

**Featured  
in this issue:**

Audit says FSM  
Fisheries Observer  
and Port Sampler  
Revolving Fund  
internal controls  
needed

Page 2

Tribunal holds  
first hearing on  
impeachment of  
Pohnpei Governor

Page 3

FSM still at Tier 2 on  
US State Department  
TIP report

Page 3

President Christian  
concludes Yap visit

Page 6

US looking for  
Marshalls Resolution  
by 2017

Page 10

President Christian  
calls for special session  
to finalize cabinet  
lineup

Page 10

LETTER TO THE  
EDITOR:  
Lambert speaks out on  
Tax Reform

Page 10

Statement of the  
UNFPA Executive  
Director for  
International Youth  
Day

Page 15

# Full Scale disaster drill conducted at Pohnpei International Airport

By *Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

August 12, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—If the FAA truly wanted to test the mettle of Pohnpei’s emergency responders to a plane crash situation on the runway at Pohnpei International Airport, they couldn’t have chosen a better day.

“You can’t get much more real than this,” said Ron Simpson of the FAA (US Federal Aviation Administration) regarding today’s full scale emergency exercise.

It was true and the lessons learned will provide Pohnpei’s emergency responders with a great deal of information about what can be improved.

While most of the emergency exercises in the past have been conducted under blue sky conditions, today’s exercise was far from that. The weather was atrocious.

The United Airlines flight scheduled to land in Pohnpei today did not arrive. Even if it was inconvenient for the passengers it was probably a wise decision. The winds on the runway were brutal and by the time the exercise began in earnest, heavy rain accompanied the high winds.

The exercise was designed to test the skills of emergency responders and to find any weaknesses that might occur. Emergency responders were to respond during the drill as if it was a real plane crash.

There was a scripted scenario as follows:

At approximately 14:40, August 12, 2015 Pacific Airlines flight #PA01 a Boeing 737 is scheduled to arrive at Pohnpei International Airport from the West International Airport with one hundred forty one passengers and nine

See “Drill” on page 8



**More photos inside**

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# Audit says FSM Fisheries Observer and Port Sampler Revolving Fund internal controls needed

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 16, 2015

**Federated States of Micronesia**—The FSM’s Office of the National Public Auditor (OPA) released findings from its performance audit of the FSM’s Fisheries Observer and Port Sampler Revolving Fund for fiscal years 2012 to 2014. It listed six significant findings (audit exceptions) requiring improvement in order to ensure compliance of the financial activities with the enabling legislation that established the fund. Two of findings were referred to the OPA Compliance Investigation Division.

Auditors found that \$80,000 of Fishing License Fees were deposited to Fisheries Observer and Port Sampler Revolving Fund. Under the law, those funds should have been deposited into FSM’s General Fund. “The Executive Director explained that they needed more funds to pay for bills and accounts during the year. However, with the \$80,000 deposit, the Executive Director bypassed the higher authorities and took action that resulted in violation of the law,” the audit said. Those higher authorities were the NORMA Board and the FSM Congress. For fishing license fees to have been deposited into the revolving fund, Congress would have had to have

made an appropriation. It did not.

The audit found that \$12,000 of the Fisheries Observer and Port Sampler Revolving Fund was used for disallowed purposes. \$3,123 was paid for import tax for donated items from Korea including a vehicle, a laptop, scanner, a VHF radio and a solar panel. \$304 was paid for freight to ship the donated goods from Korea. \$3,748 was paid to a local vendor to install a manual transfer switch to connect the NORMA office to its power generator. \$4,824 was paid to a local vendor for desktop computers.

“NORMA’s management treated the... revolving fund as an additional source of funds to augment the payment of the expenditures for NORMA’s general operations rather than restricting its use only to activities allowed under the fisheries observer and port sampler programs,” the audit said.

The audit found that the amount of the revolving fund balance that was in excess of the \$200,000 threshold for transfer to the General Fund was not properly determined at the end of each fiscal year. As we understand the audit, NORMA remitted \$400,350 into the General Fund beyond what it was required to remit during the period of the audit which left the Revolving Fund at less than \$200,000.

Part of the problem seems to have been that year-end encumbrances were not reviewed or reconciled. Encumbered funds are considered to have been expended since they are obligated through a signed purchase order, a contract, a travel authorization or other obligation of funds. Many of NORMA’s booked “encumbrances” have not gone out as actual cash.

This finding has been referred to ONPA’s Compliance Investigation Division for further investigation.

Auditors recommended that the Executive Director should require a periodic review of the open encumbrances to ensure the accuracy of the reserved amounts against the fund balance at the end of every fiscal year. They suggested a monthly review of encumbrances.

Auditors also found that NORMA had not submitted an annual status report for the revolving fund to the FSM Congress.

Auditors also found that the amounts paid for the services of the Observers and Port Samplers were not subject to Income Tax Withholding and Social Security

taxes. They found that NORMA had been preparing “Contract(s) for Services by Independent Contractors” (non-employment status) for the services of their observers but there was no provision in the contract requiring the withholding of income tax and social security taxes or the observers and port samplers to pay them directly to the government.

The total unaudited expenditures for general and contract services between FY2012 and FY2014 was over \$1.2 million.

“We did not establish the amount due for salary withholding and Social Security taxes but the amount could be material,” the audit said.



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## Tribunal holds first hearing on impeachment of Pohnpei Governor

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 11, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—A tribunal of Pohnpei State Supreme Court Justices has been constituted and the Special Prosecutor appointed on the matter of the impeachment of Governor John Ehsa. The Tribunal held its first hearing on Thursday, August 6 before a packed courtroom.

Associate Justice Nickontro W. Johnny is the presiding justice on the Tribunal. Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez and Associate Justice Nelson A. Joseph are members. Attorney Kembo Mida is the Special Prosecutor.

Governor Ehsa's counsel of record is Mr. Benjamin Abrams. Attorney Mr. Martin Jano is co-counsel.

The hearing last week was Governor Ehsa's opportunity to be heard regarding his legal objections to the impeachment proceedings.

Legal Counsel for Governor Ehsa argued that Articles of Impeachment served on the Governor's Secretary and not directly by hand on the impeached individual were improperly served rendering the service of

the articles invalid.

In an order and memorandum issued on Friday, August 7, the tribunal cited precedent from case law and both the FSM Rules of Procedure and Pohnpei Rules of Procedure when it ruled that the service had been sufficient. "As stated in *Berman (Berman v. Santos 6 FSM Intrm. 532)* 'the purpose of process and service is to assure that a defendant receives sufficient notice of all causes of action that are filed him. In this way, an individual is provided a fair and adequate opportunity to defend against that action,'" the tribunal order said. It ruled that service of the resolution of impeachment on the Governor's Secretary at his government office is sufficient to afford him notice and opportunity to be heard.

At the outset of the hearing Mida said that he had no objections to proposed Rules of Impeachment Procedure that were issued in draft form after the commencement of the proceedings in the case. Abrams agreed that a decision from the Tribunal should be based on his written objections on behalf of his client to the draft rules that he had submitted in advance of the hearing.

Another order issued by the Tribunal on Friday, August 7 overruled all four of the

objections to the adoption of Rules of Impeachment Procedure.

The two orders issued on August 7 determined that service of the Articles of Impeachment upon the Governor was proper and that Tribunal Rules of Procedure do not violate any of the Governor's rights.

At press time the tribunal had not yet ruled on Governor Ehsa's most jugular arguments. He argued that three of Pohnpei's Senators should have been conflicted out from voting on the matter of impeachment at the time that the resolution was passed. Those Senators were either running directly against the Governor for Pohnpei's At-Large Seat at the FSM Congress or had close relatives who were running against him in the same race.

He also argued that the Senators violated conflict of interest rules when they voted for impeachment and as such, their votes should be excluded. If those votes are excluded then the Articles of Impeachment would be overturned since not enough Senators would in that case have properly voted to pass the Articles of Impeachment.

Mida argued that the initial Resolution of Impeachment was introduced in 2013 when

no one was running for office and that all three had signed the resolution at that time.

Governor Ehsa's defense team subpoenaed several of Pohnpei's Legislators though Pohnpei law bars Legislators from being questioned in a court of law about their reasons for voting on any legislative measure.

Mida also argued that the Legislature's rules on conflict of interest are essentially self policing and not a matter of statute.

If the Tribunal does not rule in favor of Governor Ehsa's arguments, the impeachment proceedings will enter the discovery phase prior to hearings on the issues within the articles. If the proceedings reach that stage, the hearings would likely begin at about the same time as Pohnpei voters would go to the polls to elect a new Governor. The Special Prosecutor would then need to prove only one of the Legislature's accusations against the Governor.

If the Tribunal rules in favor of Governor Ehsa's arguments, then the impeachment proceedings will be over and Governor Ehsa will again assume his duties as Governor of the State of Pohnpei.

## FSM still at Tier 2 on US State Department TIP report

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 3, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—Each year the United States Department of State issues a report on the progress of countries in the battle against the crime of trafficking in persons.

"Trafficking in persons is an insult to human dignity and an assault on freedom. Whether we are talking about the sale of women and children by terrorists in the Middle East, the sex trafficking of girls lured from their homes in Central Europe, the exploitation of farm workers in North America, or the enslavement of fishermen in Southeast Asia, the victims of this crime each have a name. And they each have been robbed of their most basic human rights," wrote U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in the introductory materials to the report.

