

Pohnpei school buses on hold



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 12, 2015

Pohnpei, FM—Five brand new, massive Hyundai school buses have been parked in front of the Pohnpei State Government Complex for just over a week. A representative of the government unofficially says that putting those school buses into service is on hold for the moment due to some

type of funding problem but did not specify exactly what that problem was.

Salter Lohn, Pohnpei State Legislature’s Public Information Officer said that three committees of the Pohnpei State Legislature have held hearings regarding the purchase of those school buses. He said that they had prepared a report based on those hearings. However, the committee chairs told him that they could not release the report until after the entire Pohnpei State Legislature has adopted that report if they choose to do so.

FSM Audit shines spotlight on Public Projects

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 9, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—“People want progress. People deserve better,” wrote Haser Hainrick, the FSM’s National Public Auditor in his cover letter on an inspection of the Congress of the FSM’s Public Projects and Social Programs that was released today. The letter also served as the press release that went out today to all of the office’s media resources in the Pacific. They also hand delivered a hard copy of the complete inspection to The Kaselehlie Press office before the day was over.

By the next morning, the PDF copy of the audit was pervasive on social media.

The audit inspection (2015-04) lists four findings and provides several examples under each heading:

1. Lack of definitive parameters led Congress to appropriate \$1.6 million for all sorts of activities and programs under “Public Projects” which did not yield any meaningful and lasting benefits.
2. \$685,650 Public Projects lacked transparency and

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Bill Raynor speaks on conservation to Pohnpei's Paramount Chief's Council



[Editor's Note: This article was transcribed and translated from Pohnpeian from a video of Bill Raynor's appearance before the Paramount's Chief Council.]

The Nature Conservancy's Pacific Director Bill Raynor appeared before the Mwoahl en Wahu in Wein Pohnpei (The Paramount's Chief's Council of Pohnpei Island) on Jan. 27th, 2015. He thanked the island's paramount chiefs for 35 years of hospitality and respect during which time they made him the first American village "talking" chief (Pelien Dahl). He also urged them to take control of the Pohnpei Forest Watershed and the Island Marine Protected Area Work around the state and to finish our partnership of 29 years of improving the lives our poorest people who depend on Pohnpei's natural resources for their livelihoods and survival.

Transcript:

My deepest respects to the Lord Our God, who controls all the happens in our world,

My deepest respects to our Nahnmwahrkis, the Paramount Chiefs of Pohnpei,

My respects to the Nahnkens of all

President's FY 2016 OIA budget requests \$643.6 million for U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States

Underscores Administration Support for Climate Change Adaptation, Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Development

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Obama has proposed a fiscal year 2016 budget of \$643.6 million for the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), which works to empower U.S.-affiliated insular communities by encouraging economic activity, building governmental capacity, promoting effective governance, and supporting adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The budget request includes \$103 million in annual appropriations and \$540.6 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations mandated by law to the U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States.

"President Obama's 2016 budget request demonstrates his strong commitment to the U.S.-affiliated insular areas," said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Esther Kia'aina. "I am proud that the proposed budget recognizes that our island communities are on the front lines of climate change and provides resources to help them to adapt and remain resilient."

"The request supports quality of life in the insular areas by bolstering programs aimed at improving K-12 public school facilities and confronting energy security challenges," added Kia'aina.

Included in the 2016 budget request is \$103 million in annual appropriations to address a variety of technical assistance and operational programs in all the U.S.-affiliated island communities. Noteworthy investments include \$7 million to address climate change adaptation and resilience; \$4.4 million to pursue sustainable energy strategies; \$5 million in school maintenance;

\$17.5 million in technical assistance for insular area governments; and \$22.8 million to support American Samoa Government operations. Mandatory funding for capital improvement projects remains at \$27.7 million.

Permanent appropriations for 2016 include mandated funding to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). It is estimated Guam would receive \$71 million in tax payments from active-duty military and federal retirees on Guam. These payments, known as Section 30 funds after the law authorizing them, are collected by the federal government and transferred to Guam to support public safety, health care, education and other public services and operations. The USVI is scheduled to receive an estimated \$211 million in Rum Cover Over funds, which supports government operations and public services. Under current law, any excise tax collected on USVI manufactured rum imported into the United States is transferred to or "covered-over" to the USVI.

The President's 2016 budget request includes \$228.6 million in payments to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to promote economic advancement and budgetary self-reliance in support of the close and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and these island nations codified in the Compacts of Free Association. In affirmation of the strong and continuing partnership between the United States Government and the Government of Palau, officials from the two nations successfully concluded a

review of the Compact of Free Association on September 3, 2010, and signed a 15-year extension agreement that includes a \$250 million package of assistance for Palau through 2024. The 2016 budget provides a legislative proposal to enact the agreement under which Palau committed to undertake economic, legislative, financial and management reform and in turn allows the U.S. exclusive military access to Palau's strategically important waters.

About \$31 million is included for Compact Impact grants to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawaii to aid in defraying costs incurred by those U.S. jurisdictions as a result of increased demands on health, educational, social or public safety services due to migration from the Freely Associated States, whose citizens are permitted under the Compact to enter the United States to live, work, and attend schools.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs' mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

Municipalities,

Finally my respects to all who are assembled in the this sacred chambers.

I was invited by the Nahnken of Nett to open up our conservation conversation today. I will make both of my sincere thanks and also a request for assistance.

I just got back from Hawaii and found out from my doctors there that I have a serious medical condition - if I don't do anything, I will be dead in 2-3 months. If I quickly go back to them for the next set of treatments, I could live a year or so, or if I'm lucky and get a miracle, many years.

So I asked the doctors to give me the opportunity to go back to Pohnpei to meet my family and my kousapw (Village), and make sure that the work that we started there keeps moving forward.

See "conservation" on page 7

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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Japan turns over new police vehicle to the National Government



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A turn-over ceremony was held at the President's Conference Room on the morning of February 2, 2015. A Japanese delegation, composed of four members paid a courtesy call on Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) President Emanuel (Manny) Mori to officially turn over a new law enforcement vehicle to the FSM Government.

In accepting the vehicle, President Mori expressed profound gratitude on behalf of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the

FSM Government. Mr. Shigeru Kawano, the President of ASKA and MPI - a captive insurance company that was established in Micronesia donated three vehicles to the National DOJ. At one of the Captive Insurance Seminars held in Tokyo in 2013, Mr. Kawano met Attorney General April Skilling and became aware of the need of police cars in the FSM Government.

In the President's remarks, he echoed his sincere appreciation as promises, "I want to promise you that we are going to use the vehicles as the government's most valuable assets," and further expressed, "another

promise is that we are going to do our very best to serve you and also continue to improve the relationship between the captive association in Japan and also in the FSM."

A Japanese company that specializes in manufacturing high quality law enforcement vehicles manufactured the three police cars that were donated. In efforts of delivering brand new vehicles, Mr. Kawano was able to arrange fully scaled police cars that are installed with advanced electronic components such as sirens and searchlights. As Mr. Kawano stated, the blue colored cars signifies the vast ocean in Micronesia.

President Mori noted the close relationship and strong alliance between Japan and FSM and hopes that they continue to strengthen the relationship between the two nations.

ASKA is an enterprise group, based on transportation such as taxis and buses. This enterprise group also specializes in handling advanced equipment for vehicles. 1900 taxis are with 4300 employees and the enterprise's annual sale is 27 billion yen. Members comprised of Mr. Kawano's delegation were Shigeki Sasakura, Yutaka Ezure and Ken Yoshizaki.

Present with President Mori were Department of Justice Secretary April Skilling, Chief of National Police Johnny Santos, Commander Steward Peter and staff.



FSM Department of Education
Division of Special Services

Public Announcement
February 9, 2015

The FSM Department of Education announces that an application for funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is being submitted for US Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 covering the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The FSM receives funding under IDEA to provide special education and related service programs for eligible children with disabilities and their families.

