

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

This bi-weekly publication is only \$1.00

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



KPress wishes all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



The nativity scene at the Spanish Bell Tower in Pohnpei. According to Cynthia Delica, the scene was set up this year by Our Lady of Mercy International Community Choir organized by members of the Filipino community, headed by Ed Parce, Rene Adlawon, Bernadette Hull, Merlyn Tacio and others. The scene also features a Christmas tree decorated with water bottles.

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Original Weno road contractor files suit against FSM

States of Micronesia.

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 17, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Yesterday afternoon Pacific International, Incorporated (PII),

the contractor from the Republic of the Marshall Islands that was hired to build the yet to be completed road, utilities and drainage improvements in Weno, Chuuk filed suit in the FSM Supreme Court against the National Government of the Federated

On November 7, 2013, the FSM's Program Management Unit (PMU) terminated the contract and PII is seeking a declaration by the Court that FSM's termination of their contract was wrongful. They are seeking specific money damages of \$14,129,786.14. They are also seeking

See "PII Suit" on page 11

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USAID donates water purification equipment to Chuuk State Hospital

In November, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) donated a reverse osmosis (RO) machine capable of purifying 6,000 gallons of drinking water per day to the Chuuk State Hospital. Previously, it had been pre-positioned at the USAID disaster emergency response logistics base in Pohnpei, which is managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Micronesia.

Patients at Chuuk State hospital have been experiencing water service outages sporadically during their hospital stays, and the donated RO machine will ensure that clean, safe water will be consistently available to patients, and improve local resilience in the face of future droughts.

Ms. Jennifer Killion, head of IOM's Chuuk sub-office, handed over the unit to Lieutenant Governor Marius Akapito, and Mr. Junior Nomau, Administrative Officer of the Chuuk State Department of Health Services, in a ceremony following its arrival in Weno. "I thank USAID and IOM for donating

the RO machine as it will not just benefit the hospital but the whole state of Chuuk; this donation represents regional capacity and resilience-building for future natural disasters and humanitarian crises," stated Mr. Nomau.

IOM Micronesia opened the Chuuk Sub office on January 18, 2013 as part of its ongoing commitment to disaster preparedness in the region, as USAID's implementing partner for disaster response under the PREPARE Program.

For further inquiries, please contact the IOM/Micronesia Pohnpei office at +691 320 8735.



First locally trained nurses graduate from COM-FSM degree program



Photo by Paulo Santos COM-FSM

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 15, 2014
Pohnpei, FSM—This morning the FSM's first class of trained nurses graduated from the College of Micronesia FSM's Nursing Program. The ten graduates are the first in the FSM to have ever been trained locally. They are now Registered Nurses in the FSM.

The theme of the ceremony was "A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work."

Dr. Johnny Hedson, Chief of Medical Services at the Pohnpei State Hospital was the key note speaker. His son Ivan was one of the graduates. Dr. Hedson spoke about the sacrifices he made during his own educational journey in Papua New Guinea. He challenged the nursing students to pursue their own goals, whether those goals include careers in nursing or the pursuit of further education up to and including the goal of becoming a physician.

He remembered the day several decades ago when he graduated from nursing school and his own determination to go even further in his training in order to help the people of Pohnpei.

Dr. Hedson's surgical skills have saved many lives.

"Today marks a landmark in the history of the College and the Health Systems in the FSM", Dr. Hedson said, "when our first locally cultivated nurses will pledge to galvanize their commitment to a noble career in the life they have chosen."

Dr. Joseph Daisy, President and CEO of the College of Micronesia FSM congratulated the graduates and also presented the graduates with their nursing pins. Kathleen Benjamin, Nursing Program Coordinator, and Rudelyn Dacanay, Nursing Instructor placed the nurse's caps on their heads, signifying their completion of the Nursing course.

The ten graduates each then lit a candle signifying the nurses' mission.

The graduates who completed the nursing program were Kenye Beth Esau, Kenye Faolimul, Queensasha Gallen, Ivan BJ Hedson, Welsihner John, Giftleen Kusto, Tracy Lawechresh, Selyn Mongkeya, Richard Pretrick, and Leslie Primo.

FSM and Pohnpei State Legislators and cabinet members including Dr. Vita Skilling, the FSM Secretary for the Department of Health attended the ceremony.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: January 5, 2015

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Wednesday, December 31, 2014



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Ta Mayor requests disaster assistance after December storm

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 17, 2014

Ta, Chuuk, FSM—Typhoon Hagupit, which got its start in FSM waters, eventually became a super typhoon headed toward the Central Philippines. Though the winds died down significantly before it made landfall it still affected 2.7 million people in 650,000 families there. Before the storm became a full fledged typhoon it also affected the people of Yap, Palau, and islands in the Mortlocks of Chuuk.

On December 11, Arthur (Ater) Atin, Mayor of Ta Municipality wrote a letter informing Chuuk's Governor Johnson Elimo of storm damage on December 1 and requesting the assistance of the State for the more than 300 residents of Ta.

In his letter he said that waves crossed the island at the runway, depositing coral, trees

and other objects that damaged the runway before washing to the lagoon side of the island.

Salt water and strong winds "damaged and removed some houses on the island".

Most taro patches were "severely damaged" by salt water inundation. Strong winds and waves also damaged other staple crops such as banana, breadfruit trees, and "other edible crops".

The Ta Elementary School campus and building were flooded. School books and other school supplies were damaged and had to close for the day.

Mayor Atin projected that the effect of the storm will continue for quite some time and he fears starvation due to a shortage of food supplies and drinking water.

In a hand written note on the letter, Governor Elimo instructed a staff member to contact the FSM's Office of Environment and Emergency Management for assistance. As of this morning, an OEEM spokesperson said that the



office had not received any official requests for assistance from anywhere in the FSM as a result of the storm in early December, though they had expected they might have received a request from the islands of Yap.

This morning Mayor Atin's nephew wrote that the Mayor has mobilized 200 bags of rice for shipment to Ta. It wasn't clear how or when the rice would get to Ta but arrangements were being made at press time.

Pohnpei holds first Human Rights Forum

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 10, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Government officials, NGO's, and community representatives met for a first of its kind Pohnpei State Human Rights Forum beginning on December 8. The forum began with speeches from each of the Ambassadors of Australia, China, and the United States. Senator David Panuelo of the FSM Congress also spoke as did Governor John Ehsa.

During the forum the participants heard presentations on a variety of topics relating to human rights. It culminated with the formation of a resolution on human rights on Human Rights Day which is celebrated internationally on December 10 each year. December 10 was chosen in order to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.

"Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination," says a document provided by the group. "These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible."

The resolution they developed is as follows:

HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION

A Resolution conveying the findings of the First Pohnpei Human Rights Forum encouraging application of Human Rights and expressing gratitude's to agencies supporting the Forum.