The 2015 report covers activities to combat human trafficking in 2014. In 2011 the FSM was placed on Tier 3. Tier 3 is the lowest tier and is for the governments of countries that do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. 2012 and 2013 FSM was placed on the Tier 2 Watchlist because the FSM began making some efforts. This year and in 2014 the FSM was placed in Tier 2 which is for governments of countries that do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

The United States is at Tier 1. The report says that while Tier 1 is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no human trafficking problem or that it is doing enough to address the problem. Rather, a Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has acknowledged the existence of human trafficking, has made efforts to address the problem, and meets the TVPA's (Trafficking Victims Protection Act) minimum standards.

Certainly the FSM has stepped up its concern for combating the crime and has begun to undertake prosecutions. Former FSM Secretary of Justice April Skilling said that in 2015 there were ongoing human trafficking prosecutions in each FSM State.

The International Organization for Migration has maintained an extensive education program on the crime of Human Trafficking, particularly about how to avoid become a victim of the crime.

But for the year 2014 the report says:

"The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is a source, transit, and, to a limited extent, a destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. The groups most vulnerable to trafficking in FSM include foreign migrant workers and Micronesian women and girls who allegedly engage in prostitution at restaurants frequented by crew members of docked Asian fishing vessels. FSM women are recruited with promises of well-paying jobs in the United States and

its territories, but are subsequently forced into prostitution or domestic labor upon arrival. Local authorities claim many sex trafficking cases are unreported due to victims' fear of embarrassment in FSM's insular communities. Foreign migrants from Southeast Asian countries report working in conditions indicative of human trafficking on Asian fishing vessels in FSM or its territorial waters.

"The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. During the reporting period, the FSM government continued a prosecution initiated in 2013 involving one alleged Micronesian offender and eight Micronesian victims. It also continued to coordinate efforts across four states to implement the national plan of action. The government did not, however, identify any trafficking victims, despite evidence of trafficking in investigations involving foreign crew on fishing vessels. The government did not initiate new prosecutions against suspected traffickers. It continued to lack a formal system to identify or refer victims to appropriate services. The government did not allocate specific budgetary funding for victim protection and assistance, but provided protection and assistance for eight Chuukese victims identified in a previous reporting period."

The report recommends that the FSM should "develop and implement procedures for the proactive identification

of trafficking victims among vulnerable populations, such as people on fishing vessels in FSM or its territorial waters, women and girls in prostitution, and FSM nationals migrating to the United States for work; increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, and convict and punish traffickers; develop and implement a victim referral system and establish specialized protective services for trafficking victims; continue to implement the national plan of action; and continue to collaborate with traditional leaders to raise awareness of trafficking and to break away from customary practices that render Micronesians vulnerable to trafficking."

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## Japanese students visited Pohnpei in the Micronesia Experience Project

*Embassy of Japan*

19 young students from all over Japan visited Pohnpei and enjoyed their stay for a week. They joined the Micronesia Nature Experience Project which started in 2002 and has been funded by Children's Dream Fund established with National Institute for Youth Education of Japan. Japanese children arrived on July 22 and received very warm welcome by many children in Pohnpei at the reception held at Pohnpei State Governor's Conference room after they visited Japanese Ambassador's residence.

During their stay, they fully enjoyed variety of programs such as visit to Nanmadol

ruins, Keproi Fall and nature experience on Narlup island. After having stayed at their host families, two countries' children joined their farewell party and performed songs, dancing and storytelling. Japanese children left Pohnpei on July 28 with so much of fond memory of Pohnpei and strong friendship with children of Pohnpei. Welcome and farewell parties were attended by Japanese Ambassador and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Masaki & Nobuko Sakai.

## Signing Ceremony of Exchange of Notes between Embassy of Japan and FSM

On July 8, 2015, Signing Ceremony of Exchange of Notes between Embassy of Japan and FSM for procurement services under two Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid (total 400 million Japanese Yen: about 3.2 million US dollars) was held at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence. The singers were Ambassador Masaki Sakai, Embassy of Japan in FSM and The Honorable Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs in FSM.

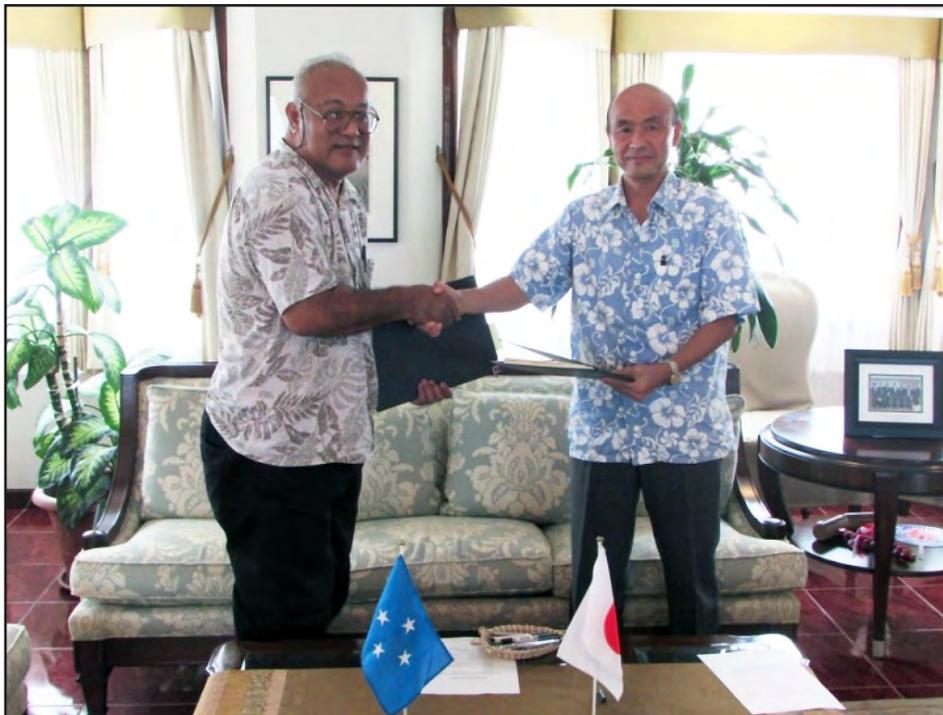
Under a grant scheme called Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid for Disaster Reduction Equipment 2014 (total 300 million Japanese Yen: about 2.4 million US dollars), Embassy of Japan provides FSM with Japan-made equipment for disaster risk management. It is expected to correspond to restoration of disaster areas by natural disasters.

Under a grant scheme called Japan's Non-

Project Grant Aid 2014, (total 100 million Japanese Yen: about 0.8 million US dollars), fuel is provided to FSM from Embassy of Japan. FSM as a recipient country shall deposit the proceeds acquired through a sale of donated fuel as a counterpart fund, which can be utilized for social and economic development of FSM.

These two grant aid were provided based on the announcement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that Japan would provide necessary aid for disaster reduction and climate change at PALM7 in Fukushima on May 22 and 23.

The event was witnessed by Embassy of Japan Deputy Chief of Mission Shingo Higashimoto, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary Samson Pretrick, and staff of Embassy of Japan and DFA.



## Speaker Simina leads delegation to peace ceremonies in Nagasaki



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Speaker Wesley Simina led a delegation of the FSM Congress to Nagasaki to attend the commemoration of the end of WW 2 and related peace ceremonies. The Speaker, along with Senators Berney Martin and Ferney Perman paid their respects at the "hypocenter", ground zero for the atomic bomb that was dropped in 1945.

He said that the visit was emotional for the delegation. Some senators had tears in their eyes listening to the speeches of the survivors.

Speaker Simina reiterated to the Nagasaki municipal authorities his commitment for peace. He believes that the entire Congress feels the same way.

## Chinese Medical team arrives in Yap

**COLONIA, Yap (Media Division/DHS)** — The medical specialists from Guangdong Province, People's Republic of China (PRC) have arrived safely into Yap, and have started seeing patients with various health problems at the Yap Memorial Hospital.

Their two-day mission started yesterday, August 10, 2015, and will continue today, ending with a specialty training seminar with local doctors at the Department of Health Services (DHS) conference room.

According to Mr. Yang Chenqi, Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the FSM in Palikir, during their courtesy meeting yesterday morning with Governor Tony Gannigyan, "Yap State Department of Health Services has proven to be the most well organized agency with its clean facility and the people are very friendly to our medical team".

Prior to the medical team's arrival into Yap, the team met up with PRC Embassy staff in Guam, who then accompanied them on to Yap on August 8, 2015.

Upon arrival into Yap on Saturday, August 8, 2015, the team made plans and arrangements with the Department of Health Services (DHS) to meet on Sunday, August 9, 2015 for logistics arrangements for their clinics.

On Sunday, the medical team were greeted at the Yap Memorial Hospital at 10.30AM by Director of Health Services Martina Reichhardt and Chief of Medical Staff Dr. James Edilyong, and taken on a short tour of the hospital facilities including the ward. In the ward, the medical team was introduced to the local doctors and specialists who already had several patients lined up for them to consult with onsite regarding their respective medical conditions. The team was very impressed with the condition and cleanliness of the hospital facilities.

