Authorization (TA) procedures and implementation. OPA reviewed 81 Travel Authorizations and found 14 instances where travelers filed travel vouchers from as little as 16 days after trip completion to as long as more than a year late. Travel vouchers are to be resolved within 10 days of completion of trips. They found 13 instances where amendments to original TAs to document approval of additional travel expenses were not prepared and six instances where the travelers did not file travel vouchers at all.

OPA found the use of affidavits to support a car rental advance of \$455 rather than a receipt, as well as an affidavit of return travel to Pohnpei rather than a boarding pass.

In one instance it found that a copy of a car rental agreement dated July 12, 2012 was used to support the advance for a trip taken in June of 2012. There was no actual receipt.

One trip “did not materialize” but the money advanced to the traveler was not returned. Instead, the employee was making reimbursements through payroll allotments.

OPA recommended that the “Board of Directors and the management should take an active role to strengthen compliance with its travel policies by setting examples and providing for a favorable control environment.”

Again, PPA’s General Manager agreed with the finding and added, “Effective immediately, all travelers are provided with copy of the travel policy to be reminded of the 10 days filing requirement. Each traveler is briefed on required receipts that each has to submit to minimize and eventually stop the use of excessive affidavits.”

OPA was also asked to look into whether or not revenues were properly accounted for and disbursements were made in compliance with existing state laws and the Port Authority’s policies and procedures. OPA made no finding on that matter.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Three Micronesian teens killed by hit and run driver in Guam



Saly Anna Santos, 16, Cherrica Gallen, 19, and Julia George, 16

Gallen, 19; Saly Santos, 16; and Julia George, 16 were struck by a hit and run driver and were found lying unconscious on the side of Chalan Ramirez at around 4:30 in the morning.

Two of the girls were pronounced dead at the hospital that morning. One of the 16 year olds died at around 10:30 that evening.

Gallen, whose family is from Pohnpei was born and raised in Guam. Santos' family moved from Pohnpei to Guam when she was in middle school. George's family moved from Kosrae when she was just three years old.

The PDN says that it may have a suspect in the hit and run tragedy but that no arrests had yet been made.

A candlelight vigil in memory of the teenagers is scheduled for Saturday, December 7 at the scene of the incident on Chalan Ramirez in Yigo. Those interested in attending should meet at 7:00 p.m. Candles will be lit starting at 8 p.m.

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 29, 2014

Yigo, Guam—Guam is reeling after the tragic murders of three Micronesian pedestrians in the early morning hours of Saturday November 29. According to Guam's Pacific Daily News, Cherrica

FSM swimmers compete in Qatar

By **Susan Kihleng**

This week more than 1100 of the world's fastest swimmers are gathered in Doha, Qatar for the 12th FINA (Swimming) Short Course World Championships. The competition officially begins December 3rd and will continue until December 7th. Three swimmers are representing the FSM in this event - Justine Rodriguez, Dionisio Augustine, and Mayra Linda Paul, along with FSM Head Coach Sweeter Daniel. Coach Lestly Ashby also traveled to Doha with swimmers Kaleo Kihleng and Prylain Manuel to participate in the first ever FINA Youth Programme, run by US Olympic Coach Todd Schmitz and the Qatar Olympic Committee.

USDA helps senior afford safe housing



United States Department of Agriculture

Dolonier Village resident, Anna Wolphagen, had been living in her home for the last twenty years. Her only income is from FSM Social Security System and cares for her two daughters and three grandchildren.

Anna's house had been in serious need of essential repairs over the years. However, with her limited income, she did not think it was possible. Her roof had signs of leaks manifested by water drip marks in areas of the ceiling surfaces. Local untreated lumber, used as trusses, were rotting and insect infested. Exposed

and inadequate wiring made it a fire hazard and unsafe. The existing kitchen counter and cabinets had no protection from rodents and insects as the cabinet boards were made out of pressboard; wood framing and doors were insect infested with obvious dilapidation. Windows were missing the glass and screens. The existing bathroom had insufficient and malfunctioning fixtures and missing tile. The septic tank clogged due to its insufficient size. The internal and external paint was worn.

On November 26, 2014, USDA Rural Development turned over the keys to Ms. Wolphagen's newly repaired home. USDA assistance allowed her to make the necessary repairs and adjustments so she and her family could live in a safe and

rehabilitated home. "Thank you is not enough to express my appreciation to USDA and the Pohnpei staff for their concern and caring to solve my housing issue," said Anna.

With a sincere smile, Anna is given her keys to her newly repaired home.

Due to extent of repair needed, Ms. Wolhagen removed all her household items from her home, and moved in with her daughter next door. "I was so excited to see the progress each day. I'm so, so happy. I'm going to start moving in tonight!" states Anna.



With a sincere smile, Anna is given her keys to her newly repaired home.

PUBLIC NOTICE

December 01, 2014

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Rotary Quiz Night raises \$8,400 for scholarships

The annual Rotary Club of Pohnpei Quiz Night was held on November 22, 2014 at Cupid's Restaurant. The Quiz Night is the Rotary Club's largest annual fund raiser, and proceeds go to support the Rotary Club's college scholarship program and other local projects. For the 2014-2015 school year the Rotary Club awarded \$11,950.00 in scholarships.

There was a huge turnout with 24 tables vying for the top prizes. The rules of a Quiz Night are that you get a table of six persons of varying skills and backgrounds and answer stupid trivia questions, such as "What animal name is given when you get three strikes in a row in bowling?" If this answer just bursts right out of you then you should have competed.

It was a hard fought competition, with many teams competing for the grand prize donated by Bank of Guam of 6 x \$100.00 cash. The winners were a team of Jesuit and World Teach Volunteers, Kristin Dennis, Emily Hagen, Meredith Pentzlen, Brittany Bachant, Joshua Levy and Christine Bukowski. They scored the most points out of all the teams and successfully answered most of the inane questions. The other tables all received prizes, including gift certificates from our sponsors.

We especially want to thank United Airlines for providing us with two tickets that were raffled off at the event. The

winners of the raffle were Wayne Bricknell and MaryAnn Eperiam. The proceeds of the raffle also went to the fundraising effort for the night.

Other donations included auctions of Caroline Island Airways trips and a sunset cruise by Pohnpei Surf Club.

Overall the Rotary Club raised \$8,400.00. We want to thank Cupid's for hosting us and the following sponsors who made the night possible, United Airlines, Petrocorp/VITAL, Bank of Guam, Caroline Islands Airways, Alison MacConnell, Dateline Exports, Ace Hardware, Ace Office Supply, Pohnpei Do It Best, Genesis Hospital & Pharmacy, Seven Star, Ambros Inc./Shimbros, Inc./Budweiser, Pohnpei True Value, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Movie Land, His Excellency Emanuel Mori, Hon. Doria Rosen US Embassy, Hon. Terry Beven and the Australian Embassy, Pohnpei Surf Club, FSM NOC, Pohnpei Transfer & Storage, FSM Telecom, K Press, MRA, Blue Nile, Moylan's Insurance, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, Pohnpei Napa Auto Parts, Sea Breeze Hotel, Drops of Life, CTSI, Amcres, Bank of FSM, Etscheit Enterprises, MERIP, Japanese Embassy, Palm Terrace, Joy Hotel, FSM Development Bank, Ivory Nut House, The Pohnpei Fishing Club, Rusty Anchor, Village Travel, COM-FSM, Cupid's Restaurant and Staff (We apologize if we inadvertently left anyone out.)

Thanks again to all who came and supported the Rotary Club and to all our sponsors. See you next year in November. For those who were wondering the answer is "turkey."