WHEREAS, The First Pohnpei State

Human Rights Forum on December 10, 2014 has demonstrated a sustained commitment to the protection and promotion of all human rights; and

WHEREAS, The First Pohnpei State Human Rights Forum believes that the primary responsibility to promote respect for these rights and freedom; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to a full range of opportunities has a significant impact on the people of Pohnpei; and

WHEREAS, The First Pohnpei State Human Rights Forum affirm the need to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the representatives of the First Pohnpei State Human Rights Forum Affirm and support the following: to

1. Encourage the establishment of a Human Rights Institution;
2. Action on the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
3. Strengthen the collaboration among anti-corruption agencies.
4. Revive the Pohnpei State Ethics Commission (9 PC Chapter 8).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the Forum works to advance the policies and best practices consistent with the Universal Human Rights Conventions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, The Forum acknowledges the financial support by the United Nations Joint Presence in the FSM, Government of Australia, FSM Petroleum Corporation and administrative support by Pohnpei State Government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be disseminated to the State Governors office, Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature, Chief Justice of the Pohnpei State Supreme Court, President of the FSM, Speaker of Congress, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Embassy of the United States of America, Embassy of Australia, Embassy of Japan, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Joint Presence in the FSM, Asia Pacific Forum (APF), and Pacific Disability Forum.



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PNG castaways share their story while waiting for repatriation

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 12, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Since Michael Bolong and Ambros Wavut arrived in Pohnpei on November 29, after drifting at sea for over three months they have told their story many times. It's a chilling tale of survival, endurance, bravery, faith, and even of betrayal—a story that needs to be told.

As we talked with the two men, representatives of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church came to visit them



Michael Bolong and Ambros Wavut step foot on dry land for the first time since they were lost at sea.

at The Salvation Army where the men are staying while awaiting word about repatriation. The visitors brought rice and other food stuffs and invited the two men to the English speaking Mass they hold on Saturday evenings. Both Bolong and Wavut are devout Catholics. Bolong said that it was his faith in God that kept him sane. He said that throughout their days at

sea he rose every three hours and thanked God for keeping them alive.

Early reports said that the men left Lihir on a 19 foot open boat on July 15 to make the crossing of approximately 48 miles to Tanga Island. However, Bolong says that July 15 is the day that he left his home in Rabaul for Lihir and that the boat was actually

a 29 foot boat. He says that Wavut, and Wavut's father in law, Francis Dimansol, didn't leave Lihir to make the crossing to Tanga until August 15. Dimansol did not survive the long drift at sea.

They were carrying mostly plumbing and other construction supplies for a house they were building for Wavut's wife and child

who live on Tanga Island.

Bolong said that on an extremely clear day Tanga Island can be seen from Lihir. The journey requires two six gallon tanks of fuel, which usually leaves some left over in case of emergencies, but on the day that they left, the weather deteriorated and they lost their bearings. They expended their

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VOICE: 120 Minutes Local/Domestic Calls
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Captain Taylor Santos, Michael Bolong, Ambros Wavut, and Captain Senolyn Santos at the Salvation Army building where the two men are staying as they await repatriation.



During a Question and Answer session sponsored by the Pohnpei Fish Club at Cupid's Bar and Grille, Dr. Johnny Hedson listens to Ambros Wavut's account of the days they were lost at sea.

fuel supplies while trying to find Tanga Island. When their fuel was gone they were at the mercy of the ocean currents and the wind.

On their second day adrift they encountered what Bolong called a "tanker vessel". The stranded boatmen held up their empty fuel tanks to show the crew members on board the vessel that they were out of fuel. But instead of rescuing them or providing fuel they threw two bottles of water overboard before steaming away. Neither of the men saw the name of that vessel.

They encountered other vessels as well. Bolong and Wavut said that from about the second or third week until about the thirteenth week adrift two vessels seemed to track them. They said that they were never far away during that time and they tried to get their attention but they never saw anyone aboard either vessel. They said that one of the vessels was named "Glovis" but they could not see the name on the other vessel which they said might have been a container ship. Once again Bolong described the "Glovis" as a tanker vessel but then changed his mind and said that it might have been an Ocean Liner. They didn't know for sure.

For a Question and Answer session at Cupid's Bar and Grille sponsored by the Pohnpei Fishing Club, Wavut prepared a written chronology of events. It gave an account of what they ate or didn't eat during the sixteen weeks they were at sea before they were rescued by the Yap Seagull. Considering the circumstances, he could hardly be blamed if the chronology didn't exactly match the number of days they said they were at sea.

Wavut's notes said that through week five they ate the 30 kilograms of rice they had brought with them. They had also brought five tins of fish which they used as "pots" to prepare the rice which they mixed with sugar and coffee for taste. "We just put the rice in the can with some water and waited. When the water went down the rice was soft enough to eat," Wavut said.

During week six they prepared a kind of sun dried "bread" with the three kilograms

of flour they had brought.

For the first five days of week seven they had no food at all and drank rain water as it was available.

During week eight their fishing efforts began in earnest. They sharpened a screw driver and attached it to a paddle and used that to spear fish and turtles that gathered around their boat and used it for shelter in the open sea. The paddle worked fine but was unwieldy. Bolong said that they split a piece of bamboo and tied a four inch nail into the split. They had a good supply of four inch nails so they could easily be replaced.

During their time at sea they caught many fish, and four turtles. Each time they caught something they feasted.

During week nine they went four days with no food and fresh water supplies were low. They were forced to add salt water to their fresh water in order to increase the volume.

During each of weeks 10 and 11 the men had three days each with no food. During week 12 they had nothing other than water.

On Wednesday of week 13 they tried to rouse Francis Timansol but discovered that he had died in his sleep.

The next day they speared a shark that was approximately six feet long. Bolong said that they almost lost the shark but Wavut wrestled it into the boat in truly heroic fashion. That shark fed them until week sixteen. During that week they retrieved coconuts that were floating on the water and ate them. It was during that week that the crew of the Yap Seagull, an FSM flagged fishing vessel rescued the men 116 nautical miles south of Kapingamarangi, approximately 1500 miles from where Bolong and Wavut started their journey.

They said that the crew aboard the Yap Seagull was very kind. They gave them clothing and Fong, the cook constantly offered them food. Bolong said that when he first boarded the vessel he couldn't walk but that by the end of day two, thanks to the attentions of the crew he was "already getting strong" and was able to take a few

steps.

"We always thanks the Lord," Bolong said of their time adrift. "How do we survive? It's the Lord only. It's like a miracle!"

The FSM's Department of Foreign Affairs made a formal request of the government of Papua New Guinea to repatriate the men to their homeland. At press time they had not yet had a response to that request.