After the hospital tour and preliminary patient assessments for the initial few patients, the team met in the director's conference room to continue their planning for the two days of clinics and patient treatments based on the appointment listing that was generated for existing patients on the hospital roster that need

to be seen by these specialists.

Following the planning, a short gift presentation was made to DHS by the medical team lead, Dr. Yu Yanhong, who is the President of Southern Medical University. Upon receiving the gifts, the DHS Director expressed her sincere appreciation for the team's visit, especially since it was the first ever visit by a Chinese medical mission to Yap.

There are ten specialist doctors on this medical team led by Dr. Yu, and they are accompanied by two staff members from the PRC Embassy in the FSM, Counselor Yang Chenqi and Attaché Zhao Jianjiang.

After the team's clinic yesterday evening, the PRC Embassy Counselor hosted a friendship reception at the Yap Pacific Dive Resort for the State Leadership. Among the Leadership were Governor Gannigyan, Lt. Governor James Yangetmai, Speaker Theodore Rutun, Chief Hilary Tacheliol representing the Council of Tamol and Chief Cyril Yinnifel representing the Council of Pilung. The room was also filled with the Guangdong medical specialists along with the State Department of Health Services' doctors lead by Director Martina Reichhardt.

After all the official remarks by the PRC Embassy and Governor Gannigyan, Chief of Staff Dr. Edilyong reiterated Gannigyan's appreciation to the PRC government and stated how grateful the Yap hospital is for the generous efforts by the Chinese medical team. "Of all the years working in my home hospital, this is my first time to work with any Asian medical team. I believe this is something to foster and to look into how we can continue the trend in the future for our local patients. Medical treatments and cure is getting more expensive as we lead into the 2023 Compact Sector Grant end. I believe we can get more help and assistance from... Asia as well", said Dr. Edilyong.

The medical group arrived into Yap after making a similar visit to Papua New Guinea, which also lasted two days. Prior to that, the group also performed medical missions in Suva, Fiji, where they first began their long medical tour of the Pacific.

The specialists will depart Wednesday, August 12, 2015 returning back to Guangdong Province after completion of their mission in the Pacific region.

## PWAC officers meet at IFPC on GEF

President Susanah Sohs and leaders of PWAC (Pohnpei Women Advisory Council) met on August 6 at IFPC (Island Food Community of Pohnpei) to discuss partnership activities funded by GEF (Global Environment Facility).

During the past year, community workshops have been held in each of the five municipalities of Pohnpei. These workshops included demonstrations on how to make flour from taro or breadfruit, food handling safety explanations

by the Pohnpei EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), and banana planting training by the COM (College of Micronesia) Extension Service.

PWAC shares knowledge about other uses of these food crops using traditional talents and skills for making handicrafts, decorations, and ornaments that can be sold to increase family income.

Other PWAC and IFPC partnership activities to promote the 'Let's Go Local' objective include gene bank establishment and planting material distribution on Pohnpei and outlying islands. These gene banks increase biodiversity by establishing more varieties of plantings and developing a registry of varieties that will be available to the community. An emphasis is placed on sharing yellow-flesh varieties that are proven to have higher concentrations of Vitamin A. Lack of Vitamin A can cause permanent blindness in children and night blindness in adults.

Gene banks are now at each of eight PWAC partner group sites. IFPC will visit these sites with PWAC before the August 26 meeting of the PWAC/IFPC partnership which will report on activities and include an evaluation of the GEF project.

The IFPC purpose is to increase public awareness about 'CHEEF' which stands for: Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, and Food Security. The 'CHEEF' and 'Let's Go Local' slogans serve to summarize the objectives of IFPC.

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## President Christian concludes Yap visit

COLONIA, Yap (Media Division) — The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Peter Christian, concluded his state visit to Yap following a trip to Ulithi Atoll on Thursday night, August 6, 2015 to meet with the chiefs of the islands as well as other government officials and representatives to discuss matters of interest to the State and the nation as a whole.

The President and members of his delegation took the trip to Ulithi onboard the FSM surveillance boat, the FSS Micronesia 02, and held a meeting with the Ulithian people before returning back to the Yap Main Islands on Friday evening, August 7, 2015.

The President held several meetings in the state capital prior to his travel to Ulithi Atoll. His meeting with the state leadership was held on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at the legislative chamber.

Before departing from Yap State in the

early morning of Sunday, the President and members of his entourage attended "Weloy Day" in Okaw Village, Weloy Municipality later on Saturday afternoon. There, he donated \$100.00 for the repairs of the basketball hoops and painted lines on the court. With his official remarks to the People of Weloy, he invited Congressman Isaac Figir to pitch in with him for donations for the repairs of the basketball court. Senator Figir also donated another \$100.00 on the spot, despite his initial appropriation to the foundation of the playing field.

From there, the President went on to join the "hanging performance" of a traditional men's standing dance at Tomakaw, Maap Municipality around 5 o'clock, where he also donated \$1,500.00 for the people of Maap Municipality. The President had prepared this donation prior to his departure from Palikir, based on his "program of visit" schedule made by his advance team along with the State Protocol Office in Yap.

## Book review: Idyllic No More

By FRANCIS X. HEZEL, SJ

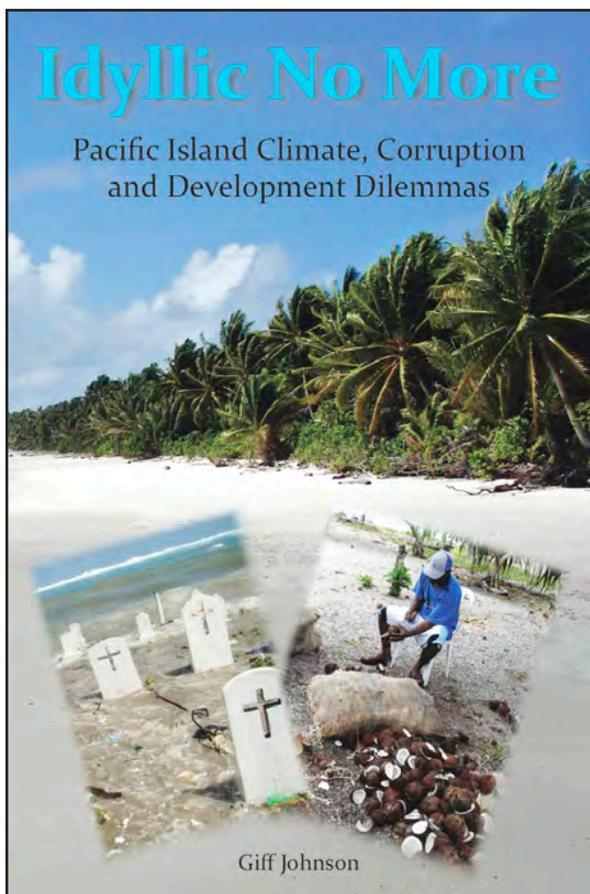
Giff Johnson's latest work — "Idyllic No More: Pacific Islands Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas" — is a call to serious planning and more. The author summons leaders to recognize that life has changed in the Marshalls and the status quo is the road to disaster. There was a time when this might not have been true—when people who wanted to kick back and live a simple island life could quietly opt out of school and retire to the family land to provide for themselves as their ancestors had done for generations in an island society that offered the resources, physical and social, to support its population.

But times have changed, the author convincingly argues. That kind of idyllic fallback is no longer an option. Residents of the Marshalls, including those outer atolls where life was simple and cheap, are voting with their feet. The outflow of Marshallese to the US is steadily increasing, slowly emptying the remote atolls even as it drains the population of the two large population centers, Majuro and Ebeye. Islanders today expect meaningful employment but find none at home.

Marshallese today want more but seem to be getting less. Water supplies are contaminated in many places, the copra industry which once provided modest disposable income for those who worked the land has gone south, and the quality

of education is not what it once was. No wonder people now describe themselves as "poor." Normal household tasks have become more challenging with the breakdown of the old extended family on which they relied. As a result, even basic care of children often leaves a lot to be desired.

In today's world no island is simply an island. All nations have subscribed, willingly or not, to standards that are spelled out in global millennium development goals. Measured by these standards, progress in the Marshalls has stalled. Donors may open their hearts and wallets to the Marshalls, but the money given is all too often regarded as



Giff Johnson

## Micronesian Shipping Commission holds annual meeting

The Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC) recently held its annual meeting in the FSM State of Yap from July 22 to 25, 2015 to review the performances of 8 vessel operating common carriers (VOCCs) and 7 non vessel operating common carriers (NVOCCs) licensed to operate commercial international shipping service to and from the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This is the first annual review of a five year licensing cycle which started last year in 2014 with the renewal of licenses for all of the carriers in the MSC Entry Assurance System.

The commission was generally pleased with the current state of international commercial shipping service in the region taking into account the vast improvements in the efficiency of service in terms of frequency and cargo security as well as availability of choice of carriers for the shippers in the region. The commission noted that with the exception of fuel surcharges which the carriers applied to their base rates during peak periods of fuel price escalations, there were no increases in the basic freight rates applicable in the region in the past 7 years.

Towards the end of the year in review, one of the major carriers in the system had to suspend a desirable and approved service route due to financial difficulties. However during the annual meeting, the Commission was reassured during its one-on-one meeting with the new owners that they are in the process of restructuring and will be back in service. The Commission will continue to monitor the progress of the restructuring to ensure a timely restoration of service.