IDEA requires that the annual application for funding be made available for Public Review and Comment. Consistent with this requirement, The FSM Department of Education announces that the Annual State Application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as Amended in 2004 for FFY 2015 will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education on May 3, 2015.

The FSM Department of Education announces that a 60-day public review period and a 30-day public comment period will be available to allow the public an opportunity to review the application and to makes comments. The dates for the 60 day public review will be from March 2, 2015 – April 30, 2015. The 30 day public comment period will be from March 16, 2015 – April 14, 2015.

The FSM Department of Education will also be conducting Public Hearings in each State regarding the FFY 2015 Part B Application and any changes that are being proposed for policies and procedures used within the FSM Department of Education to administer special education programs. A schedule of the Public Hearing dates will be made available.

Copies of the Part B Application FFY 2015 are available at each State Department of Education. A copy of the application is also available at the FSM Special Education Website: <http://fsmsted.org/dashboard>

Please submit any comments concerning the application to:

Mr. Arthur Albert
Chief, Division of Special Services
Department of Education
FSM National Government
P.O. Box P
Kolonia, Pohnpei
FSM 96941

Comments may also be submitted via email to: aalbert@dss.edu.fm
Additional information can be obtained by calling 691-320-8982/1055/7228

THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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WILL BE RELEASED ON:
March 2, 2015

Deadline for submission of articles
or advertisements for this issue is the
end of working hours on:
Wednesday, February 25, 2014

U.S. Coast Guard provides law enforcement training in FSM

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

In February four U.S. Coast Guard personnel, representing the Mobile Training Branch and District 14, arrived in FSM on Law Enforcement training. The training, which stemmed from the international partnership between Australian Defense Force (ADF) and the United States Coast Guard Director of International Affairs and Foreign Policy (DCO-I), focused on the continued expansion the Maritime Law Enforcement capabilities in Micronesia.

The training encompassed a wide range of material, from classroom instruction on International Law, to practical boarding scenarios, and defensive tactics. Previous to the team's arrival in FSM they had offered the same training in the Republic of Marshall Islands.

During the first week of training, students received in depth instruction on the limits of their jurisdiction and authority as Law Enforcement Officers. Then they learned the importance of thorough preparation prior to the execution of a lawful boarding. Finally, they studied the framework of a Use of Force policy: how to effectively communicate, and how to utilize an array of defensive tactics to compel a subject to comply with their lawful orders, if necessary.

The second week of training primarily focused on the practical application of the core concepts learned during the first week. The instructors built upon the Use of Force policy, and educated the students on additional situations the students may encounter while executing their duties.

The students from FSM National Maritime Wing were given the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of, and apply the material learned in a series of "mock" boardings, in these "mock" boardings, the students break into teams, and demonstrate their critical thinking ability,

and work through various scenarios provided by the instructors.

Additionally, they are placed in "bull in the ring" scenarios, where they are given a subject in a unique situation, and must get the subject to follow their orders. Here, they must apply their effective communication skills and the correct defensive tactics learned.

Training came naturally to the Micronesia's Maritime Wing. They were punctual, and legitimately interested in the training provided. Their impressive retention of the material and positive attitude enabled the instructors to not only complete the training, but build a close relationship with the students.

Members of the Australian Defence Force in Pohnpei, LCDR Tim Koroi and Chief Petty Officer Andrew Hamilton were supportive of the training. They consistently ensured



all needs of the team were met. The U.S. Embassy provided the team with additional logistical assistance and backing. U.S. Ambassador, Rosen praised the team's

efforts. The Coast Guard team's next stop is the Republic of Palau.

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Peace Corps Response Volunteers to arrive in Chuuk soon

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Chuuk for nearly 50 years, with the first Volunteers arriving in the State in 1966. In 2015, the Peace Corps Response program will be initiated in Chuuk.

Peace Corps Response is an expansion of the traditional Peace Corps Volunteer program, which brings Volunteers with at least 10 years of work experience and medical professionals to countries requesting assistance with capacity building in health, education, and other sectors of civil society. Peace Corps Response was formally established in 1996 under the name Crisis Corps and to date over 1500 Volunteers have served in more than 50 countries.

In January, Peace Corps Country Director Robert Reid signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chuuk Governor Johnson Elimo for a new initiative to bring Peace Corps Response Volunteers, technical specialists, to build capacity in education and disaster coordination efforts.

Five education accreditation experts will work with their counterparts at the Chuuk Department of Education to assist elementary and secondary schools to move towards accreditation. In addition, two curriculum development specialists will work with their CDOE counterparts to make improvements to the regular and technical curricula in the State. The Peace Corps Response Volunteer assigned to the Disaster Coordination Office will work with the DCO to enhance disaster risk reduction and response planning efforts.

Robert Reid, along with Mason Fritz, Peace Corps Chuuk Volunteer Support Specialist, discussed this collaboration with Governor Elimo and Kichy Joseph, and reassured them that the Peace Corps is committed to assisting the peoples of Chuuk in these program areas, as well as with other priorities, as long as necessary. Regarding education reforms in Chuuk, Dr. Reid stated, "this visit to Chuuk has been helpful to understand that the work of our specialists will greatly assist the on-going efforts of the CDOE to improve the quality of education for Chuukese students, and I was impressed by the commitment of those Chuukese citizens involved in this reform process to ensure its success."



Robert Reid and Kiki Stinnett

Governor Elimo and Dr. Reid also agreed to jointly plan and commemorate, "as is our custom," the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary in Micronesia, which is coming up in 2016. "The close relationships our Volunteers have formed with the peoples of Chuuk are a great reason to have a large celebration," added Director Reid.

Additionally, the Peace Corps Country Director signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chuuk Women's Council President Christina (Kiki) Stinnett to bring technical specialists to build capacity in health and NGO development. The first expert will work with her counterparts at the Chuuk Women's Council to build capacity in their health education efforts as well as to assist the CWC to move towards sustainable operations.

Reid and Fritz discussed this collaboration at the CWC office with Mrs. Stinnett, affirming that the Peace Corps is committed to continuing assistance in these program areas, and with other priorities of the CWC, as long as necessary. Reid toured the CWC office and saw the new apartment and office that have been prepared for the Peace Corps Response Volunteer. The Chuuk community, including the Truk Stop Hotel, have pitched in to help furnish the apartment and office. After the tour, Reid stated, "Our discussions with the leaders of the Chuuk Women's Council have energized our desire to commence our collaboration with the CWC, as the work of our specialists will greatly assist their on-going initiatives to strengthen civil society outreach in Chuuk, and I was impressed by the commitment of those Chuukese citizens involved in this process to ensure its success."

FSM Congress passes shark protection bill

February 4, 2015

Palikir, Pohnpei—After months of hearings and debate the FSM Congress has passed a bill for an act to protect sharks in the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone. The bill proposes a prohibition of possession, handling, selling of sharks and shark fins throughout the FSM's EEZ. Currently each of the FSM states has a law to protect sharks which applies only to each state's 12 mile zone.

The bill is on President Mori's agenda for review.

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Sophia University presents scholarship to Risa Mairana Oue



Amb. Shoji Sato, Risa Oue and Chancellor Koso, after Risa has received her acceptance notice

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 6, 2015

Weno, Chuuk—Father Toshiaki Koso, Sophia University Chancellor announced today that Risa Mairana Oue is the next scholarship recipient under the Xavier High School International Scholarship Program. She will attend the prestigious Jesuit school with campuses in Tokyo, Japan. She will be enrolled as an undergraduate student in the Science and Technology program in the Fall Semester.

High School campus and said that Sophia University has a similar statue of the man who 460 years ago was the first to spread Christianity in Japan. “Overcoming the subsequent ban and persecution of Christianity, Xavier’s dream materialized approximately 360 years later in 1913 through the efforts of Pope Pius X. That is Sophia University,” he said.