Rotary Quiz Night champions Kristin Dennis, Emily Hagen, Meredith Pentzlen, Brittany Bachant, Joshua Levy and Christine Bukowski



Wayne Bricknell and MaryAnn Eperiam were the United ticket winners

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President Mori moving forward with United Revenue Authority

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 3, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—During its recently concluded special session, the FSM Congress adopted a Ways and Means committee report (SCR 18-256) recommending in no uncertain terms, the passage of a bill that would repeal the 2010 law establishing a United Revenue Authority (URA) in the FSM. Still, Congress did not pass the bill repealing the establishment of the URA before their session that ended on November 29, 2014.

Meanwhile, President Mori is busily setting up the URA.

The Congress committee report said that during an oversight hearing held on November 19 they learned that the implementation of the URA will result in a cost increase. “The representative from CTA (Customs and Tax Administration) stated that the exact increase in the operations is not knowable until the URA is running in January.”

During its fifth regular session the FSM Congress passed a resolution (CR 18-220) asking President Mori to delay the implementation of a United Revenue Authority (URA) even though it was Congress itself that in 2010 passed the bill

providing for its establishment (PL 16-75).

The resolution claimed that “the Public Law creating the Unified Revenue Authority did not anticipate the current status of tax reform in this nation whereby certain states did not adopt tax reform legislation.”

Chuuk and Kosrae have adopted enabling legislation for tax reform. Pohnpei and Yap have not—each for their own separate reasons.

After the FSM Congress several times moved the date back by which all states were to have enacted enabling legislation before the national tax reform law could be put into place, they finally pulled the plug on tax reform as it stood at that time in the FSM.

Pulling the plug, or letting the “sun set” on the tax reform bill did not remove the law establishing the URA, but according to the resolution passed during the fifth regular session, “Congress has been advised and believes that having two concurrent national tax systems in the Nation is unconstitutional.” The resolution also claimed that “the maintenance of the Gross Revenue Tax would impose a disproportionate burden on those states that enacted the VAT (Value Added Tax).”

President Mori disagreed and is moving toward setting up the FSM wide United Revenue Authority as the law allows him to do. In a letter to Congress informing them that he would be moving forward with the implementation of the law, he wrote in Presidential Communication 18-383 that, “pursuant to separation of powers, Congress enacts the laws, the Executive executes the laws, and the Supreme Court interprets them.”

Congress adopted the Ways and Means Standing Committee Report 18-256 which recommended passage of CB 18-229 calling for the repeal of PL 16-75, the law that established the United Revenue Authority. “Your committee points out that the President is vested with the authority and duty to implement the laws of the Federated States of Micronesia in a manner consistent with the legislative authority in the law,” the committee report said. “In this instance, the President is acting based on a twisted interpretation of the URA and without the proper authority which expired when the Sunset Clause contained in the Revenue Administration Act (RAA) was not extended.”

“Due to the President’s stated reasons... and his unwillingness to cooperate with the will of Congress as expressed in CR 18-220, Congress has no choice but to repeal the URA,” the Committee report

said.

“Your committee would like to point out that by implementing the URA without all the pieces of the tax reform in place would result in unintended consequences and political fragmentation. The URA was passed with the intent to only come into existence and exercise authority once all four states passed the Value Added Tax. The piecemeal approach being advocated by the Executive branch is resulting in confusion,” the report said.

Though Congress adopted the report it did not act to pass the bill that would have repealed the 2010 URA act though that bill is still on the table. They decided instead to have consultations with President Mori before they meet again in January.

“Your committee would like to note that Congress remains committed to the tax reform process. Your committee encourages the advancement of the tax reform process and hopes work will continue to bring all four states on board,” the adopted Ways and Means Committee report said. “Additionally, your committee notes that Congress may again consider passing the relevant and necessary tax reform measures once all four states show the willingness to proceed with the process.”

GENERAL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

No. 14-02

(November 24, 2014)

§ 215 of 37 FSMC requires the FSM Insurance Board (“Board”) to publish a list, amended from time to time, of: (1) all applications filed for license and registration, (2) all approved licenses, (3) all registered foreign insurers, (4) all denials of applications for license and registration, (5) all cancellations and suspensions of licenses and registrations, (6) information relevant to the winding up of any insurance business, and (7) any other information in the public interest and not in violation of laws or regulations on confidentiality or privacy.

Furthermore, the general public should take note that §301 of 37 FSMC requires no ‘insurance business’ be carried on in the Federated States of Micronesia unless the person or company engaging in insurance business is registered or licensed by the Board. Hence the publication required under §215 of 37 FSMC for the benefit of the general public. Any person or company engaging in ‘insurance business’ in the FSM not in compliance with the provisions of 37 FSMC may be subject to the applicable violation and penalty provisions of 37 FSMC.

I. Following are pending registration and license applications:

1. Century Insurance Co., Ltd. (Application for Registration as foreign insurer)
2. Individual Assurance Company (Application for Licensure as domestic insurer)
**IAC filed its application for licensure on January 2013, which was returned due to incompleteness and other material issues. IAC was given until end of December 2014 to refile a complete application.*
3. Mr. David Panuelo (Application for licensure as agent for Individual Assurance Company)

II. Following are registered insurers and respective licensed agents in the FSM:

- | Registered Insurers: | Licensed Agents: |
|--|---|
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| 2. First Net Insurance Company ----- | Moylan’s Insurance Underwriters (FSM), Inc. |
| 3. Dongbu Insurance Company ----- | Moylan’s Insurance Underwriters (FSM), Inc. |
| 4. NetCare Life and Health Insurance Co. ----- | Moylan’s Insurance Underwriters (FSM), Inc. |
| 5. Liberty Mutual Insurance Company ----- | Moylan’s Insurance Underwriters (FSM), Inc. |

III. Following are licensed Brokers:

1. Oceania Insurance Company, Inc.
2. Micronesia Insurance Brokers Company, Ltd.

IV. Denied registration application:

1. Federal Insurance Company

No registration or license has been cancelled, suspended or revoked. The Board is also not aware of any winding-up or liquidation in progress of a registered, licensed insurer or intermediary.

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...Rescued

Continued from front page

that occurred while out at sea.

It was reported that Bolong and his nephew, Wavut, departed Lihir Island bound for Tanga Island on July 15, 2014, but the small boat ran out of fuel and went adrift after encountering stormy weather. The older drifter recalls the harsh conditions they endured including exposure to the sun and surviving off of rainwater and fish.

“After weeks, a month, we were forgotten” Bolong said, based on his experience with rescue missions being cancelled following failed attempts to recover missing persons.

The boat they were found on was abandoned after they were rescued. Only their personal belongings and boat engine were brought on board. Both survivors are fine and showed no signs of serious health problems after months of drifting although they were admitted to the Pohnpei State Hospital for observation.

Under the Admiralty and Maritime law of the FSM, the master of a vessel is required to “render assistance to any person found at sea and in distress or in danger of being lost if this assistance can be rendered without endangering the vessel, crew or passengers.” 19 FSMC Section 425. While it is reported that some vessels have failed to render assistance to persons that they encounter at sea who are in distress, the Yap Seagull performed admirably and rendered assistance without question.

Authorities from the FSM National Government, including the Department of Justice, Department of Health, and the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as Pohnpei State officials including medical personnel from the Pohnpei State Hospital, met the Yap Seagull upon its entry to Pohnpei Port and provided further assistance to the two survivors. The FSM Department of Foreign Affairs is currently in contact with the PNG government in order to repatriate the drifters back to PNG.

The men were released from the hospital in surprisingly good health at 1:00 on the afternoon of December 4. Captain Taylor Santos of The Salvation Army said that he sent an email out to the Christian Ministries Association which received “awesome responses”. Pastor Rullens Phillip of the Assemblies of God offered clothing from his Super Saver store. Pastor Yasuo Yamada offered \$100 for food. The Salvation Army has already provided shelter, food, and clothing for the men as they begin their wait for repatriation to PNG.