The men are anxiously waiting. Bolong who is 58 years old has six children. One of his children will be graduating this month. It's beginning to look as if Bolong will not be there for that special occasion. Wavut also has a wife and a five year old daughter waiting for him during this holiday season.

A generous donor in Pohnpei provided a cell phone so that the men can keep in contact with their families while they wait. Meanwhile, at the request of the International Organization for Migration, The Salvation Army has been providing shelter for the men. They've also provided spiritual counseling and devotions. Captain Taylor Santos has also mobilized the Christian Ministerial Association whose members have provided food and clothing for the men.

The Australian Embassy organized a food drive for them and several individuals donated to that cause.

The Nurses and Doctors at the Pohnpei State Hospital have also lent significant assistance beyond their duties of health care. Dr. Hedson was trained in PNG and speaks fluent Pidgin. He and his wife Bernolina took them to dinner among other things.

The International Organization for Migration has been monitoring the repatriation methods. IOM representatives said that the best solution would be for the PNG Government to repatriate its citizens, but that if that somehow does not work, a second possible solution would be for private citizens to donate frequent flier miles. They have not yet opted for that second choice solution.

However the solution plays out, the paperwork will be significant. The men have no passports and their journey home would require a transit in Guam and in Australia.

Neither of the men has ever flown on a passenger jet before but both are anxious to return home to their families after their harrowing ordeal.

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MRA continues support of road clean-up

The Micronesia Registration Advisors, Inc. (MRA) launched its 2nd Clean-up at the Causeway on Saturday, December 6th, 2014. The clean-up started around 8AM with 12 volunteers showed up to help with the campaign. Fourteen (14) trash bags full of plastics, bottles, cans and paper products were collected during the clean-up along with dead branches, and were dumped at the airport dump site.



home clean and attractive for visitors and all of us.

The campaign, which will be undertaken once a month on the last Saturday, is planned to last for a year in hopes to bring awareness to the people of Pohnpei to be more responsible about throwing their own trash away and to keep our beautiful island

Drinking water, large trash bags, and gloves were provided to the volunteers by MRA. We want to thank all the volunteers for making the effort to join in the clean-up and we hope more will join us on January 31, 2015.

Vital decreases per gallon gasoline prices across the FSM

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 18, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—In a December 9, 2014 press release Vital-FSM Petroleum Corporation announced that it would institute a Federation wide 20 cent per gallon price reduction for gasoline effective on December 10. “The price reduction mirrors the reduction in international fuel prices, and is expected to help businesses and consumers in time for the holidays.

“FSM prices have remained stable over that period time, a core pricing mandate of the national state-owned entity as a result of the high volatility of international fuel prices since 2008, when the company was formed,” the press release said.

Before that time Exxon handled the FSM’s fuel needs. A glance back over newspapers from that time showed that when world fuel prices increased, Exxon tended to quickly increase its prices for gasoline. They tended to be much slower about decreasing them when the world fuel commodities value decreased.

The press release said that gasoline prices at service stations in Guam and Saipan have also experienced a similar downward trend, with the price of a gallon of gasoline in Guam at \$4.179 per gallon and \$4.409 in Saipan. The press release said that the anticipated decrease at the pump from \$5.00 to \$4.80 per gallon brings the FSM price to within 60.0 cents per gallon of the Guam prices.

Vital Chairman of the Board, William Hawley reiterated the goal of the company to keep prices as stable and competitive as possible. “As has been our mandate from day one, one of our principal aims is to provide price stability in the sector so that businesses and families can budget effectively” said Hawley, and added, “we feel good being able to pass along these savings at this time of year. It should help boost the local economies throughout the FSM.”

In fact, the difference would then be 62.1 cents, but the prices they quoted are actually the pump prices in Pohnpei. Pump prices differ across the FSM, sometimes even from vendor to vendor.

The press release said that with crude oil prices down to \$87.80 per barrel, FSMPC will continue to monitor international oil prices and if they remain stable through the first quarter of 2015 will consider passing on additional saving to its customers in FSM again at that time.

Meanwhile, pump prices in the U.S. mainland are highly volatile but also currently less than half of the price for gasoline in the FSM. Of course, pump prices on the U.S. mainland can change with no notice whatsoever as was once the case in the FSM.

A 2012 press release from Vital said that FSMPC then had a goal to try to keep prices to within about 30 cents of Guam’s pump prices. We are told that the higher than normal 60 cent per gallon differential between FSM and Guam pump prices is “a buffer” for a potential reverse in international prices which can be quite volatile.

Vital’s business model, which they take as a mandate is to keep prices as stable as possible. The price change is the first price change in 12 months. Meanwhile, prices in Guam have fluctuated from \$4.629 in December 2013 to a high of \$4.979 per gallon in July before dropping to its 12 month low of \$4.179 this month.

Vital continues to stress that their main goal is price stability.

PUBLIC NOTICE

December 01, 2014

ATTENTION: ALL FSM REGISTERED CORPORATIONS.

PERSUANT TO TITLE 36 OF THE FSM CODE AND THE FSM CORPORATE REGULATIONS (2-74), EVERY CORPORATION REGISTERED UNDER THE FSM NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS IS REQUIRED TO FILE AN ANNUAL EXHIBIT OR ANNUAL REPORT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE FSM REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS BETWEEN JANUARY 1ST AND APRIL 1ST OF EACH YEAR. THE EXHIBIT SHALL BE MADE AS OF DECEMBER 31ST OF EACH YEAR, AND SHALL CONTAIN SUCH INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT STANDARD FORM. HOWEVER, IF A CORPORATION HAS ADOPTED A FISCAL YEAR BASIS, SUCH COMPANY MAY FILE ITS REPORT WITHIN 90 DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

FAILURE TO FILE AN ANNUAL EXHIBIT OR ANNUAL REPORT FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS IS A SUFFICIENT LEGAL BASIS FOR INVOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION. A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DISSOLVE YOUR CORPORATION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WILL BE SERVED UPON ANY REGISTERED CORPORATION THAT IS IN VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION.

ANNUAL EXHIBIT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PALIKIR POHNPEI, FSM 96941. EXHIBIT FORMS CAN ALSO BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE FSM REGISTRAR’S WEBSITE AT www.fsmroc.fm. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 320-8089 OR 320-2608 OR WRITE TO THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, P.O. BOX PS-105, PALIKIR POHNPEI FSM 96941, OR BY E-MAIL: FSMROC@MAIL.FM.


SAMARI W. SUTA
NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS



NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the order of the FSM Supreme Court entered on June 4, 2014, public notice is hereby given that the parcels described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 019-H-08, land known as Tora, situated in Yinuf Village, Rull Municipality, Yap State, with an approximate area of 3,723 square meters, as described in the certificate of title issued on March 10, 2010 and as further described on cadastral plat no. 019-H-00 filed in Yap State Land Registry.