A major accomplishment during this annual meeting was the establishment of a Standing Committee of MSC called "The Technical Committee", patterned after the Central Pacific Shipping Commission's (CPSC) Technical Committee. The concept was introduced by Chairman Thomas Heine, Minister and Commissioner representing

the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The proposal was adopted by Resolution during the last Executive Committee Meeting in Majuro in May of this year.

The membership of the Technical Committee initially consists of one National Ministry or Department senior staff involved in the area of marine transportation and one representative from each of the shipping ports in a particular entity.

This would mean that the ROP would designate one senior staff and one port representative, while FSM, one senior staff and one port representative each from the ports of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae, and finally the RMI would have one senior staff and one port representative each from Ebeye and Majuro.

The Technical Committee will meet once a year, immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of MSC. The port representatives will bear the cost of their participation in the annual meeting and the Ministry and Department staffs will be funded in accordance with the provisions of the MSC Treaty. The composition, funding arrangements and meetings of the Technical Committee will be applied on a trial basis for one year to evaluate their practicality and will be finalized after such trial period.

The functions of the country representatives in the Technical Committee would be to funnel information and issues from the general public within each jurisdiction to the National Ministries and Departments that represents their respective member-countries in MSC. The members of the Technical Committee shall also be responsible for assisting the MSC Secretariat in reviewing major issues brought before the Commission for action.

The Commission envisages that this new arrangement will ensure that the Executive Committee is better engaged with key issues and that its future policies better reflect the interest of its stakeholders.

a treat to be passed around the table and sampled by everyone rather than for its real purpose. Consultants come in and craft a report outlining reform measures that goes unread and unimplemented. Government employees fly off to attend meetings that multiply each year and leave them little time to provide the public services their people so badly need.

How does this small island nation chart a new course for itself? One that offers it the hope of finding new resources while conserving those it now has? One that provides a pathway to the development that government and people claim to want for themselves? One that is, in that over-worked phrase, sustainable?

The answer is not nearly as elusive as it

might appear, the author suggests. But making this happen will require reform: a change in habits, especially on the part of the government, and a readiness to implement practices that we know can be successful but threaten our own interests. That's what it will take, no matter whether we're dealing with global warming, preserving fish stock in national waters, improving education and health services, or trying to make the heavy emigration work to the advantage of the Marshall Islands.

The writer was the founder and long-time director of the Micronesian Seminar in Pohnpei. He is now based on Guam and writes a regular blog at: [www.wheresfran.org](http://www.wheresfran.org). Note: Idyllic No More is available online at: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

# International Youth Day

12 August, 2015

“It is now time to prove that we are worthy caretakers of this beautiful planet” - International Youth Day Message from Ms. Brianna Fruean, SPREP Youth Ambassador.

“Youth; young people seen as a group in society, who are going through the period between childhood and adulthood, the period where you would do your most growing, the period where you would go through the most change and the period where you are at your boldest, bravest, most imaginative and innovative.

I think in this definition of youth also lies the explanation to why youth play a vital role in protecting and conserving our environment

Our planet has fed us, given us a habitat and provided for our every need but yet we have not treated it the way it has treated us. I guess sometimes we forget Mother Nature doesn't need us the way we need her.

It is now time to prove that we are worthy caretakers of this beautiful planet and I think our youth have the force to lead this change. We as youth may not hold all the

power or money in the world but we have something more valuable in my opinion and that is Passion.

Youth all around the world have started environmental groups, led grassroots initiatives, set up petitions, established solar panels to provide power, invented energy sufficient home appliances and they have also painted towns with awareness posters.

Even today the exciting hash tag #YouthPower will be following youth from all around the world campaigning for youth voice to be heard and displaying youth from every corner of the planet willing to stand up for change. All around the world, the youth of today are proving themselves by using their Passion and commitment towards saving our environment.

At the beginning of the year I heard a quote I find very fitting for International Youth Day.

During Prefect selection week at my school an ex-student spoke up to remind us of leadership qualities and used the words - “you don't need a badge to be a Leader”. This wasn't just fitting for those of us who didn't and will not make Prefect but for

those of us who don't see ourselves capable of being Leaders and leading change.

I think this is such a powerful quote that more youth need to hear in order to believe that they do have the ability to protect our environment and be the change our world needs. As a young person with no title, throne or name imprinted on any wall, I always think about what that girl said at the beginning of the year.

We may feel like just one young person in this huge world trying to protect this huge environment but together with every other young person in this world we make the largest population of young people in history.

We may not have badges but like I said in my definition of youth we are at our boldest, bravest, most imaginative and innovative time and this will make us great leaders of environmental change.”

About Ms. Brianna Fruean: At the age of 16 Ms. Brianna Fruean, the SPREP Youth Ambassador, won the title of the youngest recipient of the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Awards. She was awarded the Climate Change, Environment Protection Award being the only recipient from the Pacific islands.

Ms Fruean is active in environment work having launched the Small Voices Group with six friends at 11 years of age to address environment and climate change and concerns starting with activities in her school. This Group has now grown to close to 800 members in Samoa. In 2011 she became a member of 350.org and led the Moving Planet activity in Samoa. Ms. Fruean was also a member of the SPREP Pacific Media Team at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 and also led the Connect the Dots Walk for Awareness activity in Samoa.

Since becoming the SPREP Youth Ambassador in March this year, Ms. Fruean has been part of the SPREP delegation to the Oceania 21 Conference in New Caledonia, participated in the SPREP Open Day activities, and is representing SPREP at the UNESCO Voice of Athletes activity for the Commonwealth Youth Games.



## US-Pacific tuna fishing rights hit US \$89m to end of next year FFA special ministerial to decide what comes after Dec 2016

10th August 2015, FFA RFSC Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS – Pacific Island Parties (PIPs) to the treaty on fisheries with the United States have reached agreement with the US on an Interim Arrangement of the Treaty that will enable US tuna purse seine fishing vessels to fish in the waters of the Parties in 2016. The agreement was reached in Brisbane on Wednesday, August 5th.

The successful extension of the Transitional Arrangement follows earlier agreement by the two sides on most of the other provisions of a new Treaty, including sensitive areas of US recognition of the application of PIP national laws, leaving only a few remaining issues.

In short, the agreement entails 5,700 days fishing in the EEZs of VDS participants; 250 days in the Cook Islands EEZ; and 300 days under an exploratory fishing arrangement in the EEZs of Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu for a total financial package of \$89,271,350.

This represents an increase in the payment per day fished for all VDS parties and Cook Islands, as well as a larger proportion of the share divided equally

amongst all PIPs as economic assistance. “For the first time, US tuna purse seine fishing boats are looking to undertake exploratory fishing in the EEZs of PIPs where there has been relatively little or no fishing in the past. It is also likely that based on the Treaty arrangement US vessels will seek additional access through bilateral arrangements. This clearly represents an improvement for PIPs,” says FFA Director General James Movick.

He says while the agreement is very favourable to PIPs from a financial perspective, “it was nonetheless difficult to achieve and relied upon a significant degree of flexibility and creativity, particularly for VDS (Vessel Day Scheme) participants to identify the number of days sought by the US.”

Difficulties experienced in the negotiations over the last two years or so also came to a head and are now threatening the existence of the Treaty beyond 2016.

“Several areas of significant contention arose, relating to the application of PIP conservation and management measures

and previous exemptions for the US fleet that had been agreed in the context of previous Transitional Arrangements extending the current Treaty while renegotiations continue. PIP officials were unable to agree to the US request in this respect, as they would need a Ministerial mandate. It's our hope this can be progressed at a special FFA ministerial to be convened within a month,” he says.

While the US eventually agreed to the above package without the concessions that they had sought, they essentially informed PIPs that this was solely in the interests of securing access for their fleet for 2016, but that it would threaten the longer-term participation of the US in the Treaty.

PIP officials recognised the ongoing value of the Treaty and were not prepared to end the session with a simple agreement involving such heavy ramifications. It was therefore agreed with the US that the 2016 agreement would be sealed, and that FFA, as Treaty Administrator, would attempt to organise a special session for Ministers to consider the outcomes of RS16 and provide guidance on any moves that can be made to foster a longer-term

relationship.

The South Pacific Tuna Treaty, also called the US Treaty, entered into force in 1988. It sets down the fishing and operating rules for the U.S. tuna purse seine fleet in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), including waters under the jurisdiction of FFA member countries, who form the Pacific Island Parties to the Treaty. The Treaty provides a unique model of international and fishery cooperation. It has helped establish fisheries observer and data reporting requirements as well as monitoring, control and surveillance standards for the region's tuna fisheries, all of which are vital to deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The Treaty has gone through various extensions and amendments since 1988, with current access at a historic payment giving the US purse seine fleets 8,300 days for US 90m for the 12 months until December 31, 2015.

US Treaty renegotiation sessions in 2015 have included sessions in Auckland and Nadi prior to the just-ended Brisbane talks this month.