Fr. Koso pointed out the statue of Francis Xavier on the Xavier

He said that during Xavier’s lifetime he made it possible for two Japanese students to “study abroad” in Europe, a treacherous journey at sea involving 10 months of travel and all of the hardship that encompassed. In the mid-16th century most people in Japan thought that “where they lived was the whole world, like a ‘frog in a well’,” Fr. Koso told the students at Xavier High School. “Then we will actually travel to Europe, visit Lisbon and Rome, and upon our return we shall testify to the Japanese what we saw with our own eyes and what we heard with our own ears,” the two Japanese students said.

Chinese Embassy holds reception to introduce its new Ambassador to the FSM

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 6, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—This evening the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China held a reception at Cupid’s Bar and Grille to welcome their new Ambassador to the FSM, Li Jie and his wife, Li Jinmei.

The Ambassador arrived only three weeks ago but he said that it seems that there is an “intricate link” that brought him here. He said that though his hometown of Ningxia is not well known, he had the honor to receive Vice President Alik Alik there in 2010. In March of 2011, Ningxia and Yap State established a “sister state” relationship. He said that President Mori had also made a State Visit to Ningxia when he attended an International Fair there.

“I am not a superstitious person”, he said, “but it does give me a feeling that these rare and precious encounters brought me and my wife to FSM [to] give us such a chance to meet all of the old friends from FSM I

made in Ningxia and [to] make more new friends in the years to come.”

“Our differences enrich us”, he quoted from the preamble of the FSM Constitution and said that “each of the four states of the FSM have different circumstances and their own endowed blessings and charm.”

Similarly, “China is a vastly diversified country with 56 ethnic groups and 34 provincial administrative regions,” he said. “From the coast of the east to the ridge of the world, from the snowy north to the humid and rich south, people of different regions and groups have developed their own unique cultural traditions in the long history, which are all parts of the extensive and profound Chinese culture, culminating the Chinese value of ‘Harmony but not uniformity’. Although China and FSM have vastly different national conditions, China always upholds the principle of equality regardless of how big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak a country is in our exchange.”

“The seas bring us together; they do not separate us,” Ambassador Li once again quoted from the preamble of the FSM Constitution. “The Pacific Ocean does not separate China from FSM either.”

He said that since China had established its relationship with the FSM just over 25 years ago, the bilateral relations have “progressed steadily”. He mentioned people to people exchanges, and other “practical cooperation”. He mentioned that in November of last year, the two leaders of the FSM and China had met in Nadi, Fiji and had agreed to build a “strategic partnership of mutual respect and common development, laying out the blueprint of our friendship.”

Lorin Robert, FSM’s Secretary for Foreign Affairs reiterated the Ambassador’s message from an FSM point of view and proposed a toast to the new Ambassador.

Many dignitaries were present at the event including Chairman Isaac V. Figir of Yap.

Fr. Koso said that Xavier also had another dream plan to send two virtuous Buddhist monks to Europe so that Europeans could see ‘how advanced the Japanese are in term of virtue and knowledge’. “In other words,” Fr. Koso said, “it was not just the Japanese who were the ‘frog in the well,’ but the Europeans as well.”

“Francis Xavier aspired to begin cultural and philosophical exchanges between Japan and Europe. Today we call this cross-cultural understanding and international exchange,” Fr. Koso said. “Sophia University believes that we have a role to carry on the dreams of Xavier to the future. Under its educational spirit, “Men and Women for Others, with Others,” Sophia University offers plenty of systems and programs to develop human resources for the world.”

“Currently we have [an] MOU for exchange, international student programs from 220 universities from 45 countries in the world, and we have 1,441 foreign students from 68 countries. I am very happy to tell you that Mary Helen Mori, a graduate of Xavier High School, as an undergraduate student in our Faculty of Liberal Arts is one among them,” he said.

Mori was the first scholarship recipient under the “Xavier High School International Scholarship Program” established by Sophia University and APIC (The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation) a non-profit organization in Japan. Japan’s previous Ambassador to the FSM, Shoji Sato is the Executive Director of APIC and was present at the ceremony at Xavier to present the new scholarship to Risa Mairana Oue.



FSM Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert toasts PRC Ambassador Li Jie and his wife Li Jinmei



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT
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PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
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About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

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

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

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

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The starting salary will be in the range of SDR39,868 to SDR 44,852 per annum. At the 1 January 2015 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD115,259 to FJD129,668.

TEAM LEADER INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

An exciting opportunity exists for a Team Leader Information & Communication Technology Services (ICT) to join the Secretariat. The Team Leader ICT will be accountable to the Director, Corporate Services Programme in leading and managing the Information & Communication Technology Services Section to manage and support information & communication technology services to the Forum Secretariat.

Responsibilities will include (but are not limited to):

- **Provision of IT Infrastructure;**
- **Provision of IT Support;**
- **Provision of Telecommunications support;**
- **Information Technology Planning;**
- **External Provider contract management;**
- **Team Performance and Leadership;**
- **Continuous Improvement; and**
- **Team Financial Performance.**

Applicants should have a first degree in Information Technology or similar Tertiary education with at least five years experience in an Information Technology Leadership role and in support of a range of IT areas like; Users and user equipment, Systems, Network, Security and applications. Applicants should also have experience at a senior level to information technology management.

Applicants must also have experience required to manage the information technology function including long term planning, resource management, risk management, disaster recovery, policy and procedures, budgeting, project management, work-flow planning and monitoring and team leadership.

The starting salary will be in the range of SDR34,537 to SDR 38,854 per annum. At the 1 January 2015 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD99,847 to FJD112,327.

About the Benefits

These appointments carry competitive remuneration and benefits packages including medical and life insurance. For non-Fijian nationals, the salary may be tax-free.

To be eligible for these positions, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country*.

Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

Deadline for applications at 5pm (Fiji time), 27 February 2015.

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

...Conservation

Continued from page 2

I asked few of my colleagues if I could also meet with you - the Paramount Chiefs' Council.

We started working on the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve (WFR) in 1987. At that time, I was 21 years old, a bit of wildman, and had just finished teaching Agriculture at Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS for 10 year) under the guidance of the famous Rev. Hugh Costigan, S.J.

In 1983, I married a royal-blooded woman. At that time, I didn't know what Royal was! Right now, my wife (Pelihter Silbanuz Raynor) is a Lih Mesekedel (Clan Leader) for the Dipwen Pahnmei Pelien Dauk. So maybe my brother-in-laws didn't know what to do with me, this Mehnihkehn Wai (American clam), so they made me the Peliendal (number 2 village chief in Kepirohi Village, Madolenihmw) - first American ever to get that title ever as far as I know. I want to thank you all!!! Since I've got to Pohnpei in 1981, I've never seen this kind of non-stop hospitality! Never once did I find any difficulty in Madolenihmw and I was cared for so well with good advice from the traditional leaders. Even though I was a Mehn Wai (American), I never felt like I was treated like a white guy. I was treated like a Pohnpeian man. I wanted to say that we are particularly happy in Madolenihmw right now because we have not heard the speech of the Nahnken (Mahsen) since Nahnken Hadley died in 1987. But this year we now have the new Isonahnken with Mahsen and Isapahu with Poahngoak and Madolenihmw is a happy place.

Because of my sickness, I also want to share my thanks to all the Municipalities because my work on the Watershed Reserve and Marine Conservation touched all the Kingdoms/municipalities (Wehis) in Pohnpei State, and also other places throughout the Pacific region.

Wein Uh, Wein Nett, Wein Sokehs and Wein Kitti - I never had any bad treatment in these kingdoms/municipalities. You respected me like I was a Pohnpeian man. I really didn't think I could have worked and found that respect anywhere else I worked in the Pacific. Everything I have experienced to now in Pohnpei - the beauty of the island, the kindness of the people and the alignment between the Government, Church and the Traditional Leaders that have brought forth shows me that Pohnpei is truly experiencing Sohramwahu (Spiritual, Cultural and Leadership Alignment).