Parcel no. 102-H-12, land known as Talang, situated in Dulkan Village, Rull Municipality, Yap State, with an approximate area of 720 square meters, as described in the certificate of title issued on February 19, 2001 and as further described on cadastral plat no. 102-H-00 filed in Yap State Land Registry.

- There is no minimum bid amount. Bids may be submitted for one or both parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "January 30, 2015 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Ms Trudy Munggol at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Colonia, Yap on Friday, January 30, 2015 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2015.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount for each parcel.
- All bid submissions must include a deposit of 5 % of the total bid amount by cashier's check. If the bid submission does not include the 5 % deposit by, the bid is immediately disqualified.
- Winning bidders shall be notified in writing and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to the FSM Development Bank no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given. If the winning bidder fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Bank.
- Upon qualification and full payment of winning bids, the non-winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within two (2) business days.
- The winning bidders shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the land, including all buildings, fixtures and other improvements on the land.
- Winning bidders must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by the Bank fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to the Bank and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcels are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-6533, website: www.fsmdb.fm

Mapusi Youth takes action to impact community



By Mario Abello

For most people on the island of Pohnpei, the holidays may usher in the spirit of Christmas and expectations for the New Year. A lot of pleasant expectations are anticipated for what is forthcoming with activities that are usually carried out this time of year to enhance the festive mood for celebrations with family, friends, and community members. After all, this is an opportune time of the year for us to pause momentarily from daily routines to reflect on past accomplishments at the year's end while wishing the New Year will be more fulfilling in terms of satisfying our wish list, which oftentimes is a mere delineation of our personal (wants and needs) wishes to either better ourselves or our communities.

The Mapusi Youth, under the leadership of the CUYA (Central Union for Young Adults) organization didn't just wish. They decided to act to impact their community on their own terms in collaboration with the office of the major of Kolonia Town to launch a cleanup campaign on Saturday, December 6, 2014.

Undoubtedly, what transpired on this particular Saturday of the weekend in the Mapusi community, section 1 of Kolonia Town, is noticeably a good thing. Equipped with a lot of enthusiasm and spirit, despite limited access to a complete tool shed, approximately thirty some able bodies between the ages of 6 and 60 showed up to join in the act to expedite the cleanup campaign as planned.

During the cleanup campaign, trash was collected and sorted out; trees were cut down and grass was trimmed; and drainages were cleared and reinforced. These were some the more physically visible outcomes.

Incidentally, during the course of the day, some interesting observations were made. Curious onlookers in vehicles made short stops alongside the road to compliment the good work that was unfolding in front of their very own eyes. The Mapusi youth, community

members, and several volunteers were seen in action the whole day as they literally cleaned up the community panorama. The clean up task force was mainly focused on the cleanliness for road sides and clearance for clogged ditches or water ways.

The CUYA organization has been actively implementing a variety of programs and initiatives to impact the community. Activities affiliated with thematic approaches are implemented to promote sports, education, community, youth, and environment are in the works.

The Mapusi youth plan to engage in more activities to beautify the community, and restoration projects such as building better water canals to channel the water from contaminated rivers and streams back to the sea; thus, preserving the ecosystems in their natural environments. With the recent success of the Mapusi clean up project added to their track record, CUYA looks forward to a stronger support and sponsorship through the larger community. To relate the message to those who are not able to witness the significant event first hand, a video presentation entitled "Mapusi Clean Up" has been posted on YouTube. Additional encouraging commentaries and responses can also be found on Facebook and Tweeter.

There is something of a phenomenon that occurs whenever a community decides to take action to do what is good. What is good without exception does impact the community, something that the Mapusi youth knows all too well.



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

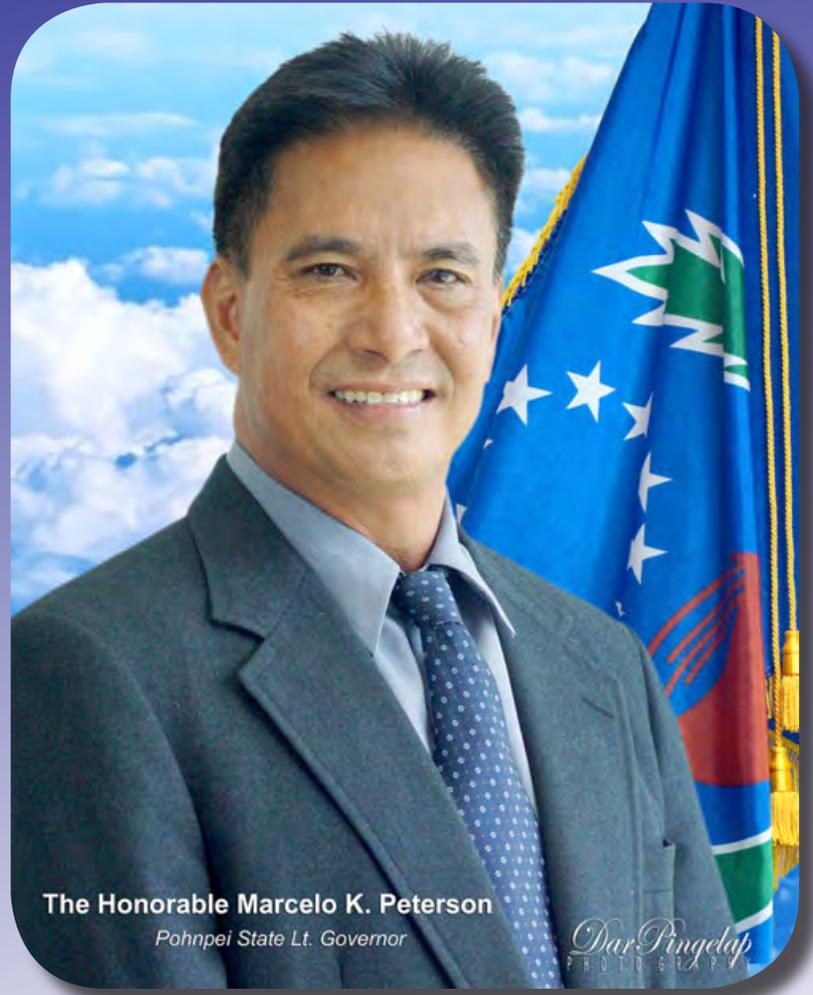
Speaker Dohsis Halbert
Vice Speaker Paliknoa Welly
Floor Leader Singkoro Harper





The Honorable John Ehsa
Pohnpei State Governor

Dar Pingelap
PHOTOGRAPHY



The Honorable Marcelo K. Peterson
Pohnpei State Lt. Governor

Dar Pingelap
PHOTOGRAPHY

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year



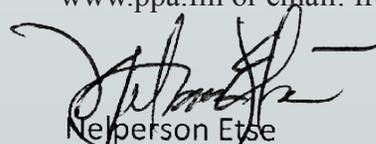
Peren en Christmas oh parakapw mwahu ong komwi oh sapwelimomwi peneinei



Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting to all interested business individuals proposal to lease the above warehouse located at the Dekehtik Seaport across Petro Corp bulk plant which is now currently occupied by FSM National Government, Finance Division. The total area is 1,858 square meters at the rate of \$1.50 per square meter. All proposals will be accepted starting December 20, 2014 to January 20, 2015.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in connection with the above subject proposal solicitation.