# ... Drill

Continued from front page

crew members on board. The aircraft declared an inflight emergency after a fire erupted followed by an explosion to the #1 and #2 engines and requested immediate landing with an estimated time of arrival of 20 minutes. The Aerodrome Flight Information Service (AFIS) acknowledges and activates the emergency hotline to Airport Rescue Fire Fighters (ARFF) and the airport declaring an Alert 2 emergency condition. The Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) reports the aircraft in sight and immediately clears Pacific Island Airlines for emergency landing on runway 9. The pilot then reports losing control to the left flap while on final approach and attempts a straight in approach on runway 9 forcing the aircraft to lean slightly left on touchdown. Upon landing on runway 9 at the 5000 foot distance remaining sign, the aircraft then skidded left and off the runway surface before abruptly skidding onto a grass and soil surface before coming to final rest on the paved surface. There are aircraft parts scattered, fire on the left wing, main fuselage and within the immediate area. There are fatalities and a number of passengers crawling and walking around throughout the crash site.



Of the casualties, 35 of them are walking wounded. 25 of them are injured but not critically, 50 are in serious condition and need immediate medical care. 40 of the passengers are dead.

The burning plane was simulated by barrels burning fuel off the side of the runway. The three ARFF strikers (fire

trucks) immediately approached the area and began dousing the flames. When the flames were out an announcement was made over loudspeaker telling all those passengers who can walk where to go. The triage team immediately follows with a system of flags to evaluate the nature of the rest of the passenger's injuries. They attach a yellow flag to those who are injured but not in need of immediate medical attention, a red flag for those who need medical attention as quickly as possible, and black flags for fatalities.

As the triage was conducted, the weather began to deteriorate and the rain fell in wind driven horizontal sheets, providing a real life challenge to the emergency responders. One of the ARFF strikers became stuck in the mud off the side of the runway. As the stretcher bearers were carrying victims to the constant stream of vehicles there to transport them to where they could best be treated, the flame in the barrels flared up and began to furiously burn again. Two ARFF strikers finally contained the blaze.

Those volunteer "victims" who had yellow flags were to be taken to one of three expensive medical tents designed specifically

for quick setup for medical treatment in the field. One of those tents simply blew away during the exercise and Red Cross volunteers were left to anchor the two remaining tents.

Simpson of the FAA said that he has been conducting airport drills for a lot of years now and that he had never seen a single one that went off without a hitch. He said that there were mistakes made during the drill but that those would serve as learning experiences, the principal reason for the drills.

During the last few weeks, Simpson and another FAA representative conducted similar drills in Chuuk and in Kosrae. After leaving Pohnpei they will be going Majuro, Marshall Islands to conduct a drill there as well. He said that Yap did their drill last year and will conduct another next year.





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**Dr. Susan B. Nem Singh**  
INTERNIST

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**Dr. Harriet Sy**  
OB-GYNECOLOGIST

*WELCOME BACK!*

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**Genesis Hospital and Pharmacy continues to strive to improve our services because we know you deserve BETTER!**

## US looking for Marshalls Resolution by 2017

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands (RNZI, Aug. 13, 2015)** — An appeal from a Marshallese community for assistance from the United States for relocation could be answered by the end of next year.

Bikini Islanders have requested financial help after repeated flooding and storm surges on Kili Island, where they have lived since the start of US nuclear testing at Bikini in 1946.

They want the Resettlement Trust Fund, which is to be used for relocation within the Marshalls, to be extended for access outside of the country.

Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina from the Office of Insular Affairs says she is empathetic towards the Bikinian's plight.

Ms. Kia'aina says when and where the Bikinians move is their decision to make and her priority is to get statutory changes made so that funding is available.

"Clearly we are in the first year of a Congress and it normally takes two years for a Congress to close so all I can say is that I am continuing to work with my colleagues in the Obama administration. I am hopeful that within this Congress, which would be by the ending of next year, there will be a resolution on this very important issue."

## President Christian calls for special session to finalize cabinet lineup

PALIKIR, FSM (Yap Congressional Delegation Office News & Updates, Aug. 07, 2015) — The Second Special Session of the Nineteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia will convene for a 5-day session as called by President Peter M. Christian, beginning Thursday, August 13, 2015.

In his letter to Speaker Wesley W. Simina, the President underlined that at the close of July's First Special Session several important matters remained pending with Congress and requested priority consideration.

The matters highlighted by the President are: finalization of the Compact Grants appropriation, Public Project allottee adjustments, and continuing efforts for final action on Executive Branch nominations to the Cabinet and other advice and consent positions.

In addition to the President's stated priorities, Congress still has issues pending before the Body that need to be addressed.

The Second Special Session of the 19th Congress as called, will convene for five days beginning Thursday, August 13, 2015.

As always, the sessions of Congress are open to the interested general public.

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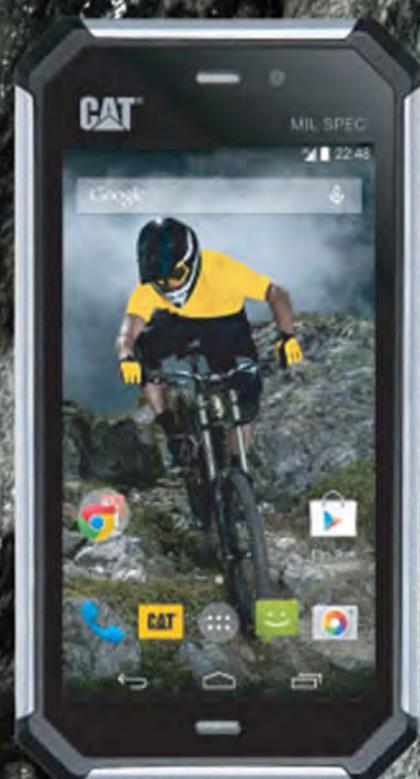
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# Interior Provides \$3.7 Million for Brown Tree Snake Control, Interdiction, and Prevention in Western Pacific and Hawaii

## Includes Re-establishment of Hawaii Detector Dog Program

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas

August 12, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina today announced \$3,673,876 in grant assistance for brown tree snake interdiction and control in Guam, and prevention in the Northern Mariana Islands and Hawaii.

The fiscal year 2015 funding, provided under the Office of Insular Affairs’ Technical Assistance Program, will support and bolster live-trapping and live-baiting of snakes – methods that have proven effective in reducing brown tree snake activity in Guam’s forests and port areas. The grant will also support critical rapid-response training and prevention efforts and vital research, as well as re-establish the canine-detector program in Hawaii.

The brown tree snake was unintentionally introduced on Guam sometime after World War II, and has been largely responsible for the extinction of most of Guam’s native forest vertebrate species. With the absence of natural predators, the snake has decimated domestic bird populations on Guam and other pets, and caused island-wide power outages affecting residents as well as commercial and military activities.

There is appropriate concern that the introduction of the brown tree snake to other vulnerable areas, such as Hawaii, will have similarly catastrophic ecological and economic impacts as on Guam. The potential cost of a brown tree snake introduction on Hawaii alone has been estimated between \$593 million to \$2.14

billion annually. Hawaii is also home to one-third of all endangered bird species in the nation. Since Guam is a major transportation hub in the Pacific, numerous opportunities exist for this invasive species to be inadvertently introduced to Hawaii and other areas in the Pacific.

“While I am pleased with the progress of our Brown Tree Snake program, it is imperative that we continue to keep our guard up. We must double our efforts to direct the necessary financial and personnel resources to advanced research, technologies, and programs to address this important issue.” said Assistant Secretary Kia’aina. “The goal is to completely eradicate this species on Guam and prevent it from gaining a foothold in the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, or the Micronesia region.”

The funding breakdown is as follows:

- USDA National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) for Phase II of the Automated Aerial Bait Drop System – \$237,842 – NWRC has developed and is in the process of building an automated toxicant delivery system, for dispensing acetaminophen-loaded neonatal mice into Guam’s forests via helicopter. This reduces the manpower cost of aerial toxicant drops, thus improving the chances for wide-scale eradication.
- Hawaii Department of Agriculture for re-establishment of the Hawaii Detector Dog Program - \$527,137 – The detector dog program has proven the best line of defense against brown tree snakes entering Hawaii, as dogs have a much higher rate of catching

snakes in cargo than through visual searches.

- Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for program coordination - \$190,000 – FWS provides coordination of the program, managing communication between federal and local agencies and organizing the Brown Tree Snake Technical Working Group and Research Committee.
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Division of Land and Natural Resources for the CNMI Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program - \$458,952 – This funding supports the interdiction program in the CNMI, which manages all visual surveys and dog searches to ensure the brown tree snake is prevented from establishing itself on Saipan, Rota, or Tinian.
- Interior’s U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for research and development - \$1,050,405 – The USGS in partnership with Colorado State University conducts the majority of brown tree snake research, which aids all other agencies in the best practices for search and eradication efforts. They also maintain the Rapid Response Team, who responds immediately to brown tree snake sightings anywhere in the Pacific. The Rapid Response Team is critical in the interdiction of the snakes spreading through the transportation system and becoming established in other areas.

An additional \$1.2 million was provided earlier in this fiscal year for the Guam Interdiction and Control Program administered through the USDA Animal

and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services and for Phase I of the automated aerial bait drop system administered by the USDA National Wildlife Research Center.

The Brown Tree Snake program is a collaborative effort of federal, state and territorial governments and non-government agencies. Federal partners include Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Geological Survey as well as USDA’s National Wildlife Research Center and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Service. These Federal partners provide critical support to local government agencies on Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Hawaii. The team recognizes that ongoing efforts to control and prevent the spread of the brown tree snake are critical to the livelihood, biological diversity, and economies of Micronesia as well as Hawaii.