The second thing I wanted to cover today in my brief presentation - the Pohnpei Forest Watershed Project started in 1987. I've grown to be an old man in that work,

See "Conservation" on page 9

Parem school gets power of the solar variety

Pohnpei State Government

February 12, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM-- On January 23, 2015, a turn over ceremony took place at the Pohnpei State Main Conference room. The ceremony was held to celebrate the recently completed project of solar panels at Parem School on Parem Island.

The project was handed was awarded to Micronesia Renewable Energy Inc., which completed the project at a cost of \$224,000.00. The project was funded by Pohnpei IMF (Infrastructure Maintenance Funds) and Pohnpei State Government General Funds. The Project marks an unforgettable development in the history of Parem Island and

includes the following:

- Installation of 64 solar panels.
- Installation of metal brackets for solar panels (240 mph rated for wind load).
- Installation of 5 inverters.
- Installation of 24 2V batteries (DC)
- Installation of 1 safety switch.
- Installation of 1 main panel box and 3 subpanel boxes.
- Installation of overhead LED lights (ALL CLASSROOMS).
- Installation of receptacles (ALL CLASSROOMS).
- Installation of ceiling fans (ALL CLASSROOMS).
- Installation of switches (ALL ROOMS).

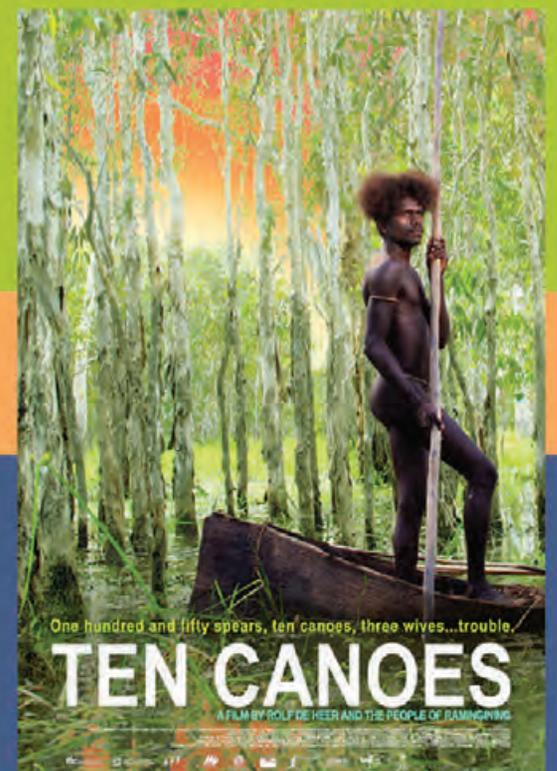


Australian Embassy Movie Weekend

**Friday 20th & Saturday 21st February
5:30pm at the Pohnpei Cinema**

The Australian Embassy is holding a movie event at the Pohnpei Cinema on Friday 20th & Saturday 21st February showcasing two movies: "Red Dog" and "Ten Canoes".

All shows will be at 5:30pm and free to the general public.



Outcomes of training in Japan boosted by Pohnpei EPA, PWMS and OEEM



Participants at the Water Sanitation Management Training Presentation Session

JICA's Country Focused Training course entitled "Water Sanitation Management" was taken place in Okinawa, Japan from November 17, 2014 to December 14, 2014. Eight officials participated from the FSM in this training, together with 3 from Palau and 2 from Marshall. Differing from usual JICA group training, Country Focused Trainings is designed upon request from each country to meet specific needs. This is the first case for the FSM to take this training scheme under JICA Cooperation. The purpose of this Training is to enhance better environmental management for the FSM through human capacity development, which will be held for 3 years till year 2016. For the first year, participants learned how to manage leachate from semi aerobic landfill site and proposed a National guideline and state level management plans.

beginning, Pohnpei State EPA Director Albert Roby welcomed attendees followed by JICA FSM Project Formulation Advisor Mr. Takahisa Watanabe. Presentations were conducted by each of the three ex-trainees, Mr. Fermin Scaliem (Pohnpei State EPA), Mr. Ryan McVey (Pohnpei Waste Management Services) and Ms. Patricia Pedrus (Office of Environment and Emergency Management, FSM Central government). Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, H.E. Masakai Sakai also joined heated discussions among the attendants for better solid waste management in the FSM.

The presentation session ended with the conclusion that Pohnpei EPA and PWMS move forward to implement their leachate management plan in accordance with the National level guideline proposed by OEEM. JICA is willing to support their further implementations.

On January 22, 2015, a presentation session was held at the Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to share their outcomes of the Water Sanitation Management training with attendants. At the



Mr. Takahisa Watanabe from JICA FSM Project Formulation Advisor and the Presenters Mr. Fermin Scaliem, Mr. Ryan McVey and Ms. Patricia Pedrus.

...Conservation

Continued from page 7

and many involved have already passed away – but the work is NOT finished. It's close to done in Madolenihmw, Uh, Sokehs, Kitti...not yet...Nett, not yet. I'm a little bit sad about that, because if I can't return to Pohnpei alive, what's going to happen with our work?!! We started the work in 1987, the Government led the Watershed Project, and it totally FAILED!! Fortunately, several of you, led by the Isonahnken of Nett, took over the work and made it move in your respected municipalities. So I still believe Government has a role. but without the support, the ownership, by the Pohnpei Traditional Leaders, the work will never be completed.

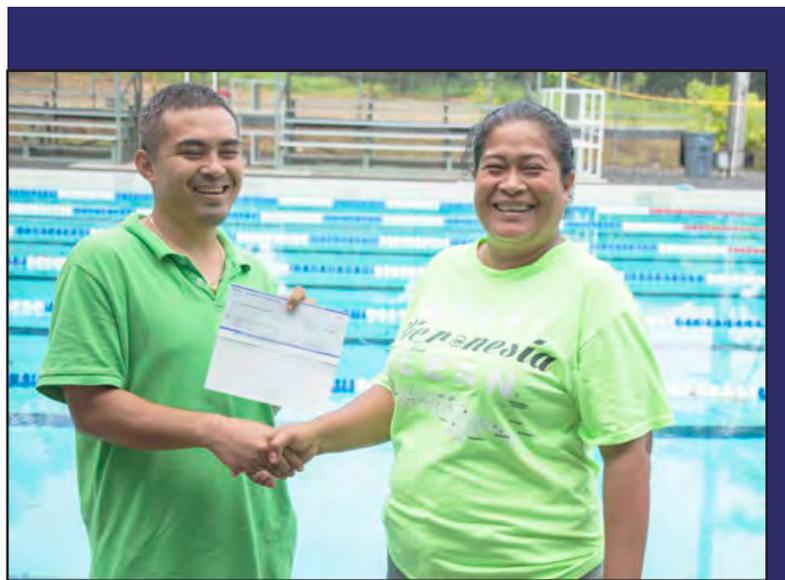
From 1992, when the traditional leaders stepped in until 1995, things really moved quickly around the Island's Forest Watershed Reserve. In 1995, the Pohnpei Attorney General (an American woman) serving under Gov. Johnny David returned the law to us and told us that the Watershed Forest Reserve had to be controlled by the Government, not the Traditional Leaders. We were stuck!

Luckily, the Kingdoms and Local Governments of Madolenihmw, Nett, Kitti and Uh took the work over and moved it forward at the local level. But unfortunately, our work is not yet done anywhere in Pohnpei yet. The Watershed line demarcation is not finished. The management of the Watershed is not actively being pursued.