Saint Barnabas Church in Kitti had arranged with Pohnpei State Hospital to deliver local food to the two men at the hospital on Saturday but since the men are happily no longer at the hospital, they will need to change their noble plans.

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...Migrants

Continued from front page

Immigration & Labor.

The humanitarian assistance team included David Mustra, PhD, EHS Specialist, Yap State Department of Health Services; Pius Talimeisei, Chief of Budget, Yap State Office of Planning & Budget; John Hasmai, Public Information Officer, Department of Youth & Civic Affairs; Venatus Etun, Coordinator, Micronesia Red Cross Society – Yap Chapter; Philip Raffilpiy, Senior Program Assistant, IOM Micronesia – Yap Sub-Office; and Mark Adams, Chief of Party, IOM Micronesia.

During their meeting, the humanitarian assistance team shared that with the assistance of the Micronesia Red Cross Society – Yap Chapter in soliciting food donations from the public and other assistance provided by the Yap Sub-Office of IOM Micronesia, the team was able to secure enough victuals for the migrants for a week or so. Upon arrival, concerned residents and



Photos by
Phillipe Dor

the local communities of Yap did provide for the refugees before a response team was officiated.

The victuals being provided by the public included local staple foods, rice, ramen, salt, bread, tea, sausages and vegetable oil.

Concerning the illegal fishers, the 4 Quang Ngai vessels with a total of 56 crewmen— according to the team’s assessment— may still have food for one week; however, the team has already started distributing food

supplies to those people as well.

In addition, the representative of the Health Services Department reported in the meeting that a medical team was ready to visit the migrants to provide medical examination in order to assess their needs.

Meantime, IOM Micronesia was setting up shelters at security parameters at the fisheries dock, moored for the migrants to use for the duration of their stay.

The group is trying to meet the needs of both the migrants and the fishermen during their time in Yap State of the FSM.

Editors Note: The FSM Congress passed a bill during its special session appropriating \$25,000 for humanitarian relief for the migrants and for the fishing crew. The funds are to be used for the costs of food, water, shelter, clothing, personal hygiene, essential medical care, and assistance for the passengers and crew members of the vessels who are without their own means.

JICA Alumni Association celebrated its 8th anniversary and new establishment of Pohnpei chapter

The JICA Alumni Association of the FSM celebrated its 8th anniversary of the establishment of the Association at Cupid’s Bar & Grille on the 13th of November 2014. The Master of Ceremony, Mr. Charles Sakios, opened the meeting with acknowledging the presence of the honorary guest which included the Ambassador of Japan to FSM, H.E Masaki Sakai & Madam Sakai, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Honorable Lorin Robert, JICA Resident Representative Mr. Kaoru Iwasaki, Chief of Staff of the College of Micronesia, Ms. Universe Yamase, along with JAA-FSM and JAA- Kosrae Chapter President, Mr. Simpson Abraham, JICA Chuuk State in-Charge, Mr. Kichy Joseph and representatives and members of each JAA chapter of all the four states.

In his opening address, President Simpson Abraham shared the history of the Association which was established in 2006 as a non-profit corporation with the purpose; to gather and create friendship among all JICA Alumni, those who studied in Japan and JICA volunteers of the FSM; to develop relationships between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the alumni with the frames of the Official Development Assistance Program of Japan; and to support economic, culture, scientific and technical cooperation between the FSM and Japan. He further shared the upcoming activities that the association will be organizing in this remaining fiscal year such as creating a website to build a network among members, community and school cleanup campaigns and others.



Participants of the 8th Anniversary of
JAA- FSM

In his speech, Guest Speaker Iwasaki briefly shared about the JICA training program in which he mentioned about the 450 accepted FSM Ex-participants to the JICA trainings. He reassured JAA-FSM members that JICA will continue to provide as much support as possible for its activities.

In addition to JAA Chapters in Kosrae, Chuuk, and Yap, JAA Pohnpei Chapter was newly established in this meeting. The new board members of Pohnpei Chapter were elected as follows; Ms. Universe Yamase as the President, Ms. Mary Lou Hawley as Vice President, Ms. Patricia Pedrus as Secretary, and Mr. Luciano Mathias as Treasurer.

JICA Alumni Association Chuuk chapter held its 2nd annual meeting

The Chuuk Chapter of JICA Alumni Association (JAA-Chuuk) was established on January 25th, 2014. On October 25, 2014, members of JAA-Chuuk held its second annual meeting at High Tide Hotel & Restaurant.

JICA State In-charge for Chuuk State, Mr. Kichy Joseph, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all 15 attendants including Director of Education, Ms. Gardenia Macayon, Director of Chuuk Visitors Bureau, Mr. Joe N. Suka, Director of Agriculture, Mr. Kandito Kanas, as well as the representative from Chuuk Governor’s Office, Chief of Staff Mr. Wilfred Robert.

In this dinner meeting, JICA Volunteer Coordinator, Mr. Makoto Nonobe, and Vice President of Chuuk JAA Chapter, Mr. Michael Kanas, presented a Japanese/ Chuukese/ English dictionary, which was compiled and printed by JAA-Chuuk with JICA financial supports, and officially handed over to the Director of Chuuk Visitors Bureau to help Japanese visitors to Chuuk with basic Chuukese language. The Participants had discussed on their next activities of the JAA-Chuuk and contribution to the upcoming JAA-FSM General Annual Meeting which will be scheduled on the 13th of November in Pohnpei.

JICA Alumni Association was formally established in 2006 with the purpose to gather and create friendship among the JICA Training Program alumni and those who studied in Japan; to develop relationship between JICA and its alumni with the

frame of the official development assistance program of Japan; and to support economic, culture, scientific, and technical cooperation between FSM and Japan.



Christmas Message 2014



During this Christmas Season, the members of your Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia inclusive of its leadership: Floor Leader Singkoro Harper, Vice Speaker Paliknoa Welly join me in extending our best wishes for a Merry Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Christmas is a time of joy and peace toward all men, as the Gospel of John relates the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ that: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The people celebrate Christmas for it is the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. It is the story of God stepping into history to be reconciled with men, dwelling among men for His Glory. Though He was a king, He cared neither for the honors nor the riches of men. His life, words, and daily activities were monuments of simple yet profound dignity.

Jesus who knew perfectly how to give, set for us the pattern for giving. To those whose hearts are heavy with loneliness and sorrow, He brings compassion and comfort. To those whose bodies and minds are afflicted with illness and suffering, He brings love and healing. To those whose souls are burdened with sin, He offers hope, forgiveness, and redemption.

Therefore during this Christmas season may we remember the humble dignity of His birth and His gift of life.

While the celebrations of Christmas and New Year vary in each culture, there are however certain themes which ring true for most cultures. Paramount among them are the themes of renewed hope and second chances. For us in the FSM it is a time to get things straight: a thorough housecleaning, paying off debts, returning borrowed objects, reflecting on one's shortcomings, mending our differences, giving alms and a time to spend with families and friends. But above all a chance to wipe the slate clean and start over anew.

May this New Year bring new hopes and opportunities our way so that we can explore every joy of life and may our resolutions for the days ahead stay firm, turning all our dreams into reality and all our efforts into great achievements.

May God bless you and your families and the people of the FSM.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Speaker Dohsis Halbert
Vice Speaker Paliknoa Welly
Floor Leader Singkoro Harper



Lighting the path to an AIDS free FSM

Stephanie Edward
United Youth Media
November 30, 2014



Pohnpei, FSM—An overcast sky hung over the World Aids Day Parade, held on November 30, 2014. However, it did not dampen the spirit of the procession as they made their way from the Spanish to the SokehsPah Church, which played host to the day's events. This year's theme was "Getting to Zero."