For more information please contact the Pohnpei Port Authority Marketing Division at telephone number 320-2973/2682; website: www.ppa.fm or email: freelabraham@yahoo.com.


Nelperson Etse
General Manager
Pohnpei Port Authority

US provides \$13.8 million in Compact Grant assistance payments in October & November

Embassy of the United States in Kolonia

In October and November, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the United States Government totaling over \$13.8 Million. These payments were for Compact Sector Grants and Supplementary Education Grants:

Education	\$ 4,056,600
Health	\$ 3,215,000
Supplementary Education Grant	\$ 3,085,950
Infrastructure	\$ 2,247,620
Public Sector Capacity Building	\$ 504,300
Private Sector Development	\$ 298,600
Environment	\$ 238,600
Enhanced Reporting and Accountability	\$ 190,700

Total Amount \$ 13,837,370

Compact funded project of the month is the furnishing of the Yap COM Campus' Student Center and Computer Lab. Yap's COM Campus has a new fully furnished building to house the Computer Lab, Student Center, and additional classrooms. The furnishings were the finishing touch to this project funded under the Compact Infrastructure Sector grant. The project began in 2009 with the award of \$2.1 Million from the Infrastructure Sector Grant to construct the building. The furnishings were provided through an additional grant of \$100,000 awarded in 2014. The FSM Project Management Unit reported that the project is essentially complete and provided photos of the furnished computer lab, classrooms, offices, and meeting rooms.



Job Vacancy

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an inter-governmental organization known for its dynamic work in the field of migration. The Organization has a global presence with over 450 offices worldwide, including five offices in the north Pacific region, covering every state in the Federated States of Micronesia and also in Majuro, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and is currently exploring options for the establishment of a presence in the Republic of Palau.

IOM continues to support disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation, climate change adaptation, and relief and reconstruction initiatives in the north Pacific region, with the overall objective to respond to and address the critical needs that arise from natural hazards and climate change.



**National Programme Officer - PREPARE
Pohnpei - FSM**



NO-A (USD 1,502.08/mo net)

General functions

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Mission (CoM) and direct supervision of the PREPARE Chief of Party/Programme Manager, the successful candidate will assist in providing coordination and support for preparedness and emergency response activities within the FSM. S/He will be responsible for both outreach and information-gathering that could improve national and international disaster responses, working closely with Government, the Red Cross and community-level entities.

Qualifications

a) completed university degree in Environmental Science, Social Science, Political Science, Business Administration, International Relations or a related field; (b) Minimum two (2) years of experience in emergency services or related field. (c) Understanding of logistical and human resource challenges faced in small island developing states; (d) Prior service with a government, human or emergency services, non-governmental organization and/or international organization. (e) High level of computer literacy. (f) Fluency in English and Pohnpeian; (g) Knowledge of Pohnpei state outer island languages is advantageous

HOW TO APPLY

IOM offers a nine (9) month contract with likelihood of extension (subject to funding availability and performance), a competitive salary, 6 weeks annual leave, and access to sick leave medical insurance.

In order for an application to be considered valid, it should include a cover letter (not more than one page), curriculum vitae highlighting the required education and experience and at least 3 referees.

Interested candidates may send their application to HRmicronesia@iom.int on or before 31 December 2014. Position title should be specified in the SUBJECT field.

Due to the urgency of filling these vacancies shortlisted candidates will be contacted directly and applications will be processed on a continuous basis.

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Beats Solo By Dr. Dre HD On Ear Headphones

\$264.99

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\$199.99

...PII suit

Continued from front page

money damages to be determined by the Court for PII's loss of bonding capacity as a result of the termination of the contract which they say has kept the company from being able to bid on other jobs. They are also seeking interest for the funds they expended to finance their operations along with costs of the suit, attorney's fees, and "whatever further relief this Court deems just".

The civil action (CA 2014-046) was only filed late yesterday afternoon and the FSM has not yet had opportunity to respond to PII's allegations.

The suit says that on February 20, 2009 FSM awarded the contract for the project in Weno. The contract was originally valued at nearly \$26 million. The contract allowed PII six months to mobilize all of its equipment, materials and labor force to Chuuk before beginning the project. They claim that they mobilized within the allowable time frame but that it soon became apparent that the FSM's plans and drawings for the project were inaccurate. FSM then had to make "extensive design revisions" before work could continue.

The suit alleges that PII notified FSM of the design flaws who promised to provide a "remedial design" as soon as possible, "but it took months to issue a revised design packet, which too was inaccurate." It says that another redesign was issued in February of 2010 which resulted in 13 amendments to the design which were incorporated into eight Change Orders. Even then the design was still not complete and revisions continued through 2010 and 2011 resulting in 15 more change orders.

It says that the FSM did not approve Change Orders within a reasonable time to support the schedule or timely compensate the contractor for its work. "For example, the Change Order that resulted from design inaccuracies discovered in August 2009 was not issued until August 2010, one year after PII first brought this issue to the Owner's attention."

The suit says that on August 10, 2010 the FSM issued a "Stop Work Order" on a revised sewer line slope because of design inaccuracies. When FSM provided another revision in September 2010 it meant that PII had to remove portions of work it had already done and redo it.

It says that FSM caused problems continued throughout the Project but that FSM would not grant the contractor all of the time extensions that were reasonably required. "Of the 9997.5 days of time extension that were reasonably requested by the Contractor, the Owner only approved 611. This does not include time extension requests due to Project shut down because of severe inclement weather which were also unreasonably denied.

It says that the last day approved by the FSM for project completion was November 25, 2013 pursuant to Change Order 26. The FSM would not grant any further time extensions even though it ordered PII to install 106 extra lateral sewer lines.

PII claims that on August 23, 2013 and again on October 30, 2013 it submitted Certified Claims to the FSM for an equitable adjustment of the contract price and completion time pursuant to the contract. Not only did FSM deny those claims it terminated PII's contract on November 7, 2013.

PII claims that at the time of termination it had completed approximately 92 percent of the Contract and had numerous outstanding claims, change order requests, and cost issues between the parties that remain unresolved,



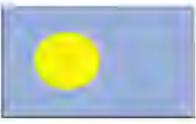
totaling over \$10 million plus time extensions.