So here is my request – many people think that the Pohnpei Watershed is about trees, fish, birds, seafood. NO!!! Our work is to protect lands in Pohnpei from the shore to the top of the mountains. It's about the very survival of the people, because our people survive on the fruit of the land, the mountains, the rivers and the ocean—not just the rich people, but the poor people that have nothing else to survive on. If our people can't find anything in the forest to eat; if the water comes down from the forest dirty and polluted; if they can't eat or drink anything from the river and forest, what's going to happen to our average people? If people can't shoot birds for their food, what are they going to do for food? If there are no more medicine plants in the forest because we abuse our forest for fast cash, what are people to use to get their health back? So our Watershed work is not about animals or plants, it's about our PEOPLE!

Who oversees the people of Pohnpei—the Government? The government takes care of the government and their voters. The Church? Maybe, but I've visited all our churches here. My observation is that the churches' missions are much more about getting all the people into Heaven. So who takes care of the people while they are still on this side, from the poorest to the richest? This COUNCIL - Nahnmwarkis and the Iso nahnkens. I know my speech sounds a little disrespectful of our Paramount Leaders—that's not my intention—but Nahnmwarkis, Iso nahnkens—please don't forget the people that you need to care for. The rich people can take

See "Conservation" on page 11



Einstein Olter presents a \$500 donation from Matson to Lestly Ashby of the Pohnpei Swim Club

Pohnpei Women Association Council (PWAC) food safety and security workshop

In collaboration with PWAC Officers and Members, IFCP staff members are coordinating a Safety and Security Workshop for women representatives from the 8 Women Group that are participating in PWACs project. The Food Safety Workshop will be presented and facilitated by EPA and FSM Food Inspectors. The Food Safety Workshop component will be presented and facilitated by Agriculture, CES and FSM R & D. Workshop is scheduled for February 26, 2015 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Workshop will be at the IFCP Training Hall. Approximately 50 people will be in attendance.



The women in the photo are PWAC officers from the 8 Women Groups participating in the PWAC project funded by GEF/SGP thru IFCP.

Yoga mat donation to Chuuk High School inspires meditation on healthy living



Written by: Kalika Kastein

It's a typical humid afternoon at Chuuk High as Tacey Raymond and her fellow cheerleaders sweat through their warm-up routine. Tacey and her teammates are part of the first group of cheerleaders in Chuuk who, until recently, were limited to stretching and practicing

their routines on the cold concrete floor.

Volunteer organization WorldTeach and Chuuk High School partnered to request a donation from yoga mat company, Jade Yoga. The company donated 12 yoga mats to Chuuk High School in hopes of promoting health and well-being among students.

Jade Yoga manufactures environmentally-friendly yoga mats made from a no-slip, natural rubber.

By some estimates, over 90 percent of the population in Micronesia is considered overweight. Heart disease and diabetes are extremely common in the Micronesian adult population. As students graduate,

obesity and diabetes become more of a concern. Micronesian Seminar has published statistics stating that an estimated 1 out of 5 Micronesians over 40 have diabetes. Engaging in physical activity encourages not only the students' physical well-being, but their mental well-being as studies have shown that people who exercise are more likely to concentrate. Having donated yoga mats has brought a new enthusiasm for stretching, yoga, and Pilates to Chuuk High School. The Chuuk High Cheerleaders and Girls' Basketball team both started using the mats last semester for warm-up exercises. This semester, a morning yoga club for students and teachers pioneered by WorldTeach volunteer, Elizabeth Whiteley, focuses on stretching and balance. The club, which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, has attracted a few core members, and any student who passes by the classroom is welcome to join. Participating teachers have commented

that it makes them feel more alert and awake. Principal Jason Reiong of Chuuk High School reflects that "starting a yoga club at CHS has allowed our students and teachers to have time to relax and meditate before classes." Looking forward, Principal Reiong says, "I hope that it helps our staff and students lessen any chronic pain, such as lower back pain, arthritis, and headaches." It is clear that Chuuk High School is working not only to teach students, but to help them live healthy and successful lives.

Stopping by cheerleading practice these days, the floor is aglow with a rainbow of brightly colored mats. The cheerleaders are coached through their routines by WorldTeach volunteers, Safron Smith and Lee Sutton-Ramspeck, who use a blend of yoga, Pilates, and traditional stretches to ready their team for their routines—the first steps on a life-long journey of fitness and well-being.

IOM Micronesia Kosrae sub office expands

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Day, on January 22nd.

The Kosrae Sub-Office implements the International Organization for Migration (IOM) core activities in the state, including support for migrants through the Migrant Resource Center (MRC), and promoting resilience related to natural disasters and the negative impacts of climate change in partnership with state and national level disaster risk management systems. Ms. Gracelyn Shirai, with extensive experience supporting IOM activities in Chuuk, is newly appointed as the head of the Kosrae Sub-Office; the office has also hired a new intern Ms. Myrthle Nena who is Kosraean. Regarding her new appointment, Ms. Shirai stated, "I look forward to advancing and strengthening the critical services offered through IOM in the great state of Kosrae."

The Kosrae Sub-Office supports MRC trainings such as the anti-human trafficking awareness raising and pre-departure orientation. IOM conducted an anti-human trafficking awareness raising training for the Kosrae Women's Association to honor FSM National Anti-Human Trafficking

The USAID/OFDA funded, IOM implemented PREPARE program provides assistance to state and national government in the areas of disaster response and reconstruction. With support from IOM, Kosrae state established their own Joint-Risk Management Network (JRM-N), a committee of disaster risk management stakeholders, last year. The network has been endorsed by Governor Jackson of Kosrae state, and is chaired by the Kosrae State Disaster Coordination Officer Mr. Nena William. Recent IOM activities include the updating and maintenance of a Kosrae state profile for emergency planning purposes, and the recruitment of private and state partner organizations to enter into stand-by agreements for the provision of critical goods and services in the event of a major US presidentially declared natural disaster in the state of Kosrae.

The Australian funded IOM implemented Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, & Education (CADRE) program is committed to safe schools and communities in the FSM and RMI.



The new personnel at the IOM Micronesia Kosrae Sub-Office

IOM staff visit three schools in Kosrae state: Lelu Elementary School, Sansrik Elementary School, and Utwe Elementary School. The program includes a two week module of CADRE lessons during 8th grade science class, school emergency management planning workshop for school leaders, facilitation of annual school emergency drills, basic first aid and CPR training made available to at least four educators per school, a pre-positioned emergency evacuation medical kit in each school, and other awareness raising events.

The communities that utilize each CADRE school were engaged in a participatory Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity, Mapping (HVCMM) exercise led by Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) that resulted in Local Early Action Plans focused on increasing resilience to climate change impacts. The Australian government is also funding a coastal protection physical disaster mitigation intervention at Sansrik Elementary school that emerged from the participatory planning process in Sansrik community.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT— PROJECT OFFICER SPORT EDUCATION

POSITION TITLE:

Pohnpei State Sport Education Project Officer

LOCATION:

Pohnpei State Sport Office

EMPLOYER:

FSM National Olympic Committee

OPENING DATE

Friday, January 30, 2015

CLOSING DATE

Friday, February 27, 2015

STATUS/TENURE

Full time for 1 year contract basis. It is renewable based on job performance and funding. A 3 months probationary period will be in place.

SALARY

Grade:

non-graded

Salary:

up to \$10,000 gross annually depending on qualifications

SUMMARY

This position is responsible for managing the Pohnpei State sport education program. The primary job purpose is to coordinate the development of the Pohnpei State sport training and development system. This includes implementing the Oceania Sport Education Program's (OSEP) Sport Education Framework in Oceania through strategic alliances with appropriate partners and to build the capacity of the Pohnpei State sport federations' volunteers and professionals.

APPLICANT RESUME

Any interested person should submit his/her resume to the FSMNOC office by the posted deadline.



...CFSM Audit

Continued from front page

accountability

3. At least \$93,381 CFSM funds were spent for badly constructed and unimplemented projects, unused materials and equipment, and unaccounted expenditures.

4. Over \$200,000 worth of expenditures appeared not in compliance with laws and regulations.

The audit said that some items had been referred to OPA's Compliance Investigation Division.