The program began with the MC, Mr. Marson Rosario, inviting Mr. Suda Rayel to give the opening prayer. After the opening prayer, Pastor Bender Enicar of the Sokehs Pah Church gave the welcoming remarks. After which, there were several musical performances given by various youth groups, including members of Nan Mand Youth, SokehsPah Youth, Christ the King Youth, and Youth 4 Change. Many of the songs performed were original songs, written specifically for youth empowerment and aids-related issues. After the performances, the program invited Ms. Joana Qereqeretabua to share her experiences as an advocate of persons living with aids. Ms. Joana is from Fiji and travels around, sharing her experiences and spreading awareness about the disease and the importance of abolishing the stigma and discrimination that follows the disease. It was an empowering and informative presentation.

After she gave her presentation, everyone was invited to light candles arranged at the front of the building, in a gesture of unity and a symbol of lighting up the path towards the goal: Getting to Zero. It was a very moving moment, as members of Youth 4 Change sang a song penned specifically for the World Aids Day Event, relaying a message of a person's journey of attaining a discrimination-free attitude towards the disease and fellow human beings.

Participants were given free t-shirts as part of the day's celebrations, another symbol of unity. Also in attendance were the honorable Senator Magdalena Walter, Chairman of the HIV Community Planning Group, and Mrs. Belispa Mikel-Isom.

The program was organized and supported by Mrs. Nancy-Lynn Edward, Pohnpei State HIV/STI Coordinator, Mr. Marson Rosario, PREP coordinator, and their team at Public Health, the Non-Communicable Disease Program, the Family Planning Program, Micronesian Red Cross, HIV Community Planning Group, Global Fund, FSM Health (HIV Program) and countless other individuals who played vital roles in making the day's event the success it was.



College of Micronesia - FSM Employment Opportunity



The College of Micronesia-FSM is advertising for the following vacancies. Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at (691)320-2482 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm/?q=hr-jobs for application, details, and requirements. For more information you can reach us through this email address hro@comfsm.fm.

Position	Campus	Annual Salary	Closing Date
System Specialist I	National	\$8,846.00-\$9,968.00	December 9,2014
Clerk Typist II	Yap	\$5,562.00	December 9,2014
Accountant IV	National	\$12,804.00-\$14,428.00	December 9, 2014
Comptroller	National	\$24,184.00	December 9,2014
Administrative Specialist III	Kosrae/AHEC	\$8,537-\$9,620.00	December 11, 2014
Security Officer	Kosrae	\$5,196.00	December 13, 2014

FSM celebrates 28th National Day, and the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations with China

FSM Embassy, Beijing

November 14, 2014

In honor of the 28th National Day of the Federated States of Micronesia and the 25th Anniversary of her diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Ambassador Akillino H. Susaia hosted a reception at the Noble Club garden in Beijing to commemorate the two occasions. Ambassador Susaia delivered the welcoming statement for the event expressing gratitude to the honored guests, friends, businesses who were present.

Over two hundred guests comprising of Chinese government officials, the diplomatic corps, potential investors, friends, and FSM citizens honored the celebration with their presence. The Honorable Marion Henry, Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, and China's Special Envoy to the Pacific, His Excellency Du Qiwen were the chief guests representing the respective governments.

The official program began with the playing of the National Anthems participated by Secretary Henry and Special Envoy Du, followed by welcoming remarks by Ambassador Susaia. A congratulatory letter for the 25th Anniversary of diplomatic ties from China's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Wang Yi, was read aloud before Secretary Henry delivered the keynote speech.

In the keynote speech, Secretary Henry noted the great achievements of the four island groups uniting into one larger federation through a peaceful and democratic process. In honor of the 28th National Day, Secretary Henry paid tribute to the past and current leaders the FSM, and also expressed FSM's profound appreciation to all her development partners.

Fittingly, to honor the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between FSM and China, Secretary Henry took the opportunity to showcase and acknowledge China's support towards the FSM's development efforts since September 11, 1989. Secretary Henry acknowledged the fruitful relationship between FSM and China, and congratulated the leadership from both sides for their efforts and cooperation.

The celebration was capped off with a cake cutting ceremony between Secretary Henry and Special Envoy Du accompanied by fireworks display in the garden. FSM students in Beijing provided cultural performance and live music entertainment.

For further information, contact the FSM Embassy in Beijing at Ph: (86)1065324708 or e-mail address: embassy@fsmembassy.cn

Tension is mounting for FFA members at 11th WCPFC meeting

Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation

Apia, SAMOA - Pacific Island nations are racing against time to save their tuna stocks but their efforts are met with opposition from distance fishing nations (DWFNs), and time is running out.

Deputy Director General of Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Wez Norris said the meeting is a frustrating one for the FFA members. Time is getting short, but it seems all the proposed measures FFA put up for the meeting are being met with opposition from the DWFNs.

Pacific countries have put up proposals to better manage fisheries for Bigeye, Yellowfin, Skipjack and Albacore tuna, to tackle illegal fishing and protect endangered sharks.

Mr Norris said that for all the talk in the room at the moment, there doesn't seem to be any urgency on the part of the DWFNs to actually resolve some of the long standing issues of the commission.

Mr Norris acknowledged decisions are difficult.

"We are at the point that where they come at a cost to someone, and of course the difficult decision the commission has to make is who would bear the cost and at what proportion and that's what's holding back some of the discussion in some key conservation management measures," Mr Norris said.

"Our message to the distance fishing nations is don't just say no, if there is an issue that can be worked on, an amendment that can be made in the proposal, then let's do that and find a way forward," he said.

Two more days to go and it seems that many of the proposed measures that the FFA members are seeking may not be resolved at this meeting.

But FFA Deputy Director General is still optimistic that the meeting may turn in favour of the Pacific measures.

If it does not, he warned, the consequences will be 'dire'.

NORMA deputy director calls for action to save pacific tuna

Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation

Apia, SAMOA - A new conservation measure to protect bigeye tuna is one of the top priorities for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) at an international meeting taking place in Apia, Samoa this week.

Bigeye tuna is one of the four main tuna species fished commercially in the Pacific but its number has been shrinking- so much so that stocks are now down to just 16 per cent of their un-fished levels.

Scientists are warning that Bigeye is overfished and have recommended a 36 per cent cut in the catch.

The FSM is one of a group of Pacific countries proposing to revise the conservation and management measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna.

It aims to put fishing for all three species on a sustainable footing and effectively reduce Bigeye mortality.

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan, Deputy Director for the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) who heads the FSM Delegation sees the proposed Bigeye measure as one of the key conservation and management measures to be discussed at this 11th session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in Apia, Samoa this week.

The Commission brings the Pacific countries together with the powerful distant water fishing nations including China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, the United States and members of the European Union.

Bigeye tuna was declared overfished at this year's science

committee meeting of the commission.

FSM has serious concerns about the effectiveness of the measure since its adoption by the WCPFC in December of last year. The overfished status of the Bigeye tuna stocks declared at this year's science committee meeting of the commission has shown the lack of progress for the measure. FSM, along with other FFA members have identified the key issues as being the withholding of data on fishing operations in the high seas by long-line fleets that harvest adult Bigeye. This has undermined all efforts to assess and manage the Bigeye stock effectively.

Mr. Pangelinan says major cuts are needed in Bigeye catches by fishing nations, especially if any additional measures approved are to be imposed in 2015 and onward. The commission has to ensure it does not result in a disproportionate burden on Small Island Development States (SIDs) where most of the fishing occurs in their waters and where the SIDs depend on revenues from Licensing.

The WCPFC is an international fisheries management organization based in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia that seeks to ensure through effective management the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stock in the Western and Central Pacific.

Accompanying Deputy Director Pangelinan for the WCPFC are: Mrs. Pole Atanrao-Reim, Assistant Attorney General, FSM Department of Justice, and Legal Advisor for NORMA, Justino Helgen, VMS Officer and Bradley Phillip, Chief of Research of NORMA.

Invitation for Bids

The FSM Program Management Unit (PMU) invites interested and qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the Construction of Chuuk Lagoon Dispensaries - Chuuk State at Five Lagoon sites.