The suit says that the stated basis for the "termination for default" was the alleged failure of PII to complete by the November 25, 2013 completion date. PII says that it will prove at trial that the delays experienced on the project were the result of the combined deficiencies in both the design documents and the administration of the contract by the FSM's agent, the PMU.

PII says that it submitted its certified final termination settlement proposal to FSM on May 22, 2014 and that upon receipt of the claims the PMU's contracting officer requested additional time beyond the 60 days to respond. In a two page letter dated September 19, 2014, that officer denied the claims and instead agreed to enter into arbitration. "PII is request to provide details of it proposed mediator, estimated costs, proposed date and venue of mediation meeting within 21 days of receipt of this letter," PII lawsuit quoted from the letter.

PII claims that it complied with the request and suggested mediation in November 2014. The contracting officer requested that the mediation be held in January, 2015 but on November 14, 2014 withdrew that request without suggesting any other date.

On November 20, 2014 PII requested FSM to confirm by November 28 whether it would engage in either mediation or arbitration of the dispute, otherwise PII would have no other recourse than to file suit in the FSM Supreme Court. PII claims that deadline passed without comment from the FSM and that there has been no further communication between the parties.



Job VACANCY

Peace Corps FSM/Palau

Open to:	General Public
Position Title:	Administrative Assistant
Starting Salary Range:	\$8,384 to \$10,736
Opening Date:	<u>20-Nov-2014</u>
Closing Date:	<u>08-Jan-2015</u>

*** Final hiring contingent upon availability of funds***
(Job Description detail is available for pick up at Peace Corps Main Office.)

Peace Corps provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Please contact Pohnpei Office for more detail: (691) 320-2531

IOM assists FSM stranded migrant to return home after 14 years

After being stranded in a foreign land for over 14 years with little contact with his family, 57 year old Mariano Ifamilik finally returned to his home of Pohnpei on November 21, 2014.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Micronesia office received a letter from the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in August requesting assistance in the repatriation of a stranded FSM citizen whose whereabouts had been discovered by members of the FSM delegation to the 45th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting last April in Palau. They visited Mr. Ifamilik at the hospital where he had been receiving medical care for several months. On November 6, FSM DFA sent a diplomatic note to the Ministry of Palau, authorizing IOM to communicate directly with the Government of Palau to assist with the repatriation of Mr. Ifamilik.

IOM worked in close collaboration with the governments of the FSM, the Republic of Palau and family of Mr. Ifamilik. After having been medically cleared to travel by the Ministry of Health in Palau, Mr. Ifamilik boarded a plane accompanied by a medical escort from Palau, with the support of IOM's Humanitarian Assistance for Stranded Migrants Fund (HASM). This facility was created in 2006 and has provided direct assistance to more than 2,200 vulnerable stranded migrants worldwide. Mr. Ifamilik arrived safely in Pohnpei on November 21, where he was met by IOM and Migrant Resource Center (MRC) staff and his family members. Upon arrival, he was examined by physicians who cleared him to go directly home. Mr. Ifamilik is unable to speak, however members of his family expressed gratitude to IOM for its support in repatriating Mr. Ifamilik.

IOM would like to thank its partners, the Government of the FSM, the Government of the Republic of Palau, the Palau Ministry of Health, the Staff of Palau Hospital, the State of Pohnpei, the family of Mr. Ifamilik, the medical escort Mr. Ngoriakl Arnold Olmetelel, the Micronesian Red Cross Society, the Genesis Clinic, consultant Emilia Katosang, and United Airlines for their support and cooperation.

"The global reach of IOM and its member states supported by HASM enables IOM to assist in these types of cases, working in close partnership with governments, civil society, and families," said Emy Musrasrik, Migrant Resource Center Coordinator.

A similar case received international attention in 2013, when IOM Micronesia assisted a stranded migrant from El Salvador, after 14 months of drifting on the sea. The IOM Micronesia office has utilized HASM to assist in 27 cases since it first established a presence in Micronesia six years ago. HASM was established to allow IOM to respond positively to an ever-increasing volume of requests from host governments for humanitarian emergency assistance to migrants.

IOM acknowledges December 18th as International Migrants Day

This December 18th, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Micronesia office will be honoring International Migrants Day. IOM Micronesia may be locally-known as the implementing partner for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response (or "PREPARE") Program, the Australian- Government funded CADRE community education and resilience-building program, or for its involvement with the Migrant Resource Center. A lesser-known fact is that, as an international inter-governmental organization, IOM started as an organization focused on European migrants displaced



Second Quality Assurance Seminar in Pohnpei



Students from COM-FSM Nursing program supported in the year-end clean up in the hospital



On December 10 2014, the "5-S" committee members held the 2nd Quality Assurance seminar at the Pohnpei State Hospital. The seminar will enable the staff to have a proper understanding of the concept of the 5-S (Sort, Set, Shine, Standardized, & Sustain) and to know how the health personnel are capable of improving their present workplace environment. Facilitators include Chief of Administration Mr. Edgar Santos, Quality Assurance Ms. Pelihna Moses, and JICA Overseas Senior Volunteers who are assisting at the Pohnpei State Hospital, Mr. Tetsuo Ofuji and Mr. Tatsuhiko Tsukakoshi.

Participants at the 3-day seminar learned about the 5-S concept and principle, quality

assurance services, fire safety precautions, and an annual year-end clean-up of the hospital areas. Purpose of the year-end clean-up is to ensure that the hospital patients' units are thoroughly cleaned annually which will assist in minimizing any infectious material build-up, reduce cross-infection between patients and staff and to provide an inviting environment for the patients. A fire drill exercise concluded the seminar and the hospital staff proposed to have this kind of exercise twice a year involving all staff from the hospital. All health facilities in Pohnpei State are anticipated to be aware of this participatory approach of 5-S to guarantee the enhanced health service provision throughout the island.

by the events of World War II, and was originally founded under a different name in 1954. The organization's focus continues to evolve to meet migration-related needs, including climate change and natural disasters, since these factors may be precursors towards displacement or forced migration. For these reasons, it is fitting that IOM Micronesia recognizes this year's International Migrants Day.

International Migrants Day was established on December 4, 2000, by the United Nations General Assembly. In October 2013, Member States at the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development unanimously adopted a Declaration in which they

recognized the important contribution of migration to development, called for greater cooperation to address the challenges of irregular migration, and to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. It also emphasized the need to respect the human rights of migrants, to promote international labor standards, and to strongly condemn manifestations of racism and intolerance, while stressing the need to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration.

For further inquiries, please contact the IOM/Micronesia Pohnpei office at +691 320 8735.