The full 63 page inspection including allottee and administrative responses can be downloaded at www.fsmopa.fm.

The press release listed examples of the waste of public funds although the press release's examples weren't nearly as specific as the actual content of the inspection. They included:

1. Buying sacks of rice, cases of chicken and turkey tail, ramen, coffee, sugar, etc.
2. Buying cigarettes from a store owned by a senator with justification that "these are the best tasting cigarettes."
3. Financial assistance to help students pay their old school debts. However, during our fieldwork we collected evidence that students abandoned their classes, did not perform well, expelled, and etc. In essence, this funding is rewarding poor performers and not only competes but sets out to defeat the intent of the already established governments' scholarship programs.
4. Growing crops in the backyard which is clearly for personal consumption.
5. Fishing projects supposedly to support export based on suspected receipts and for a fishing market that did not exist.
6. Vehicles bought and used more for personal needs than for any public purpose.
7. Stocking owned retail stores with rice and other inventories under the guise of exporting local produce to out-of-state markets.
8. Building and renovating personal residences with public funds.
9. Funerals
10. Airline tickets
11. Old debts incurred for equipment parts that were discarded years ago because they were of the wrong sizes, not fit, and therefore were wasted in the garbage dump.
12. Yearly recurring expenses for municipalities and agencies that did not receive any budget scrutiny and lacked public hearings via which their strategic plans for the future should have been required in order to evaluate how these entities should operate as going-concern and their expected performance outputs to yield public benefits. Lacking any such plans, they don't care because comes next year and the years thereafter and they

will still receive government hand-outs, hence continuing to grow the attitude of government dependency.

We asked Mr. Hainrick if he had intentionally delayed the release of the audit for maximum effect on Election Day.

"Some people will think that the timing was influenced by the upcoming elections. No, that was not the case. It was a long review...If this was a normal audit with the auditee located in one place to exit with," he wrote, referring to the process of exit interviews after an audit, "we could have probably issued the final report [at the] end of October or early November last year." He wrote that the audit team had a "pre-exit draft" in October of 2014.

Hainrick wrote that during the first meeting with Congress in December, Speaker Halbert wanted all of the Senators to be present for the exit meeting and so the parties agreed to another meeting.

Speaker Halbert wrote on behalf of the FSM Congress that during that December meeting, the report seemed to focus on only a couple of the states of the FSM and that the members present then asked OPA to provide other examples covering the other states. He acknowledged that OPA provided examples from the other states in January and that he had disseminated the findings to Congressional delegations for all four states and gave them opportunity to respond to the findings as they wished.

Hainrick wrote in his response to our question about timing that a meeting with Congress was set for January 30 but that on January 29 OPA received a phone call from Congress to cancel the meeting. On January 30, Hainrick sent a letter to Speaker Halbert asking for a written response from Congress informing them that OPA would issue the final report with or without a response after February 6. He wrote that he received Speaker Halbert's response on February 5. Over the weekend, OPA incorporated the responses into the audit and released it on the 9th.

In his response to the audit, Speaker Dohsis Halbert wrote that the understanding of Congress is that "an audit report is supposed to compare an actual performance against some kind of standard, usually the law. This report does not identify any kind of standard, but just mentions non-compliance. The question is non-compliance to what?"

"Absent such recommendations and given the confusion between appropriation and implementation," the Speaker wrote, "the audit report looks uncomfortably like the political criticism that the Executive levies at Congress. From the Executive, such criticism is expected because that is the nature of our check-and-balance system. However, from an audit report it becomes less comprehensible," he wrote and concluded with thanks to the auditor for the tremendous work they had undertaken.

"It is a constitutional requirement in this government that the Office of the National Public Auditor should be independent," Hainrick wrote in his letter and the office's press release on the audit. "The public should know, and I hereby advise, that neither the Congress nor the President has influenced the dependence or the objectivity of our work. The conclusions reached in our audits are strictly based on an unbiased and objective evaluation of the audit evidence, guided by a high degree of ethics in discharging our duties and responsibilities...Any claims otherwise should be shunned as without basis," Hainrick wrote.

The Congress speaker called the logic "faulty" that caused the auditor to point out examples where the implementation of the projects "fell far short of the apparent intent of the appropriations [in order] to show that the appropriations were unsound." He wrote that Congress does not deal with implementation of projects. "The allottee is the person legally responsible for implementation. To that extent any deficiency for implementation should be addressed to the allottees to respond to."

Hainrick responded, "Both appropriation (in the form of project selection for CFSM funding) and implementation problems were separately identified in the report (under Finding 1) and ONPA did not make any logical inference from the implementation problems to show that the related appropriations were unsound."

The audit says that the auditors requested for formal management responses from many of the allottees, two administrative officials, and from Chairman Isaac Figir and Speaker Halbert. It said that the Allottees were replaced in Chuuk's Election Districts one through four so OPA was not able to discuss the audit findings or request management response from those Election Districts.

Several but not all of those people from who OPA had asked for responses did provide formal responses. The formal responses OPA received came from Francis Itimai, Secretary for the Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure; Evelyn Adolph, Director of FSM's Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management (SBOC); Kensley Ikosia, Secretary for the Department of Finance and Administration; Johnson S. Elimo, Governor of the State of Chuuk; James Rosokow, Project Coordinator for Northwest Island Development Authority-Chuuk's Election District Five; Senator Isaac V. Figir, Chairman of the 18th Congress Standing Committee on Ways and Means, and Speaker Dohsis Halbert.

Their responses were made part of the 61 page audit which is available for free download at www.fsmopa.fm.

...Conservation

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care of themselves. The businessmen can take care of themselves. But poor people who plant sakau in the forest, who fish in the ocean for their livelihoods, those that work on land to grow their food to eat and sell, those are the people that DEPEND on the blessing and oversight by the Traditional Chiefs. If this Council does not pay special attention to our less fortunate people, one of these days they will end up being the slaves of the rich people and the businessmen.

That's really all I wanted to say today. Thank you for the wonderful hosts you've all been for me over 35 years in Pohnpei. I believe I'll come back to Pohnpei alive, but if I don't survive, I'm going to be buried in Pohnpei. When I get here, I'm not going to be buried in cement. I will be buried in the soil. I'm not afraid to die. I want to be buried in the soil so I can return some of what I can return, at least some of what I have taken from the soil in Pohnpei.

Please pardon my statement, Isapahu, Nahnmwarki en Madolenihmw - I'm not asking for the soil to be buried in yet. Our Village Chief will work with you when the time comes. Thank you for listening to my humble request!

AUSTRALIAN AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP (AAS) INTAKE YEAR 2016

Opening Date: 01 February 2015
Closing Date: 30 April 2015

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2016 for full time post-graduate study in Australia. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent;
- Be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau or the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- Be willing to return to work in their country for no less than two years after completion of their degree.

Application instructions and guidelines are available on the Australian Embassy website: www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

All completed applications should be submitted online.

If you have any questions please contact Caroline Adams at caroline.adams@dfat.gov.au or +691 320.5448 ext. 107

FSM National Election Office geared up for March 3 election

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 9, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—The staff at the FSM's National Election Office have been working long hours to make sure that the March 3 election goes as smoothly as possible. There are now only two deadlines left before the election and the office will be open seven days a week to make sure that voters have every opportunity to handle whatever they need to handle before the election takes place.

Acting Director Emeliano Abraham said that the next impending deadline is February 24. Those people who need to change their designated polling place can do so but only if they do it by that date. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail was January 22. That was also the deadline for voters to register. Abraham said that his staff members stayed at the office until midnight on that day and also worked weekends.

The deadline for an absentee ballot for a Special Polling Place was February 1.

Voters who will be travelling during the election can apply for an absentee ballot until March 2. A copy of the travel itinerary must be submitted with the application and must be mailed or hand delivered to any of the National Election Offices or to any of the FSM Embassy's or Consulates.

Abraham said that the applications can be found online at the President's website (www.fsmpio.fm) and can also be picked up from any of the offices.