The " Chuuk Lagoon Dispensaries-Chuuk State " contract documents, specifications, plans and Solicitation, Offer and Award documents can be downloaded via the following instructions:

1. Go to <ftp://www.pmu.fm/>
2. Click the directory entitled, "Chuuk State Lagoon Dispensaries".
3. Download all files including the Solicitation, Offer and Award and other contract documents as needed.

Printed copies of the bid package are not available for distribution.

A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. local time on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, in the SSJV Conference Room, TTC Building, Weno, Chuuk, FSM. A site visit to all 5 sites will be conducted after the pre-bid meeting. Site visits may continue on Thursday, January 29th until all the sites have been visited.

The Contracting Officer strongly recommends attendance at the Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visits to all Contractors interested in submitting a bid for this project.

All interested bidders are requested to email the PMU at address listed below to register your interest and to be added to the official bidders list.

Questions and request for clarification will be accepted in writing through February 26, 2015, at 4:00 PM Pohnpei time, attention to Mr. Bruce E. Howell, with copy to Ms. Leoni Yap at the Program Management Unit, P.O. Box PS-4, Palikir, Pohnpei FSM, 96941, or via email at howellbrucee@yahoo.com and LeonyYap@pmu.fm.

Bid opening date is Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 4:00 PM Pohnpei time, in Palikir, Pohnpei FSM. Electronic bids will not be accepted.



MCS Pohnpei

Micronesia Computer Services

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VTech Kidi Beats Drum Sets

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HP Ash 10.1" Detachable
2 in 1 Laptop/ Tablet
2GB Ram 32GB Storage

\$569.99



Leapfrog Leappad2
Kids Learning Tablet

\$59.00

NOTICE OF INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2014, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with Bank of Guam® are inactive, and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective Bank of Guam® Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2015, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (16) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2015, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

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Asako Agrippa or Assanisa Ruben
PO Box 645 - Weno, Chuuk FSM
Namoluk Island 96942

Takeru Aier or Makthey Tachuo or Aichy Aikichy
PO Box 9 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Ilaiso Albert and Rosmina Albert
PO Box 382 - Uman Mochoh, Chuuk FSM 96942

Jerlyn S. Alexander
PO Box 817 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Nama Island 96942

Marciano Aliwis
PO Box 1456 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

James Allan
177 Mall St. - Unit C703 Pacific Towers
Tamuning, GU 96911

Lydia Aniol itf Aki'n Son
PO Box 51 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Romeo Al C. Arsenal or Sonia Arsenal
PO Box 148 - Chuuk FM 96942-0148

Fatima Baseway
Moen, Truk 96942

Jaime Batanga, Jr. or Amil Batanga c/o SDA School
PO Box 208 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Enlet Berdon or Lienfan Berdon
Moen, Truk FSM 96942

Fatima Beseway or Anthony P. Teregeyo
PO Box 358 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96940

Donsly Billimont
PO Box 658 - Moen, Truk FSM 96942

Genevif Bolly
PO Box 596 - Weno, Chuuk FSM
Peniesene Weno 96942.

Serlin S. Buliche
PO Box 521 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Satawan Island 96942

Skyler Rhyse Chapman c/o Truk Stop Hotel
PO Box 546 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942.

Chuuk Community Relief Alliance
PO Box 162 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Jayson Daniel or Seti Daniel
Neauo Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942.

Chenerina Doroia
PO Box 571 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Weno Mwan 96942

Unsaï Enies
PO Box 90 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Tol Foseni 96942

Jesusa Fernando or Frank Fernando
Moen, Truk FSM 96942

Thadeus Gabriel
PO Box 1665 - Polap Island - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Lamper Metefan Hait
PO Box 1221 - Chuuk FM 96942-1221

Leonor Hallers
PO Box 1507 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Keivy Heizar or Kayleen Ernest
PO Box 172 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Rister Inek
PO Box 943 - Nama Island - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Andon Inek
Nama Islands - Truk FSM 96942

Peter James
PO Box 805 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Kuttu Island 96942

Rhondaleen John
PO Box 451 - Nama Island - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Cynthia Karsom or Eichy Karsom
PO Box AQ - Weno, Chuuk State 96942

Ephrem Kaspar
PO Box C - Chuuk FM 96942-0470

Christina Killion t/f Shyanne Killion
PO Box 23 - Chuuk FM 96942-0023

Yoon Kuls Kim
PO Box 398 - Moen, Truk FSM 96942

Merika Konman or Noftena Ruben
Moen Islands - Truk FSM 96942

Asauo Kutber
Moen Islands - Truk FSM 96942

Anthony Likiche
PO Box 633 - Moen, Truk FMS 96942

Mighty Lodge
Namoluk Island - Chuuk FM 96942

Fichio K. Louis
PO Box 351 - Moen, Truk FSM 96942

Simion Ludwig
PO Box 1413 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Iras Weno 96942

Diana Luther
PO Box 326 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Luisito H. Macayaon
PO Box 1366 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Masachy Mathew
PLS Losap - Truk FSM 96942

MD Abdul Quander Miah c/o Planning Office
Chuuk FSM 96942

Chita Miller
PO Box 157 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Wonit Udot 96942

Menaio Mwichafen
PO Box 9 - Moen, Truk 96942

Machuo Nakayama
Moen Islands, Truk FSM 96942.

Yoriana Neth
PO Box 1596 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Sapuk Weno 96942

Jonathan Nethon or Atarina Nethon
PO Box 315 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Uman Island 96942

Bernike Noy
PO Box 576 - Chuuk FM 96942-0576

CS Noy
PO Box 833 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Polle Island 96942

Salomon Otto itf Stales Otto
PO Box 735 - Chuuk State 96942

Aimen Paul
PO Box 570 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Vanya Joy R. Payabyab
PO Box 220 - Weno, Chuuk FSM
Philippine/Xavier High School 96942.

Clara Pedro
PO Box 1503 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Houk Island 96942

Marsenino Petrus
PO Box 494 - Weno, Chuuk FM
Fanapanges Island 96942

Biana Pualuay
Nepukos Weno, Chuuk FM - Oneop Island 96942

Pukuwat Evangelical Church
PO Box 731 - Moen, Truk 96942

Judith W. Rano or Kasiem Rano
PO Box 573 - Mechtitw Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Answer Raymond
PO Box 1243 - Chuuk FM 96942-1243

Atcy Rayphand
PO Box 693 - Lakinloch Is - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Pungupung Refilong
PO Box - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Fila Refilong
Nomwin Island - PO Box 471 - Chuuk FM 96942-0471

Rosenda Ressa
PO Box 1290 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Sapuk Weno 96942

Ketsy Roby and Herryes T. Herry
PO Box 1674 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942.

Stori Rotenis or Ilorie Roenis
PO Box 2675 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Nama Island 96942

Renty Rotenis
PO Box 429 - Weno, Chuuk - Dublon Nechap 96942

Meseichy Ruben
PO Box 944 - Chuuk FM 96942-0944

Master Salle or Redsa (Raymond) Salle or Salle Aileen
Weno, Chuuk FM 96942.

Natsita Salle
Mwanitw Udot - Chuuk FSM 96942

Simako Sam t/f Jasleen Sam
Weno Mechtitw 96942.

Danny Sancher
PO Box 852 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Selina Sandy or Rosita Joleen Sandy
t/f Juda Rual Sandy
Weno, Chuuk FSM - Lakinloch Island 96942

Mercy Sayon o Yumeko Sayon
Moen Island - Truk State 96942.