*The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas carries out the administrative responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior in coordinating federal policy for 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 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 Assistant Secretary executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs.*

## Letter to the editor

### Lambert speaks out on Tax Reform

Dear Mr. Editor:

The leadership of the National and State Governments in its Third Economic Summit in 2003 approved a recommended tax reform to be used throughout the Nation. There are two parts comprising this tax reform. The first component is the establishment of the Unified Revenue Authority (URA) and the second part relates to the transferring of the tax administration from the States to the URA. After many years of deliberations on this tax reform exercise, two States and the National Government passed their laws to spearhead the recommended tax reform. A sunset clause to implement the second part which is the tax administration of the tax reform was not extended by the National Congress and the implementation of the tax administration’s component expired.

The Administration of the former President

Mori established an FSM 2023 Planning Committee composed of State and National leaders including prominent consultants from different countries from abroad to help us study and prepare the FSM in the event the economic provision of the Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States is not extended beyond the year 2023. The task of the Committee is to come up with sets of recommendations practical for the Nation. This is a food exercise for the Nation to show the U.S. that we are trying our best to address our won fiscal problems first. A question most likely to be asked by the U.S. is, “What have you done on your part?” A renegotiation of the Compact of Free Association is set not later than the year 2021. The former President at the latter part of its administration earlier this year made a decision to initiate the establishment of the URA in order to prove that it could make a difference in it revenue collections. The goal was to show the National and State leaders that this is a workable law for the Nation at this juncture considering the reduction in Compact Sector Grants due to the Compact decrements coupled with the setting aside of the initial six

percent of all Compact funds and general funds alike for all offices of the State governments using such funds for their operations per the requirement of the Long Term Fiscal Framework. One of the very critical elements of the sets of recommendations made by the FSM 2023 Planning Committee is the tax reform recommended in the FSM Third Economic Summit.

The primary responsibilities of the URA, among many others, include the active monitoring of business activities as well as improving it revenue collection efforts. It is my understanding that there have been tremendous successes this authority has done. Revenue collections have increased within a very short period of its operation. In the past two decades, tax collections were stagnant under the current tax scheme.

The United Revenue Authority is now a dead issue in the National and State Governments due to the URA being repealed. The FSM 2023 Planning Committee recommended the URA or tax reform as an important factor to improve revenue collections in order to continue necessary government services for our people. This tax reform alone with the revenue that it will generate is not enough to make up the

reduction in Compact funds. What is our next collaborative Plan B this time around?

I am an advocate of the recommended tax reform because I studied it diligently when given the opportunity to learn more about it. The States will benefit the most from this tax reform arrangement in terms of the revenues received. The reason behind this tax reform as envisioned is the fact that study has been made and alerted the States of a financial crisis which started in the year 2012 and pushed some of the States into deficit positions. The National Government will not face any financial crisis due to its abundance in revenues. For the last three years Pohnpei barely made it to break even in its year budget. The financial challenges get tougher each year and we will surely end up in a deficit position soon if we abandon the recommended tax reform that will satisfy all stakeholders, and I am referring to the businesses, the customers and the governments. I failed on my part, unfortunately to push this tax reform through in the Seventh Pohnpei Legislature as the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

*Respectfully I remain,*

*Ausen T. Lambert*

# Pacific youth framework and think tank launched on International Youth Day

12 August 2015

**Suva, Fiji** – An era of greater coordination of youth-centred development in the Pacific region was ushered in today with the launch of a regional youth framework and the endorsement of a new youth think tank.

The announcements were made by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Youth Council as they joined with young people and development partners to mark International Youth Day (held on 12 August each year).

In launching the Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014–2023 in Suva, SPC Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, said considerable consultation with young people, governments and other stakeholders had gone into designing the framework.

“The Pacific Youth Development Framework highlights the engagement of youth as a prerequisite for effective development and emphasises the need to target opportunities to key populations of young people who are missing out on mainstream development efforts,” Dr Tukuitonga said.

“These include young people who are not in education, employment or training; young women; rural youth; young people with disabilities; and youth who are discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

“Young people can help make their communities more productive and resilient when they have the opportunity to become better educated, healthier, express their voice and engage in useful work.

“We’re committed to implementing the framework in partnership with the Pacific Youth Council, youth networks, governments and development partners, to help chart our region’s future prosperity,” he said.

The framework contains four priority areas identified by young people as having the most potential for positive impact: education and employment; health; governance and participation; and youth engagement in environmental action.

More than half of the 10 million people living in the Pacific Islands region are under the age of 25.

Despite the region’s sizeable youth population, and the significance of

issues such as youth employment and young people’s sexual and reproductive health, there remains a lack of targeted investment required to meet the needs of all young people in the Pacific.

Also speaking at the Suva event, SPC’s Social Development Advisor for Youth, Mereia Carling, and Miss World Fiji and SPC employee, Brittany Hazelman, drew attention to this year’s International Youth Day theme – Youth Civic Engagement – highlighting the need for a greater regional response to provide opportunities for all young people to be engaged in decisions affecting their future, politically, economically and socially.

Youth issues are often treated as stand-alone issues, without necessarily addressing the root causes.

The framework highlights that because youth is both a cross-cutting and multi-sectoral issue, effective coordination is essential to ensure all aspects of youth development are addressed and monitored across sectors, and to bring a youth focus and engagement with young people to new sectors.

It states that national youth policies need to be implemented across a range of ministries and require high-level commitment from core ministries.

Endorsement of Pacific Regional Youth Think Tank  
Dr Tukuitonga also confirmed that SPC and the Pacific Youth Council will assume responsibility for regional coordination of the framework with guidance from a new Pacific Regional Youth Think Tank.

The Pacific Regional Youth Think Tank will be an advisory body that provides expertise and guidance to assist the youth frameworks’ regional coordination mechanism. There will also be collaboration with youth stakeholders, Pacific Community members, regional development partners, youth networks and national youth council members of the Pacific Youth Council.

The Pacific Way: Face of the Future competition  
To coincide with International Youth Day, SPC is inviting young Pacific Island people between 15 and 21 years of age

to participate in The Pacific Way: Face of the Future Competition.

One budding reporter will win the opportunity to work with The Pacific Way crew to produce a story about youth in their home country that will air on 21 TV stations around the Pacific. Entrants must create a video audition introducing themselves and their story idea which needs to be based on one of the four priority themes highlighted in the Pacific Youth Development Framework.

Shortlisted submissions will be posted on The Pacific Way Facebook page and an overall winner will be selected via public voting. Audition videos should be no longer than 3 minutes and must be submitted by 31 August 2015. Refer to the Face of the Future entry details online or please email [ThePacificWay@spc.int](mailto:ThePacificWay@spc.int).

Call for youth and agriculture Social Media Reporters

To promote youth in agriculture, SPC will also be supporting a team of young social reporters to attend and report on events over the next two years in the Pacific Islands region. It is part of engaging countries, stakeholders and other partners

in the European Union-supported Pacific Agriculture Policy Project that is implemented by SPC.

Young social reporters will be selected to participate in PAPP events, whereby they will attend training and provide social media coverage of the event, gaining hands-on experience in the social media arena.

Please see the entry conditions. For more information, email SPC’s Anju Mangal: [anjum@spc.int](mailto:anjum@spc.int).

Youth@Work markets in Solomon Islands Youth in the Solomon Islands’ capital, Honiara, will celebrate International Youth Day on Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 August at a Youth Market.

Average youth unemployment rates in the Pacific are 23% compared to a global average of 12.6%. The Youth Market is run by Youth@Work, a successful youth employment initiative implemented by SPC in partnership with four Solomon Islands’ government ministries and funded by the Australian Government.

## Sector Grant Scheme (SGS) Open

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is accepting Sector Grant Scheme (SGS) applications for projects that have a development focus and target **education, health and gender equality**.

You can submit applications from **July 20th– September 11th**. Applicants must have proven successful project management skills.