FFA fires off grim warning on impacts of inaction at WCPFC11

Apia, SAMOA 11th WCPFC Friday 5 December 2014 – Apia, SAMOA 11th WCPFC Friday 5 December 2014 –Pacific fishing nations in the midst of economic problems for their domestic long-line fleets are among those now facing the brunt of inaction by the just-ended WCPFC 11 in Samoa this week.

The much-awaited 11th WCPFC “made incremental progress in some areas, but largely left the critical issues dangling,” says FFA Deputy Director-General Wez Norris.

“We saw little or no progress in dealing with proposals aimed at bringing back Bigeye stocks from over fished levels and addressing economic woes of the Southern Albacore fishery,” he added.

“We have not had a week to deal with this. We have had months, years, to respond to the problems that the proposals tabled by the Pacific were targeting. Some of the issues covered, such as data provision, disproportionate burden, and the aspirations of SIDS, are core to the Commission procedures.”

Norris empathized with Pacific members disappointed at the lack of forward momentum.

“Even when confronted with the best possible advice, even when presented with overwhelming solidarity, even when called upon to simply comply with legally binding past agreements and even when called on to demonstrate moral leadership and do the right thing; some members are still failing to act.” says the Deputy Director-General.

“FFA and PNA members tabled no less than eight specific proposals, as well as commentary and recommendations on several more. This is evidence of the seriousness with which they approach these negotiations, and reflects both the importance of getting it right and the ramifications of getting it wrong”

“But despite the disappointment, FFA

members note incremental progress and acceptance of some proposed measures such as that for Sharks and small but crucial step forward on improving the data holdings of the Commission. FFA members also demonstrated an historic leadership and will from those who signed the Tokelau Agreement on Southern Albacore, and sent a strong message to the rest of the Commission that they will not continue to watch their resources decline while others promote inaction.”

“The FFA Secretariat is delighted to welcome the new WCPFC Executive Director Dr Feleti Teo to the role. His skills and experience as a former head of the Tuvalu delegation to the meetings leading to the formation of the WCPFC as well as through his previous high-level Executive postings to a number of regional organisations will stand him in good stead through the current challenges at the Commission. I offer Dr Teo our full support and cooperation,” said FFA Director-General, James Movick.

The 17 FFA countries represent the largest bloc at the WCPFC, including the powerful Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) countries. Conservation and Management proposals led by FFA members made up the bulk of the new and revised management measures tabled at this WCPFC 11, covering the following areas:

Bigeye remains in red after Tropical Tuna measure stalls

FFA members had supported PNA and Tokelau’s proposal refining the existing tropical tuna measure (CMM 2013-01) that would have contributed to bigeye conservation and also moved closer to addressing the unfair and disproportionate burden that the current measure places on some members.

Despite the pace of discussions on the issue, there was no substantive change to measure, meaning that bigeye remains under threat, and small Island developing states continue to shoulder the brunt of the measures in place.

In addition, a separate proposal by PNA and Tokelau to establish a formal Target Reference Point for skipjack that would keep the stock in its current healthy state was also rejected by other WCPFC members. The fishery will therefore remain under pressure to expand.

South Pacific Albacore- no consensus reached

FFA members backed a proposal aimed at an important updating of the current (2010) CMM to fit the context of the current economic crisis for Pacific domestic fleets in the longline albacore fishery. In the wings of the WCPFC 11, nine FFA members joined Tokelau and Vanuatu by adding their signatures to the Tokelau Arrangement on Southern Albacore. This move sets self-imposed limits on total allowable catches by countries. It highlights how Pacific nations intend to move forward with or without WCPFC consensus, noting that this will be far more challenging in light of WCPFC’s failure to take compatible measures for the high seas.

Some Progress on Operational Data

While the FFA proposal to finally and fully resolve the fact that the largest fleets in the WCPFC are not providing fine scale data was unsuccessful, a small but very significant step was achieved. This will see the four major players not currently providing such data starting to do so for the core fishery area. Thankfully, this compromise deal spearheaded by the Republic of Marshall Islands and Japan, is a significant starting point.

Success for FFA Shark measure

The Commission adopted a cut-down version of the FFA proposal aimed at reducing shark by-catch in tuna fisheries, with scientific analysis by WCPFC of targeted shark fisheries to ensure they are sustainable. Shark populations worldwide face significant threat. An estimated 100 million are killed annually, and some species in the Pacific are thought to have declined by over 90 percent. The proposal will allow members to choose whether to ban wire traces in their fleets, which will

allow sharks to escape more readily, or to prohibit the use of “shark lines” which are responsible for a large proportion of overall shark catch.

No to Port state measure on IUU
For the second year running, no consensus was reached on an FFA proposal for a new Conservation and Management Measure to enable ports in the region to combat Illegal, Under reported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing without imposing an unnecessary and disproportionate burden of conservation on developing State ports.

Safety, neutrality for Regional Observers Program still an issue

An FFA proposal seeking to refine Observer rules dating back to 2007 to improve the process of documentation, and safety for observers, did not gain consensus. Current rules state Observers on fishing vessels must provide copies of their reports to vessel captains but FFA members had sought a change arguing the rule compromises the safety and impartiality of the human observer on board vessels, and is in breach of the Commission’s rules around protection, access to, and dissemination of data.

Harvest Strategy gains support

The Commission adopted an FFA proposal led by Australia aimed at objectively and proactively managing WCPFC highly migratory fish stocks. The proposal seeks support on principles, a process, and a timeframe for the development of Harvest strategies, including reference points, and formal harvest control rules.

Compliance Monitoring Scheme joins the queue

Continuing the momentum from WCPFC 10, FFA members had sought improvements to the still-evolving WCPFC process for monitoring compliance with WCPFC rules by Commission Members, and for dealing with serial offenders. The Commission could not reach consensus, with some measure of adoption for an amended proposal looking likely at WCPFC 12.

Information on Tourist Visa on Arrival

On 27th November 2014, Government of India has launched the Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVOA) enabled with Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) Scheme. The TVoA enabled with ETA Scheme will facilitate nationals of 43 countries to travel to India for tourism for a short stay of 30 days. The countries are Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kingdom of Tonga, Laos, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Papua & New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Korea (i.e. South Korea), Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam and Vanuatu.

The TVoA enabled with ETA would enable the prospective visitor to apply for an Indian Visa from his/her home country online without visiting the Indian Mission and also pay the visa fee online. Once approved, the applicant will receive an email authorising him/her to travel to India and he/she can travel with a print out of this authorization. On arrival, the visitor has to present the authorisation to the immigration authorities who would then stamp the entry into the country. Applicants may apply online at <http://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

CORRECTION!

In the last issue of The Kaselehlie Press in the article regarding the President’s intention to continue with plans to implement United Revenue Authority, we reported information given to us by the Congress office that was not entirely correct. We wrote, “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.”