Sefin Women Association
PO Box

Willy Selifis or Arno Selifis
Moen, Truk FSM 96942

Roseperina Selifis
PO Box 96942

Kachie Simina
PO Box 496 - Weno, Chuuk - Nama Island 96942

Mina Songhaid
PO Box 3749 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Eplifania Soram
Moen Islands - Truk FSM 96942

Epen Soram
Dublon Island - Truk State FSM 96942

Kesty Sostin t/f Seledonia Sostin
PO Box 985 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Saint Michael Church Uman
PO Box 939 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Emerine Yertlin or Sison Davit
PO Box 631 - Chuuk FM 96942-0631

Asoncia Yesiki
PO Box 904 - Weno, Chuuk FSM - Mechtitw Weno 96942

Aniceto Yonson, Jr.
PO Box 272 - Weno, Chuuk FSM 96942

Lucia Ysam
PO Box 717 - Chuuk FM 96942

CHUUK BRANCH CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Faichuk Commission
PO Box 787 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942.

KS & Family Real Estate
Weno Nantaku - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Micro Crystal Water
PO Box 1335 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Peter Sitan
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Truk Transportation Company
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Vicariate Justice and Development
PO Box 202 - Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

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Simon Moonay
PO Box 1153 - Yap FM 96943-1153

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Welsin Aimin
PO Box 898 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Marita Anefal
PO Box 1354 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Joseph Apaisam
PO Box 828 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Daycleen Ardos
PO Box 1045 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

James Barnabas
PO Box PS150 - Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Nabed Boaz
General Delivery - Pingelap, Pohnpei FM 96941

Dasleen Defang
PO Box 2182 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Jennifer Edwin
PO Box 1292 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Eliue Peter
Mwoakilloa, Pohnpei FM 96941

Person Eliou
PO Box 1903 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Jaime Espina
PO Box 1268 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Family Development Organization
PO Box 2348 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM 96941

Saltet Hawley
PO Box 1454 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM 96941

Bahmer Hedson
PO Box 878 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Sekundia Helgen or Junior Helgen
PO Box 1004 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Marihna Henry
PO Box 966 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Dasuo F. Herry
Po Box 963 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Yi Huang
PO Box 1833 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Inoke Franklin or Franky Inoke
Po Box 551 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Iriarte William
PO Box 1360 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Espera James
PO Box 429 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

John Berlina Itf Kaynos John
PO Box 8788 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Rosemper Kilmete
PO Box 766 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Maitun Kinere
PO Box 716 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Nitall Corporation
PO Box 99 - Pohnpei FM 96941.

Kosrean Student Organization
General Delivery - Pohnpei FM 96941

Alfred Lebehn
PO Box 174 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Ligorio Quintinano
PO Box 2078 - Pohnpei FM 96941

Krisdiana Ludwig Itf (TYL/HHICL)
PO Box 2341 - Pohnpei FM 96941

Sable Luhk
PO Box 1283 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Angelina Manilulu
PO Box 1642 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Domenica Martin Itf Tyron Martin Itf Roselynn Martin
Nanpolumial, Ponape CI 96941

Withner Maru or Serlita Maru
PO Box 2218 - Pohnpei FM 96941

Penelope Schoeffel Meleisea
c/o Department of Transportation, Infrastructure
and Communication
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Joseph Menge
Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Kazumasa Miyake or Tomotaro Oyama
PO Box 922 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Lerina Nena or Jacob Nena
Box PS-25 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Joyfill Nowell
PO Box 331 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Bencyleen Optala
PO Box 1741 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Kandida Paulus
c/o General Delivery - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Fermina Pelep itf Pelep Pelep, Jr.
PO Box 1601 - Kolonia, PNI 96941

Kathleen Tobin
PO Box 2389 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Jason Rodriguez
PO Box 1515 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Domisy Sahn
PO Box 645 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Fernando Salonga
PO Box 554 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Rospel Samuel
PO Box 736 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Arleen Santos
PO Box 718 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Stephanie Santos
PO Box 765 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Visako Sehpin
PO Box 24905 - GMF GU 96921

Stenson Silbanuz
Pats Madolenimw - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

St. Barnabas Counsel
General Delivery - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Richard Susaia
PO Box 794 - Pohnpei FM 96941

Epifanio Tesoro
PO Box 1532 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Teresa Troost
PO Box 1935 - Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Koichi Yamashita
PO Box 387 - Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

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Opinion Editorial

A lasting true friend of the people of Pacific island countries

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

In China, Fiji is fondly known as “the emerald of the Pacific Ocean”. I still happily recall my stopover in Fiji five years ago when I was deeply impressed by the picturesque tropical scenery and hospitable people of this country.

Now, after five years, I will again set foot on this beautiful land. It gives me much pleasure to learn about the continued prosperity in the country as evidenced by its robust economic growth, steady progress in social development, improved living standards, and active participation in international exchanges. Recently, Fiji successfully held its general elections. I sincerely wish that the people of Fiji will achieve even greater success in its nation-building and economic and social development.

Fiji is the first Pacific island country to establish diplomatic relations with China. Our two countries enjoy a deep traditional friendship. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, China and Fiji have carried out frequent exchanges at all levels, engaged in fruitful practical co-operation and supported each other in multilateral affairs. I hope my visit will help strengthen political mutual trust, enhance co-operation in areas such as economy, trade, agriculture, forestry, fishery and tourism, expand people-to-people and cultural exchanges, deepen multilateral co-ordination and co-operation, and take China-Fiji traditional friendship to a new height.

An important agenda of my visit is to invite leaders of all Pacific island countries that have diplomatic ties with China to Fiji for discussions on ways to further grow China's relations with these countries and jointly draw a blueprint for the bright future of our friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial co-operation.

Pacific island countries are important members of the Asia-Pacific community and the developing world. Since independence, they have made important headway in nation-building and economic and social development, and taken solid steps in advancing regional co-operation.

The friendly exchanges between the people of China and Pacific island countries date back to a long time ago. We feel a natural kinship with each other. For decades, mutual respect, mutual support, sincerity, friendship, win-win cooperation and common development have always been the key words in China's relations with these countries.

As a true friend of Pacific island countries, China stands ready to work on the basis of mutual respect and equality to deepen our win-win co-operation and provide more help to support their accelerated development so as to achieve common development and prosperity.

We shall be good brothers who support each other in both good and bad times. Sincerity is the key to a lasting friendship. China believes that all countries are equal members of the international community irrespective of their size, wealth and strength. China and Pacific island countries have similar historical experience, enjoy a deep traditional friendship, and share the same aspiration for a brighter future.

We thank the island countries for their valuable support on issues concerning China's major and core interests. China firmly supports the people of island countries in pursuing development paths suitable to their own national conditions, upholding sovereignty and development rights and interests, and participating in international and regional affairs on an equal footing with other countries.

We shall be good partners of win-win co-operation and common development. The Chinese people believe that “Giving and sharing does not mean losing.”

To realise the Chinese dream of the great national renewal, the Chinese people are making staunch efforts to comprehensively deepen reform, advance the rule of law and pursue economic and social development. The people of island countries are working for the prosperity of their national economies and expansion of regional co-operation. There is certainly room for us to align development strategies, leverage our respective strengths and achieve win-win results.

We will continue to do what we can to provide support and assistance to island countries. We will encourage more Chinese businesses to engage in investment co-operation with island countries, and help them solve the most immediate and pressing difficulties, take the challenges posed by climate change very seriously, help them better translate their strengths in natural endowment, environment and human resources into drivers for development and achieve common prosperity.

We shall be good friends of mutual understanding, amity and frequent exchanges. A long time ago, many Chinese came to island countries and worked with the locals. They lived together in harmony and sowed the seeds of friendship and hope. Since the founding of New China, many Chinese doctors, teachers, agricultural experts, engineers and technicians have come to island countries to work with the people here to implement economic and technical co-operation projects. They have also brought with them profound goodwill of the Chinese people toward the people of island countries. In recent years, more and more Chinese tourists have visited island countries attracted by the turquoise ocean, white beaches, coconut trees and unique cultures.