### Specifications

- Apply for up to USD \$100,000
- NGOs, Governmental Organizations and Community Groups eligible
- Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Must focus on sector areas

To apply and for more information visit  
[www.fsm.embassy.gov.au](http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au)  
call +691 320.5448  
or email  
[joyce.gehr@dfat.gov.au](mailto:joyce.gehr@dfat.gov.au)

**Australian Aid** 

# Crossword

**ACROSS**

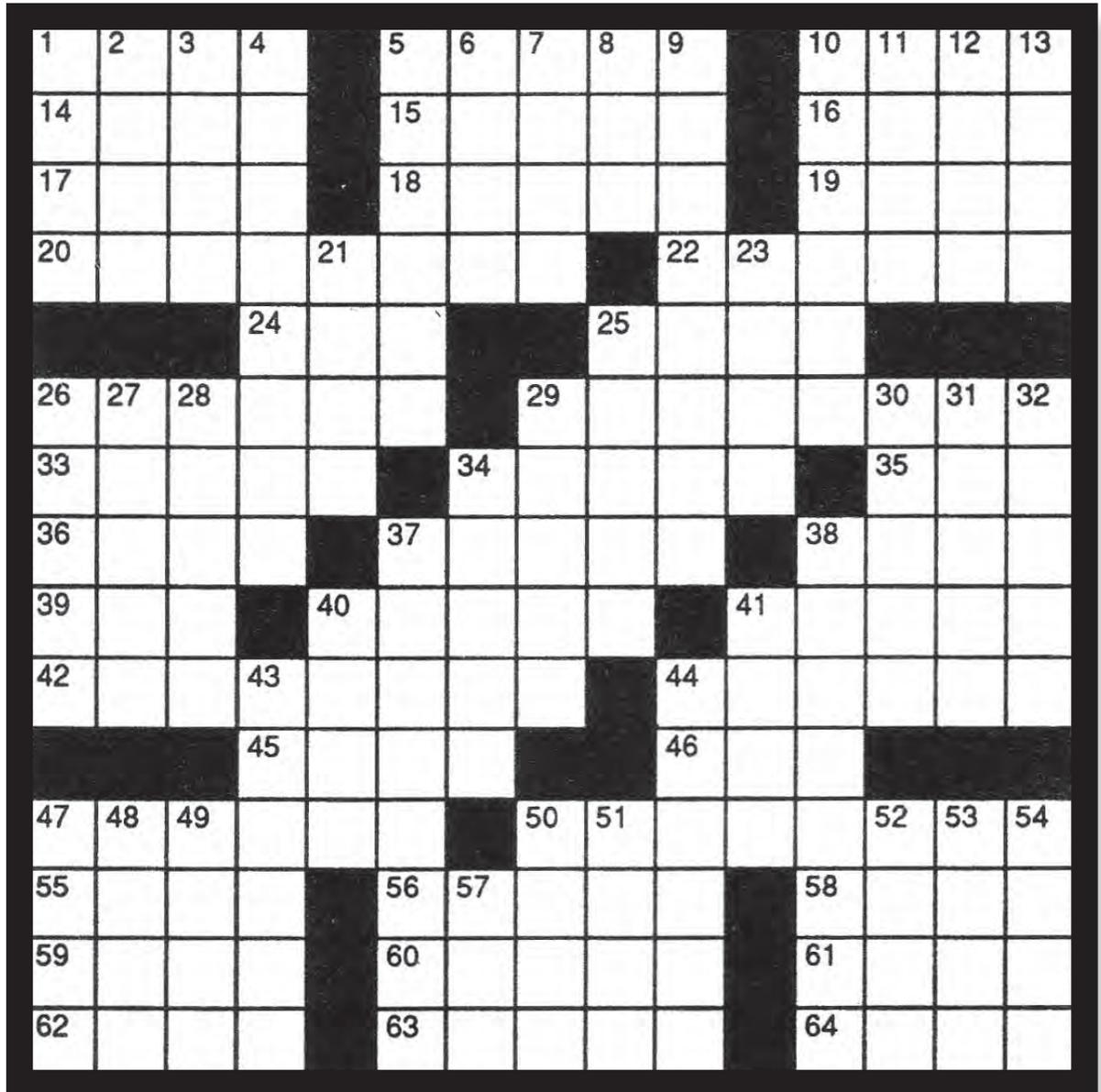
- 1. Dull
- 5. Board game
- 10. Breton or Highland Scot
- 14. Underdone
- 15. Wading bird
- 16. Notion
- 17. Grows old
- 18. Rub out
- 19. Tidy
- 20. Exposes to atmosphere
- 22. Revises
- 24. Rowing device
- 25. Remove from liquid's top
- 26. Makes a monarch
- 29. Moved up and down
- 33. Pits
- 34. Equals
- 35. \_\_\_ carte (2 wds.)
- 36. Among
- 37. Assigns position to
- 38. Mix with spoon
- 39. Increase motor speed (colloq.)
- 40. \_\_\_ for oneself; manages alone
- 41. Stockholm native
- 42. Small spaces for climbing
- 44. Steeples
- 45. Operatic solo
- 46. Fedora or derby
- 47. Moving masses
- 50. Burned surface
- 55. Back
- 56. Loathed
- 58. Healthy
- 59. Sea eagle
- 60. Oxlike antelope
- 61. Wicked
- 62. College head
- 63. Short simple song
- 64. Close completely

**periods**

- 8. Distress signal
- 9. Tennis shoes
- 10. The movies (British)
- 11. Paradise
- 12. Heavy metal
- 13. Makes lace
- 21. \_\_\_ Christian Andersen
- 23. Fail to hit
- 25. Looks for
- 26. Map
- 27. "\_\_\_ and Juliet"
- 28. \_\_\_ drab; camouflage color
- 29. Causes to go
- 30. Essential drink
- 31. Leave out
- 32. Challenges
- 34. Chinese bearlike animal
- 37. Enjoyed
- 38. Sticks for whipping
- 40. Shape
- 41. Box in exhibition
- 43. Become firm
- 44. Poorly done
- 47. Storage building
- 48. Telegram
- 49. "\_\_\_ Karenina"
- 50. Law (abbr.)
- 51. Penny
- 52. Possess
- 53. Writer-director Kazan
- 54. Small valley
- 57. Actress MacGraw

**DOWN**

- 1. A tie
- 2. Furious anger
- 3. Tract
- 4. Gave as gift
- 5. Shouts hurrah
- 6. Mr. (Ger.)
- 7. Historical



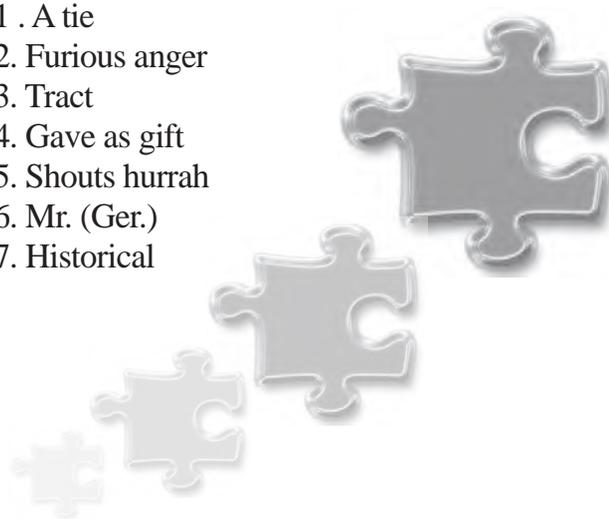
K Press Puzzle Pleasure - K Press Puzzle Pleasure

## Pantomime

Actions speak louder than words with pantomime, the art of acting with gestures. Popular since the 18th century, the art lives on, with France's Marcel Marceau as one of today's most famous pantomimists.



- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| ACTION       | MAKEUP     |
| ARMS         | MASK       |
| AUDIENCE     | MOVEMENT   |
| CLOWN        | MUSIC      |
| CONVEY       | PANTALOON  |
| COSTUME      | PERFORM    |
| DANCE        | PLAY       |
| DRAMA        | PROP       |
| EMOTION      | ROLE       |
| ENJOY        | SHOW       |
| ENTERTAINING | SKILL      |
| EXPRESSION   | SPEECHLESS |
| FUNNY        | STAGE      |
| GESTURE      | STORY      |
| GRIN         | THEATER    |
| HANDS        | THOUGHTS   |
| IMITATE      | TRAGEDY    |
| LAUGH        | WATCH      |



## Yap Congressional Delegation Briefs Yap State Leadership

COLONIA, Yap (Yap Congressional Delegation Office News & Updates, Aug. 07, 2015) — On July 30, 2105, FSM Senator Joseph J. Urusemal and FSM Senator Isaac V. Figir of the Yap Congressional Delegation briefed the Yap State Leadership on recent activities and efforts of the newly organized 19th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Representatives of the two Councils of Traditional Leaders, along with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and their cabinet, as well as the Speaker and Members of the 9th Yap State Legislature filled the Yap State Legislative Chamber to take part in the State Leadership Meeting.

Senator Urusemal, who is the Chairman of the Yap Congressional Delegation, at the outset of their briefing reported that the FSM Congress, last May, has organized itself. Further adding that he and Senator Figir retained their Congressional Chairmanship on the Committee on Education and the Committee on Ways and Means respectively.

The Senators also reported that Congress is continuing its role of review and consent on Presidential nominations for the new FSM Administration's cabinet members as well as diplomatic posts. The report further elaborated on the recent Congressional Resolutions which confirmed the nominations of the FSM Chief Justice Yamase, Ambassador Chigiyal as the FSM Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Mauricio as Director of the FSM Archives and HPO, Director Yatilman for the Office of Environmental Emergency Management, Secretary Gallen, Esq. for the Department of Justice, Secretary Lawrence for the Department of Finance and Administration, Secretary Weilbacher for the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, Secretary Kephas for the Department of Education, and Secretary Henry for the Department of Resources and Development.

Chairman Urusemal also explained that the FSM Congress continues to prioritize recovery and rebuilding efforts in Yap and Chuuk amidst the recent devastations caused by Super Typhoon Maysak. Most recently, the Yap Congressional Delegation appealed to the FSM Congress for an appropriation of a \$100,000 (PL No. 19-08) specifically for relief efforts in

Yap, adding to the list of domestic and foreign assistance, both monetary and donated goods, for the effected States.