Unlike mail in ballots which must be MAILED by the date of the election as verified by the postmark, applications for the remaining deadlines must be RECEIVED by the posted deadlines.

Abraham said that all voters must be registered. If registered voters do not have voter identification card, they will accept other forms of identification including birth certificates, passports, or driver's licenses.

Abraham said that Kosrae citizens showed up in force in order to register to vote as did Pohnpei's voters.

In addition to the National Election on March 3, Chuuk State is holding a State election on that day.

In Chuuk, the candidates for the two year seats of the FSM Congress are Able (Epel) Kristoph, and Florencio M. Harper for Election District 1. For Election District 2 the candidates are Chanser H. Yesiki, Roger S.

Mori, and Victor (Vicky) Goulard. For ED 3 the candidates are Bonsiano F. Nethon, Elvis Shirai, and Marcellus Akapito. The ED 4 candidates are Hatnat K. Meneky, Takamichy Y. Mori, and Tiwiter Arritos. ED 5's candidates are Season S. Jacky, Robson U. Romolow, Ruphin Micky, and Winiplat A. Bisalen. Chuuk's Candidates for the Your Year At Large seat are Gillian N. Doone and Wesley W. Simina.

In Kosrae the candidates for the two year seat are Paliknoa Welly and Rensley A. Sigrah. The candidates for the four year term are Alik L. Alik and Yosiwo P. George.

In Pohnpei, the candidates for the seats with

two year terms in ED 1 are Dohsis Halbert and Ferney S. Perman. The candidates for ED2 are Berney Martin and Goodwin Etsin Etse. David Panuelo is running unopposed for ED 3. For the four year At-Large seat, Pohnpei has five candidates. They are Dion G. Neth, Dionisio (Dionis) Saimon, John Ehsa, Peter M. Christian, and Selestino Marquez.

Yap's two Senators, Isaac V. Figir and Joseph J. Urusemal are each running unopposed for their seats.

{Editor's Note: The order of the listing of the candidates is as it was supplied to us by the National Election Office which seems to have alphabetized by first names.}



Some of Pohnpei's candidates for Congress at a Candidates Forum in Saladak, Pohnpei

Applications for Direct Aid Program open

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is now accepting Direct Aid Program (DAP) applications from non-government organizations (NGO) and community groups in the Federated States of Micronesia.

DAP is a flexible, small grants scheme available to NGO's and community groups engaged in development activities. NGOs and community groups doing work in remote island locations are encouraged to apply.

Groups can apply for up to USD 20,000 to facilitate their projects. Applications are accepted year round and are assessed on individual basis.

To apply and for more information, you can: visit the Australian Embassy website at www.fsm.embassy.gov.au; go to "Australia in Micronesia" Facebook page; call us on +691 320 5448; or e-mail joyce.gehr@dfat.gov.au.

2015/2016 Chinese Government Scholarship Application

2015/2016 Chinese Government Scholarship is now open for application. The scholarship offers such programs as Undergraduate, Master's, Doctoral, General Scholar and Senior Scholar.

The Embassy of People's Republic of China in FSM welcomes eligible FSM students and scholars to apply online. Firstly log on to www.csc.edu.cn/laihua and fill in the application form. Your "Agency Number" is 5831. Secondly download the completed form and print two hard copies. Then submit the hard copies and other corresponding application documents to the Chinese Embassy no later than April 16th, 2015.

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Japan gives trash trucks to Kitti and Sokehs

Embassy of Japan

On February 10, 2015, The Government of Japan awarded two grants to the governments of Kitti and Sokehs municipalities in Pohnpei at the Embassy of Japan in the FSM. Both grants came from Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects in the amounts of 77,241 USD and 35,441 USD respectively.



Tony Sarapio and Michael Lieman seal the deal with Shingo Higashimoto

Through this grant, Kitti Municipal Government will be issued a refurbished compacting vehicle that will collect trash in the Kitti villages. Kitti being the largest municipality in Pohnpei, the houses scattered with quite a distance between one another have proved quite a challenge with maintaining solid waste management. In addition, Kitti holds the most rivers and thickest mangrove forest which also adds to the increase of littering and insanitation around the area. With the assistance of this vehicle, Kitti Government would start providing weekly trash collection and disposal from residential communities all over Kitti.

For Sokehs Municipal Government, the grant will provide one refurbished compacting solid waste collection vehicle plus one collection dump truck. According to FSM Census, Sokehs Municipal carries

the most population of the 5 municipalities in Pohnpei. In the past, the Sokehs authority utilized a dump truck to pick up trash around the villages but with such a large area to cover, the truck's capabilities could not be maintained.

It is the high hopes of all parties concerned that these projects will further improve the management of solid waste in the villages and result in a cleaner environment.

In the ceremony, the grants were signed over by Mr. Shingo Higashimoto, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan to the FSM and accepted by Mr. Michael Lieman, Chief Magistrate of Sokehs Municipal Government and Mr. Tony Sarapio, Mayor of Kitti Municipal Government, respectively. The ceremony was witnessed by staff from the municipal governments and the Embassy.

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Public Health monthly music competitions launch with World Leprosy Day in Pohnpei

On Saturday, January 31st, the Care Micronesia Foundation organized the first of 12 monthly music competitions which feature local artists singing about public health related issues. The event was held at the Spanish Wall Park and featured 3 local artists who had created songs with lyrics specific to leprosy awareness and prevention.

Public Health Leprosy coordinator Ms. Stephanie Kapiriel welcomed the crowd and participants on behalf of Pohnpei State Public Health and explained the purpose of the competition, which is to provide a more diverse way of getting out public health messages and create further awareness for health issues affecting the people of Pohnpei.

Mr. Patrick Blank, Executive Director of the Care Micronesia Foundation, introduced this new NGO and explained that the Foundation was created to provide meaningful projects, programs, and services in the areas of health, education, and economic development for the sole purpose of improving the living standards of the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia. As the implementing organization,

the Foundation will be responsible for organizing each competition.

Nigel Jaynes was the MC of the event and introduced the 3 participants; Ryan Kuor, Betwin Johnny, and Dano Benian. Each contestant got his turn at the microphone to sing. Ryan chose a rap number while Betwin and Dano went for more Pohnpeian style songs. The judges for the event were Stephanie Kapiriel, Patrick Blank, and the music teacher from Pohnpei Catholic School, Mr. Juda Orlando. While the contest for 2nd and 3rd place was tight, the first place winner was clear and Dano Benian took home the grand prize of \$250.

Betwin Johnny took 2nd place and Ryan Kuor took 3rd.

After the singing, a video that was created for the Pohnpei Leprosy program was shown to the audience.

Going forward, the winner of each music competition will win \$250. Second place will win \$100 and third place \$50. Anyone can join the event and interested musicians can contact the Care Micronesia Foundation at 320-6505 for more information about the next event, which will be held on Feb. 27th and the theme of cancer will be highlighted in the music developed.



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Yap 'Robo League' Growing Thanks to Matson

Yap, Micronesia-Each year since 2012, students from two independent high schools on Yap have held a "Robo Day" exhibition. The fast paced event showcases the technical accomplishments of the student robotics teams for the People of Yap. These annual Robo Day competitions at the Colonia civic center last only a few hours but reflect the hard work of students and teachers throughout the entire school year.

Soon, students from a third school -Yap Public High School- may be joining in on "Robo Day" as well.

Vex robotics teams were established at the Yap SDA School and Yap Catholic High School in the fall of 2011. The US based charity "Habele" coordinated the donation of robotics kits from students from the robotics team at Chaminade College Preparatory High School in West Hills, California. The pan-Pacific partnership included materials, instructional videos, and peer-to-peer encouragement.