We welcome more friends from Pacific island countries to visit China, for sight-seeing, studying, doing business or other exchanges. We hope to expand exchanges and co-operation with island countries in culture, education, health, sports and between youths and at local levels so as to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between our people and pass on our friendship from generation to generation.

The people of Pacific island countries often say, “Our world itself is an island.”

The vast Pacific Ocean links China, Fiji and other island countries and, indeed, our hearts close together. China will be a lasting true friend of the people of Pacific island countries and will work together with Pacific island countries to shape an even better future for our relations.

President Mori meets President Xi in Nadi, Fiji



FSM Embassy, Beijing

November 25, 2014

After attending the G20 meeting in Australia and visiting New Zealand, China's President, His Excellency Xi Jinping, visited Nadi, Fiji from 21-23 November to meet with the eight leaders of the Pacific island countries that have diplomatic ties with China (Fiji, FSM, Samoa, PNG, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue). President Xi's visit to Nadi is historic and indicates China's increasing support and strong friendship with these eight Pacific island countries. The visit was the first time for China at the Presidential level and was also the first meeting between President Xi and Pacific island leaders since taking up the Presidency in March 2013.

His Excellency President Emanuel Manny Mori lead FSM's delegation to Nadi where the two leaders met for the first time on November 22, 2014, for a bilateral meeting at the Frangipani Room of the Sheraton Hotel. During the bilateral talks, the two Presidents exchanged their courtesies and pleasantries. President Mori congratulated the two sides for the milestone achievement this year marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between FSM and China. President Mori took the opportunity to also reiterate FSM's unequivocal support and adherence to the One China policy.

Thanking President Xi for all the support China has contributed over the years to FSM's nation building efforts, President Mori sought President Xi's assistance in encouraging Chinese businesses to invest in the FSM in the areas of tourism, fisheries, agriculture, energy, transportation, and telecommunications. Noting the importance of balancing development and climate change, President Mori welcomed China and USA's recent agreement at the margins of the APEC meeting in Beijing to work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

FSM and China have shared a fruitful relationship these past twenty-five years. President Mori noted the strong bilateral ties and encouraged President Xi for more people-to-people and cultural exchanges to further deepen the strong bond of friendship between the two peoples and governments.

The bilateral meeting concluded with President Mori and President Xi witnessing the exchange of the agreements and MOU between the two sides. Both sides had earlier signed an Air Worthiness agreement, an MOU for the construction of the Chuuk Administration building, and an economic and technical cooperation agreement for the value of ten million USD for projects to be agreed to later by the two sides. The two Presidents also witnessed the exchange of an agreement between FSM Telecom and ZTE for cooperation in the improvement of telecommunications in the FSM.

After completion of the bilateral meeting, President Mori joined his colleagues from the Pacific in a multilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping. In the multilateral meeting, President Xi announced China's policy for Strategic Partnership for the Asia Pacific region. He informed the Pacific Island leaders that China will add \$2 billion dollars more to the current \$2 billion for soft loans to assist in the improvement of infrastructure facilities and promote economic development in the eight Pacific island countries. In addition, China will increase its assistance in health, education, and technical trainings for the next four years.

Members of President Mori's delegation to Nadi included, First Lady Mrs. Emma Nelson Mori, Secretary Lorin S. Robert, Ambassador Akillino H. Susaia, Ambassador Gerson Jackson, Director Andrew Yatilman, Mayor Sefet Salle, Mr. John Sigras, and Mr. Brian P. Etschreit.

Australian Embassy celebrates International Volunteer Day

The 5th December is International Volunteer Day. As such, the Australian Embassy, Pohnpei, celebrates the contribution of Australian volunteers as part of the Australian Government's aid program in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Each year, Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) work with partner countries around the Pacific and the world, undertaking assignments in host organizations with the objective of promoting economic growth and poverty reduction.

In 2013-14, 83% of the Australian volunteers were sent to the Indo-Pacific region because of Australia's close connections with its surrounding region. In FSM, volunteers have been involved in programs including historic conservation, local food promotion, education and even the FSM Football Association.

"Our Volunteers are not meant to replace jobs", says the manager of Australian Volunteers International for the North Pacific, Dale Withington. "We place skilled professionals on long-term assignment to strengthen and support the work of their host organizations."

Australian volunteer, Mandy Flowers from the Island Research and Education Institute, is helping to create geographical databases about Micronesia's most outer islands. She

works with local communities to collect place name data for the outer islands. "I'm very excited about doing something that hasn't been done before", she says. "I'm most excited about taking this information back to the people who gave it to me... You should see how their faces light up when they learn something new about their island!"

April Turner, from the Island Food Community of Pohnpei says her work is "give and take." "I have been able to develop a strong commitment to local food systems and biodiversity... And in return I have supported a local non-profit organization in their service delivery and strategic direction."

Working with local communities across FSM, these volunteers have helped build solid and enduring relationships that will continue to foster and promote Australia's ongoing relationship with the region.

Globally, through the AVID program, Australian volunteers were supported in 43 countries to contribute to the Australian Government's development objectives. These volunteers undertook assignments across 1369 different host organizations.

Further information about the AVID program can be found on the website at: <http://www.australianaidvolunteers.gov.au/>

A million USD worth of vaccines saved by a new generator

FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs received a new generator from the people of Japan through JICA's Follow up Cooperation on Project for Strengthening Expanded Immunization Program in the Pacific Region (J-PIPS). Despite the heavy rain and strong winds in the afternoon of 27th November, the Denyo power generator was successfully installed and tested at the National vaccine cold chain depot in Dekehtik.

The new generator replaced the 10 year-old generator which requires manual start, and was installed with an automatic transfer switch that kicks in 30 seconds in the event of power outage. The vaccine cold chain depot contains a million USD

worth of vaccines for the people of FSM. With the newly automatic generator installed, vaccines will be stored in correct temperature so that the services of safe and potent vaccines to all children in FSM will be ensured, and outcome of the J-PIPS Project which is to strengthen cold chain system will be maintained. "I am very happy to know that I can sleep well now" were the exact words expressed by Immunization Health Educator, Mr. Carter Apaisam. JICA Senior Overseas Volunteers, Ms. Mayuko Nakanishi assisting at FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs and Mr. Tatsuhiko Tsukakoshi assisting at Pohnpei State Hospital, also supported in the completion of this follow up cooperation project.



K P r e s s P u z z l e P l e a s u r e

Normal Words

After you've circled the 51 words in the puzzle below, the unused letters, when read from left to right, will

spell out the name of the actress who won the 1996-97 Emmy for lead actress in a drama series and the name of her show.

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

AGILITY BANG CHORD COAT
ARDOR BLOAT CHURCH CONCH
BANE BOXER CLIP DIME

DORM HILL
DRIVE HOLE
DUPE INVERT
FAME JOKE
FAULT LAND
FAVOR LAUD
FINE LIBERATE
FIVE METE
FLEE NARRATE
FOLLOW OPERA
FOOL PANDER
GAIN PASTE
GARB PROP
GEAR QUART
GOAL ROVE
GOBBLE WHILE
GOURD WHISK
GUEST WRIST
HEIST ZEALOT

... and more

FLAUNT your solving skills by seeing how fast you can ZOOM through the puzzle and circle all 53 words listed below. The unused letter, read left to right, will reveal the name of the actor who won the 1996-97 Emmy for lead actor in a comedy series and the name of his show.