The FSM Congress continues through Congressional Resolutions to express its sincere appreciation to foreign governments, including the Australia, China, Japan, Palau, and the United States (and Guam) among others, and various organizations for all monetary assistance, donated goods, and humanitarian assistance provided in response to the recent disaster.

The Senators also drew the Leadership's attention to the continued subsidies that Congress continues to provide the States. For the State of Yap under PL No. 19-10, the projects and programs included, but is not limited to the following:

- \$15,000 for the 2016 Yap Day Site Improvement
- \$23,500 for Yap Visitor's Bureau Promotional Program/Travel
- \$10,000 for Yap CAP Operational Subsidy
- \$100,000 for Yap CAP Community Project Matching Fund
- \$18,000 for Dugor Men's House
- \$26,000 Supplemental Funding for Yap's Department of Education Teachers

Senator Figir also further encouraged the need for haste implementation of the projects stressing that Congress during its recent Sessions extended the lapse dates of at least fifteen different appropriations, including PL No. 19-15 which extended the lapse date of appropriations under PL No. 18-42 of which a \$100,000 is intended for the improvement of the Yap Airport Terminal Facility.

The Senators also reported that Congress since its First Regular Session last May have approved over \$3.7 million in grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services for various health programs and services across the nation, with a number still awaiting Congressional approval. In its most recent Session, Congress also approved several grants from the US National Park Services of which a \$151,388 grant was specifically earmarked for the Yap Historic Preservation Office.

For more information on the measures of the 19th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, please visit [www.fsmcongress.fm](http://www.fsmcongress.fm). For more information on this new release, please contact the Yap Congressional Delegation Office.

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Mileage 32,000km Color Silver



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Mileage 70,000km Color Gray



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Mileage 98,000km Color Green



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# Investing in the Power of Young People, Transforming our World

## Statement of the UNFPA Executive Director for International Youth Day

12 AUGUST 2015

Today, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, commemorates International Youth Day, under the theme, "Youth Civic Engagement," by celebrating the actions young people around the world take to improve their well-being and that of their communities.

In 65 countries, more than half the population is younger than 24. Denying these young people the right to meaningful participation in decision-making is a gross violation of their human rights and a failure of the democratic process. It is also a waste of human capital that can propel nations towards development.

Young people are driving change towards a better future for all in every corner of the world. They are leading global action on climate change, campaigning to end discrimination, speaking out to uphold democracy and the freedom of speech, connecting our world with innovations in information technology, and building peace in societies ravaged by war.

In a world of increasing conflict, young

people must be our strongest partners if peace and security are to win out over war. We need their fullest capability and broadest engagement for people, the planet and prosperity to flourish.

The next 15 years offer a unique opportunity for a demographic dividend that will accelerate conflict-recovery and sustainable economic growth and development in many countries if we empower, support, educate and create employment for young people today. Young women and men need protection from violence, and they have a right to access essential education and health services, including for their sexual and reproductive health. They also have the right to be at the tables where decisions and peace are made.

Yet, for the most part, young people remain excluded from decision-making processes. Although 16 per cent of the world's population is 20-29 years old, this age group represents only 1.6 per cent of parliamentarians, most of whom are men. Young people rarely join political parties, and the majority do not vote in elections.

It is misleading, however, to conclude that young people are uninterested or simply do not care. Today's young people are better educated and volunteer more for causes than previous generations. They are also a key driving force behind making companies, organizations and governments more socially and environmentally conscious.

To fully participate in the lives of their communities, young people need to overcome multiple legal, social and cultural barriers and discrimination. Adolescent girls, in particular, are often burdened by child marriage, sexual violence, unplanned pregnancies and HIV, preventing their full civic engagement.

In September, world leaders will formally adopt Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a historic, transformative, inclusive, universal agenda for our people and the planet. To have any chance of succeeding in building a better future for humanity, we must remove the obstacles confronted by young people and invest in their health, well-being, education

and livelihoods to unleash and leverage their full potential as global citizens. We must ensure that all young people have access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including comprehensive sexuality education.

UNFPA is proud to work with networks of adolescents and youth to mobilize support for the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

Our efforts to promote youth leadership and participation enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, countries and the world.

Together, we can ensure that the post-2015 development agenda promotes the human rights, health and well-being of the largest generation of young people in history.

Together, working in partnership with young people, we can enable them to survive, thrive and transform our world, and deliver a better future for all of us.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FSM Telecommunications Corporation invites application from eligible candidates for the following post:

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) MANAGER

Salary: Exempt, depending upon qualification

The position will be based at the FSMTC Headquarters in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor degree in Computer Science or related field with five (5) years of work experience in computer applications, network development and computer programming, including two (2) years of supervisory experience.

For detailed information and instructions to apply, please visit FSMTC Website at: <http://www.fsmtc.fm/?q=jobs>.

THIS VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT CLOSING ON AUGUST 28, 2015.



# Education Corner: Richard Womack, Ed.D

When I asked Mr. Bill Jaynes, our editor for some space to do a little column called Education Corner he asked a typical and professional editor's question. I paraphrase but something like—What about education will the readers find hidden in this corner? I could only say the column would not be a "dark corner".

I told Editor Jaynes that I had written a column using the same header "Education Corner" (EC) years back but the old EC was written as a Professor of Education at COM-FSM. I related to Mr. Jaynes that I wrote at that time about issues such as improving our college student learning and specifically about matters about improving the learning of our future teachers. I admitted I had always written to the public by providing information about improvements we were making at COM-FSM or planning to make at the college. I also discussed certain problems or challenges our college was facing at that time. There was nothing wrong with that approach and EC presented the most accurate and best information available. After all, providing information is part of teaching and understanding information part of learning. We have all been through some formal education and the community understands this. I told Mr. Jaynes that this new EC would focus on one thing and one thing only—improving learning in Pohnpei Elementary Schools and that alone would cover many months of bi-weekly editions of Kaselehlie Press.

Also in the old EC the education issues were quite broad and EC did not ask for or solicit information or feedback from the reading audience. In fact, there was no way of even

knowing if there was a reading audience. When I wrote EC I felt as if I was delivering a lecture or a speech or almost preaching to the community. There was no way to tell if the community was listening. In many ways the old EC went against something I say to teachers: "If you want to learn something, try talking with your students. Teaching and learning is not about talking and listening. Teaching is not about talking at or to your students and learning magically occurs by listening to the teacher. Teachers need to engage students and make them part of the learning. In the end you, the teacher, will be surprised what you too will learn". The old EC never left any homework for the community. This new EC will certainly speak about this idea in the months ahead and the community will always have a little homework.

So with that said I told Mr. Jaynes that this time around I wanted to do the EC in a different way. I told him that I was no longer with the college but with a group called Womack and Associates (2015). I proposed that EC could use the womackandassociates765@gmail.com address and interact with the public in a more personal yet still professional manner. EC would still provide accurate information on education needs and areas in need of improvement to the community but this time around EC would involve the community and show the community how they may help. Helping Pohnpei students improve is everyone's job. Being sure teachers are improving so they better serve our students is everyone's business. Helping the school principal improve teachers so teachers can help improve student learning is everyone's concern. In short helping with improving education for Pohnpei elementary school

students should be at the front of everyone's mind. It is the only issue on the collective mind of Womack and Associates (2015). It is why the Associates have joined together.

So to help with this improvement process EC will focus on written documents that demand community participation. The first sets of "paper" are FSM Accreditation reports on every school in Pohnpei. These outline very specific strength and weaknesses of each school and give each school an accreditation rating. When schools are showing the environment for learning has improved they may better the rating. But, and most importantly, the FSM Accreditation is really focused on increasing student learning. When a school shows student learning is improving that is the real key. A school's community need never worry about accreditation when student learning is improving. But know this dear community; this improvement means less funding and lack of improvement means less funding. Improvement now and preparation for 2023 demands improvement now and it cannot occur with less money. And as readers will find out each issue: Improvement will not occur without community involvement and support

TO: Community  
FR: Education Corner  
RE: Attendance

**HOMEWORK:** First look at student attendance. Each school keeps data on Average Daily Attendance or ADA. It is an accreditation factor and improving this will help with ratings. This never means send a sick child to school. We must never do that, but look to see if there are school age

children home playing on their property or the streets? Your homework this week is easy. Just look to see. The next EC will offer a few "pointers". If you see lots of school age students at play when they should be in school—there are things that can be done.

Finally next issue will be about the most important tool for improvement –The School Improvement Plan-the SIP. There will be a little homework too but on teacher attendance--

*Dr. Richard Womack is the Senior Associate/Budget Officer with Womack and Associates (2015) a local capacity building business whose purpose was described above and at present are searching for ways to provide Continuing Education for elementary teachers in the sciences and social studies. A further aim of the Associates is providing locally based curriculum and assuring that teachers and students have adequate textbooks and materials to improve learning in these areas.*

*Dr. Womack served the COM-FSM system for 29 years. Twenty years were spent training teachers-two of which were spent training principals. He has authored many papers on various education topics and has written several textbooks. He is most noted for An Introduction to Professional Teaching and Student Learning in Micronesia-the COM-FSM textbooks used in all FSM States in the ED210-Introduction to Professional Teaching, the first course taken for future teachers. He always claims his most valuable education came as a 5th-8th grade teacher in the elementary schools where he taught for seven (7) years.*



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## Vanishing Fishes...