Congress did act on the bill, but when the bill was presented for its first reading only 11 of the 14 Senators were in the chamber. Two Senators voted against the passage of the bill. so the bill did not pass on first reading. The bill is not “still on the table”. It was defeated.

We apologize for our error.

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Island Food offices reopen after CCAD renovation

Embassy of the United States in Kolonia

The opening of the newly renovated Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) office in Kolonia was commemorated with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. U.S. Navy Seabees from the Community Civic Construction Action Detail (CCAD) program replaced the roof, windows, doors, wiring, plumbing, and windows, and then painted the building. The job was completed on time, and the IFCP has moved back into their office.

Ambassador Rosen presented certificates of appreciation to the Seabees and to the local construction workers who worked side by side with the Seabees on the IFCP project. Commodore Meyer came from Port Hueneme, CA with Command Master Chief Teart to congratulate the Seabee detachment working on Pohnpei on a job well done.

The Seabees also completed minor renovations at the Sokehs Dispensary. Next week they will begin repair work at the Pohnlongas Dispensary.

The Seabees will work through the Holidays to complete the construction of a new changing room at the Pohnpei Swim Pool. Additionally, they are replacing the roof on the 2nd and 3rd grade building at Kolonia Elementary School.

CCAD projects are funded entirely by the U.S. Department of Defense. This program does not use Compact funding. This CCAD project is scheduled to be completed with the departure of the Detail during the second week of January.



Cutting the ribbon: Emihner Johnson, Governor John Ehsa, Commodore Meyer, Yvonne Hawkins, Moses Pretrick, Ambassador Rosen, and Mona Tara.

FSM citizens can apply to United States Service Academies

Embassy of the United States in Kolonia

The FSM Department of Foreign Affairs is currently accepting applications for the Class of 2019 at each of the United States Service Academies – the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado; the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; the Military Academy at West Point, New York; and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

To apply you must be an FSM Citizen, at least 17 years of age but no more than 23 on July 1 of admission year. Applicants must not have a legal obligation to support children, and if female, must not be pregnant.

Copies of high school and college transcripts will be required. The applicant must have his or her SAT or ACT Test Results, and the results from the TOEFL test.

www.usma.edu - West Point, New York
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Photo by Glen Fukunoto



Traditional water container made from a taro leaf (Ohd)

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Pohnpeian people in the past had some amazing skills. One is that of preparing the traditional water container, folded ingeniously from a leaf of the *Alocasia taro* species, known locally as *ohd*.

The container in the photo was made by Samuel Washington, Salapwuk, Kitti. Traditionally, people would make such a container when going into the forest and needed to carry drinking water. People drink from the two "spouts" when walking long distances. This is a much more environmentally friendly option than plastic disposable water bottles that litter our forests, waterways and households, never biodegrading.

Few people still have this skill of making the traditional water container thus IFCP promotes these traditional skills and knowledge in the hope that holders of this knowledge will pass on information to the younger generations to maintain the skill.

Table 3.3. The traditional breadfruit tributes (*napwee*) or feasts (*kamadipw*) on Pohnpei

Name	Form of tribute	Significance
<i>kehmei</i> (<i>pwatemei</i>) first bite of breadfruit	Eleven baked <i>maikol</i> fruit are arranged in a basket and presented to the <i>Nahmpwarki</i> , who takes four ritual bites of a fruit. Eight fruits are presented to other chiefs.	Opens the breadfruit season. Afterward people may eat whole fruit that have been prepared in this manner.
<i>puhni</i> * coconut frond	Many (30-40) baked <i>maikol</i> presented in a large basket, <i>kiamroh</i> .	Indicates that the full season of <i>raik</i> has arrived and people are beginning to prepare <i>lilhi</i> .
<i>lilhi</i> pounded breadfruit	The most respected form of prepared breadfruit. Leaves of <i>lilhi</i> are presented in special baskets lined with banana leaves.	Afterward people are allowed to eat <i>lilhi</i> , breadfruit cooked with coconut cream, and cut or sliced fruit. Can also begin to make <i>mahr</i> .
<i>sakalap</i> * huge feast — the most festive feast during <i>raik</i>	Numerous baked fruits and other feast items (such as whole roasted pigs) are presented on a massive litter of coconut fronds between two carrying poles.	Signifies that abundant amounts of fruit are available.
<i>songmar</i> feast of preserved breadfruit	Baked loaves of <i>mahr</i> wrapped in banana leaves are carefully arranged in coconut frond baskets (<i>kiam</i>) and presented with other prestige items such as yams, <i>sakau</i> , and pigs.	Afterward people are allowed to eat <i>mahr</i> .
<i>umwut luhwen mri</i> last baking of breadfruit	Tribute of <i>meinsahrek</i> breadfruit, which ripens last in the season. Typically presented with other prestige items.	This final offering signifies the end of the breadfruit season and the start of <i>isol</i> .
<i>kerimei</i> * breaking of the breadfruit branch	During <i>keidial</i> , the final feast of the yam season, a breadfruit branch bearing a tiny immature fruit is placed upon the <i>uhme</i> baking the yams.	The branch symbolizes the cycle of seasons, for the upcoming <i>raik</i> is evident in the immature fruit.

* Note: *Puhni*, *sakalap*, and *kerimei* rarely occur.

Merry Christmas!

Wishing you a healthy and happy Christmas on our beautiful islands!

From Island Food Community of Pohnpei



Thank you to all the donors who have supported IFCP in 2014

- Pohnpei State Government
- Government of Australia
- Government of United States
- GEF Small Grants Programme FSM
- Pacific Development Conservation Trust
- Children's Healthy Living Program
- Australian Volunteers International



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- Palm Terrace

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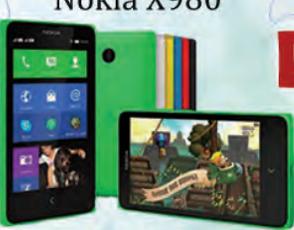
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Healthy cooking and preserving

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Sun drying is an effective way to preserve foods. Local foods such as bananas, papaya, mango, pineapple and coconut can be dried for sweet snacks. Giant swamp taro, breadfruit, bananas, tapioca and coconut can be dried for flour. Fish can also be dried.



You can purchase a sun drier at Island Food Community or you can simply place your foods in the sun on trays with netting to prevent insects.

Many other island foods can be preserved into jams, chutneys, sauces, pickles, chips, juices etc.



The Island Food Community designed coconut charcoal oven is a healthy cooking method for local foods without any electricity costs or use of unsustainable fire wood or fuel. The smokeless oven uses coconut shell charcoal to efficiently cook foods in less time. These can be purchased at Island Food Community. Please contact 320-3259 for more information.

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