ACHE FILE
ALMS FLAUNT
ALTAR FOAL
BAND FOIL
BELL GALE
BETTER GROAN
CANDOR HARP
CORK HIDE
CORN HOME
CRAMP IDLE
CRAYON IMBUE
CRUMB IMPACT
DABS JEER
DANGER JOIN
DEAL KAISER
DEMUR KELP
DESIST KIDNEY
DIRE LAMA
ENVY LANE
FEEL LASH

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

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PEAT WIND
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<p>Ref.18784 PRICE: \$3,280 TOYOTA MARK II Year 2000 AT 2,490cc PETROL Mileage 73,000km Color Pearl</p>	<p>Ref.18027 PRICE: \$3,450 TOYOTA COROLLA Year 2001 AT 1,790cc PETROL Mileage 69,000km Color Silver</p>	<p>Ref.19021 PRICE: \$2,770 NISSAN SUNNY (SENTRA) Year 2003 AT 1,500cc PETROL Mileage 68,000km Color White</p>
<p>Ref.640202 PRICE: \$7,450 TOYOTA RAV4 Year 2002 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 79,000km Color Black</p>	<p>Ref.18354 PRICE: \$3,550 MITSUBISHI AIRTEK Year 2001 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 83,000km Color Silver</p>	<p>Ref.18922 PRICE: \$2,790 TOYOTA RAUM Year 2001 AT 1,500cc PETROL Mileage 75,000km Color Pearl</p>
<p>Ref.19168 PRICE: \$2,330 SUZUKI SWIFT (IGNIS) Year 2002 AT 1,320cc PETROL Mileage 85,000km Color Silver</p>	<p>Ref.19065 PRICE: \$2,940 MAZDA PREMACY Year 2004 AT 1,830 cc PETROL Mileage 54,000km Color White</p>	<p>Ref.18574 PRICE: \$2,650 HONDA STREAM Year 2002 AT 1,660cc PETROL Mileage 77,000km Color Pearl</p>
<p>Ref.18509 PRICE: \$2,990 NISSAN PRIMERA Year 2002 AT 1,990cc PETROL Mileage 74,000km Color Gold</p>	<p>Ref.18429 PRICE: \$1,880 TOYOTA DUET Year 2001 AT 1,300cc PETROL Mileage 55,000km Color Silver</p>	<p>Ref.18798 PRICE: \$2,260 MITSUBISHI DINGO Year 1999 AT 1,460cc PETROL Mileage 54,000km Color White</p>

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IFCP launches "Let's Cook" local recipe book to promote local food consumption in Pohnpei

By Nihandini Santi
 IFCP Communications Advisor

Kolonia, Pohnpei, December 11, 2014 - In a new effort to promote local foods for its CHEEF (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security) benefits, funded by a generous donation from the Australian Government, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) launches the very first professionally published recipe book of local food in Pohnpei, Let's Cook Local. The recipe book offers over 90 healthy modern and traditional island food recipes and ideas from various local sources and includes tips on how to substitute local for imported food.

"There have been drastic changes in the patterns of food consumption in Micronesia over the past few decades, exacerbating the rising rate of nutrition related disorders, such as vitamin A deficiency, diabetes, heart disease and cancer," said April Turner, IFCP Project Coordinator. "This recipe book is designed to help Pohnpeians adopt healthier diets based on the rich diversity of local foods."

Let's Cook Local recipe book is part of IFCP's ongoing efforts to alleviate food related health problems in Micronesia by promoting local island food production and consumption since World Food Day 2004. Through the Let's Cook Local recipe book, IFCP is contributing to educational resources in Pohnpei to address some of the major challenges of food security and nutrition in the Island.

Let's Cook Local recipe books are now available for pre-order at a very affordable price and are expected to arrive in Pohnpei by the end of December 2014. Any proceeds from the sale of books will be used to cover expenses for awareness raising activities such as cooking demonstrations with the public, restaurants and food processing businesses. Please email communitydevelopment@islandfood.org to pre-order yours today!

Let's Cook Local!
Recipe Book © 2015
 Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Let's Cook Local!

"What a magnificent addition to any kitchen. This book is a wonderful guide to enhance use of local produce and reduce NCDs through better diets and exercise. Thank you, IFCP!"
 James Currie,
 Vice President, Cooperative Research & Extension
 College of Micronesia - FSM

"This book is an important educational resource for helping Pohnpeians make healthy food choices."
 Rihna PA Jimmy, Health Specialist
 Pohnpei State Department of Education

Food for thought or naught?

Once in the days of yonder, the people of the island of Mwoakilloa shared and believed in certain practices, myths and superstitions about the food that is eaten. Some seem nonsense to us nowadays, but some still dare us to believe as the consequences of not believing is a decision we would rather not make depending on how important it is to us to have that particular food item on our table.

Consider the octopus, a local seafood delicacy. It was once said on Mwoakilloa that one should never eat octopus with breadfruit, as to do so can cause the tree that bore that particular breadfruit to bear unhealthy fruits. And so being that breadfruit trees are trees of life on Mwoakilloa, to believe it far outweighed the risk of not believing.

The octopus, bearer of pestilence and wrought to the breadfruit tree has its own funny yet believed weak points, at some point in the history of Mwoakilloa. It was once said that a good day to catch octopus is when there is a little turbulence at sea mixed with lightning and thunder in the weather. On such a day, it was said, octopuses come out of their hiding places stretch their necks upward as if to reach for the heavens almost as if mesmerized by the lightning and thunder, providing an easy and complacent catch.

If you have folklore or stories from your culture, please share with Island Food Community of Pohnpei on 320-3259 or info@islandfood.org

Christmas Cheer

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

We are now in the holiday season, often referred to as the season of food.

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei would like to remind readers to aim for fresh local island foods, which are a healthy choice, rich in micronutrients and fiber, and tasty too.

Remember to take your time and eat slowly...and aim to eat less, instead of more. In the end you will feel better and happier.

Healthy living also includes sufficient physical activity and is important for helping to avoid diabetes, heart disease, and cancer even over the Christmas period.

Eat local food and avoid inviting imported food items into your home and party table. This will help you stay healthy and happy during the merry and happy months.

Let's go local!

Turn a bake sale into a healthy local food sale!

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Bake sales are a very common activity for fundraising. It is an excellent way to raise money for a particular cause or group, however, the foods that are sold at these fundraisers are all too often unhealthy, processed foods such as hotdogs, cakes and donuts.

Why not support our local farming families at the same time by turning your bake sale into a Local Food Sale? This provides people with a more nutritious way to spend their money, contributing to their own well-being as well as the fundraising purpose.

This is particularly important when the event has a health message such as a Fun Run. With the key purpose being to encourage healthy lifestyles the food for sale should also recognize this to create greater impact on our NCD crisis in Pohnpei.

The Micro-Japan Club recently proved the success of Local Food Sales. In 4 hours at their sale, selling coconuts, tapioca, taro, baked bananas, mahr and fish, they made \$120 at the College of Micronesia campus.

The Micro-Japan Club has about 20 members from Pohnpei, Japan, Chuuk, Kosrea and Yap organized to promote and build the great relationship between Japan and Micronesia. They also learn and share each other's culture, traditions, lifestyles, and thoughts to promote better understanding of each other to "keep the good bond from now into the future".



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Recipe: Micronesian-Style Yam Okonomiyaki

- Dried Fish (from Saimon's market), chopped into small pieces
- 2 pieces of fresh chicken, chopped into small pieces
- 1 cabbage, thinly sliced
- 2 small yams (sticky one is better), grated
- 3 eggs
- Flour
- Coconut oil
- Japanese sauce and mayonnaise

Mix the fish, chicken, yam and cabbage with the eggs and enough flour to make a thick batter.

Heat oil and fry thick pancake on both sides until golden brown.

After the Yam Okonomiyaki is fried, serve with sauce and mayonnaise spread on top.



IFCP office renovation complete

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Thanks to the United States Navy Seabees Island Food Community of Pohnpei now has a safe and secure office space free of termites! This renovation was fully funded by the United States Government and started September 22nd. The official opening is being held 11th December at 11am.

Appreciation extends to all the workers, US Department of Defense "Construction Civic Action Detail" program, United States Embassy and Governor Ehsa for making this happen.



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