Working with support from the team at Chaminade, as well as the instruction from their own schools' teachers, the student teams at SDA and YCHS have grown steadily ever since. Members design, build, and compete mechanically complex robots, learning important Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math (STEM) skills in a hands-on fashion. Many of the students initially involved with the teams have since graduated and moved onto higher education in STEM fields, in large part due to their experiences with the Robo League.

Now, through the generous investment of the Matson Foundation, materials and support are being provided to update and expand the Robo League. Once again American students at Chaminade have gathered and assembled materials to supply teams in Yap. These heavy and large donations have been organized by Habele, and delivered to educators on Yap through the financial support of Matson, a Pacific-wide public shipping company with a celebrated history of philanthropy and community engagement. Teams at Yap Catholic and the SDA School will be re-provisioned, and materials will be offered to educators at Yap Public High School for the creation of a new team.

Jamie Mooteb, a college-bound senior at YCHS cites the Robo League as a source of personal inspiration. "I've hoped to study engineering ever since joining the robotics club freshman year." "I'm really excited about the newly donated equipment," Jamie continued. "It will be cool to have all three high schools compete. Thanks to Matson and the students at Chaminade High School

for making this possible!"

Bernie Valencia, General Manager, Matson Guam, echoed Jamie's enthusiasm. "Matson's employees and their families are proud to partner with Habele, investing

in the students and schools of Yap. Matson knows first hand how science and engineering are the key to innovation and growth; that makes the Robo League so special to us."



Students at Yap Catholic with boxes of donated robotic equipment facilitated by Matson

Caring Hands Worldwide Dental Clinic in Chuuk

Bill Stinnett

Residents of Chuuk now have the option of receiving U.S. quality care at a free dental clinic created specifically for this purpose and operated by professional, U.S. certified dentist and hygienist.

Dr. Cedric Ross Hayden and his wife, Julie Hayden, who live in Eugene, Oregon, started a non-profit organization now called "Caring Hands World Wide" in 2007 for the purpose of providing quality dental care in parts of the world that have a high concentration of people who have a significant need for dental care. Research to determine where they would do this identified PATA in Chuuk State but their initial 2 day visit to PATA in June of 2012 revealed logistical concerns and other issues which led to a decision to place their dental clinic on Weno, the capitol island of Chuuk.

Dr. Hayden and his Executive Director of Caring Hands Worldwide, Randy Meyer, continued making trips to Chuuk to work out the details of finding a location for their clinic, seeking permission and support from the Chuuk State government and the medical community for their clinic, and obtaining the required licenses to operate.

On their first visit they met Dr. Kennedy Remit who was, and continues to be, very helpful and they looked at two possible sites for their clinic on Weno. With Dr. Remit's assistance they obtained a six month temporary license to operate their clinic and worked out arrangements with the Hashiguchi family to place their clinic on property across from the College of Micronesia campus.

Dr. Hayden comes from a background that exposed him to charitable work his entire life due to his father's activities in creating and operating dental clinics in various parts of the world. In fact, Dr. Hayden actually visited

Chuuk with his father in 1979 at the age of 11. The concept of helping others also extends to his siblings of whom 4 of his brothers are dentist, 1 brother is an emergency room doctor, and his sister is a hygienist.

In 2007 Dr. Hayden decided that he would eventually establish a dental clinic somewhere in the world and between 2010 and 2013, he started building a dental clinic inside two 40' containers in anticipation of fulfilling his plans to serve the dental needs of a community somewhere outside the United States. Once the decision was made that Chuuk State in the FSM would be the site for his clinic he contacted Matson Shipping who graciously agreed to ship his containers and support material to Chuuk at no cost to him.

Dr. Hayden received his temporary license to operate in December of 2012 and had 6 months to ship his containers and supporting material to Chuuk, to travel to Chuuk and set up the clinic, and arrange for power, water, sewer hook-ups that met with the approval of State Government approval. Dr. Hayden accomplished these tasks, opened his clinic and started seeing local patients 10 days before his 6 month temporary license expired. Dr. Hayden is pleased to now have a 2 year license to operate his clinic for the benefit of all local residents of Chuuk.

The clinic has the equipment and personnel to take digital x-rays needed to identify dental problems and provide appropriate care, they do extractions as determined necessary, staff do fillings of cavities, they do ultra-sonic cleanings, and have the expertise to identify dental disease – to include oral screening for pre-cancerous skin in the mouth to identify



Randy Meyer, Executive Director, Heather Martin, Dental Assistant, Dr. Cedric R. Hayden, President of Caring Hands Worldwide, Jassy Young, Dental Assistant, Jon Lowe, Construction Volunteer

those at risk of developing cancer.

Dr. Hayden has some very specific goals that he plans to pursue which include assisting the State Dental Services with maintenance and repair of their equipment, like dental chairs, x-ray machines, and sterilization equipment. He is also very interested in getting into the schools and educating the youth about dental hygiene and a diet that promotes better dental health.

Dr. Hayden pointed out that in the time his clinic has been operating here he has noticed that 30 plus year old patients have less dental disease or problems than pre-teens and teenagers and attributes this to changes in diet. Youth have more cavities and decay because of their diet that includes soda and sweets.

Randy Meyer, Executive Director, Caring Hands Worldwide, mentioned that since

opening their clinic here in Chuuk they have seen a total of about 750 people and provided an estimated \$155,800 worth of services to local residents in their free clinic. He also estimates the value of the clinic and work done to date totals about \$400,000.00.

It is worth noting that Dr. Hayden operates a free, non-profit dental clinic in his home town of Eugene, Oregon, and has recently been elected to serve and represent the people of Oregon in their State Legislature.

Dr. Hayden expresses his most sincere appreciation to Dr. Kennedy Remit, Dr. Yalbert Enlet, Dr. Vita Skilling, and the Hashiguchi Family for their valuable assistance with their efforts to set up and operate their clinic. Dr. Hayden also expressed his appreciation to Matson Shipping, Ace Hardware, and PII for logistical support while working to set up their clinic.

NBA Coach returns to FSM



Former NBA Coach Tom Newell, representing the U.S. State Department as a Sports Ambassador, returned to the FSM for two weeks of basketball clinics on Pohnpei and Chuuk. The clinics primarily focused on teaching island coaches, coaching techniques and drills they can use with their players.

Coach Newell also visited local High Schools and the College of Micronesia to deliver motivational talks focused on healthy eating and choices in life.

While on Pohnpei, the Coach worked with 22 local coaches. The skills they learned this

year built on the skills they were taught last year. The local coaches spent the mornings in the classroom, and in the afternoon they would work with local high school teams to conduct drills and practice the skills they learned in that day's classroom lessons.

Coach Newell also brought with him 25 basketballs that he delivered to the Kitti Youth Police Association. The gift of the basketballs fulfilled a promise he made last year to help the youth group with their basketball program.

In Chuuk, Coach Newell worked with 20 coaches who all showed up on time and stayed engaged during the entire training. As a result of the level of interest that was generated by the Chuukese coaches, coach Newell is planning a longer visit next year. The Coach also visited public and private schools to deliver his "Boohlyah" talk

Coach Newell began his basketball career working as a scout for the Golden State

Warriors in the early 1980's. After serving as the Indiana Pacers Director of Player Personnel in 1984, he moved on to assistant coach for the Seattle Super Sonics (now in Oklahoma City). During the 1990's, he served as assistant coach for the New Jersey Nets, college scout for the Milwaukee Bucks, and assistant coach for the Dallas Mavericks. In 1995, Newell became head coach for the Greek professional team Iraklis Thessaloniki B.C., and began working in international programs. He later joined the coaching staff of the short-lived WNBA team Portland Fire. Coach Newell was also the Men's National Team Coach of Japan in 2000, as well as Coach of the Jilin NE Tigers China Basketball Association team.

He currently travels as a Sports Ambassador for the State Department, teaching coaches and players about the game of basketball. He also represents FIBA as an Expert Instructor in their Olympic Development Program for Third World countries. Coach Newell is very active in his community with free camps and clinics for kids ages, 7-15.

