

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Powerful power news for Pohnpei Utilities Corporation



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 17, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—According to Pohnpei Utilities Corporation’s Board Chairman, Reed Oliver, PUC has received three, two megawatt high speed generators. Those generators went online today and soon PUC’s longstanding need for power shedding will end.

Nixson Anson, PUC’s Assistant Manager for Power Generation said that the high speed containerized Caterpillar generators are rated at two megawatts each of peak power production for a total of six

megawatts. No generator can be run at peak capacity for very long. Each of the three generators will be able to provide 1350 kilowatts (1.35 megawatts) of consistent power output for a total of 4050 kilowatts (4.05 megawatts).

Anson says that Pohnpei’s peak power demand is six megawatts and that peak was reached during the MicroGames in July when total power demand was abnormally high.

The addition of the three generators means that for the first time in a very long time, PUC will have access to an excess of power generation capacity. Anson said that will mean that generators will be able to be shut down for

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A plan to save Pohnpei State's reef fisheries



Reef Fisheries Management Symposium participants. Photo by CSP

6 November, 2014

On Thursday, 6 November, Pohnpei State's leaders on fisheries management collectively pledged a mutual commitment to avoid the impending collapse of Pohnpei's reef fisheries for the benefit of the people of Pohnpei.

The commitment was made in a Symposium following a two and a half day workshop that facilitated the development of a comprehensive workplan with obtainable one, three and five year goals for coral reef fisheries management and enforcement in Pohnpei. The commitment aligns with the Pohnpei State Strategic Development Plan and included signatories from the Governor's Office, Council of Mayors, Attorney General, Department of Public Safety and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP). "I am glad to support this joint effort in fisheries management for our State and I encourage collaborative efforts to continue and develop alternative income sources to help

reduce fishing pressures in our communities" said Lt. Governor, Marcelo Peterson.

The workshop brought together heads of departments, agencies, offices, community representative and non-governmental organizations and the Pohnpei fisher organization, Menin Katengesed to identify obstacles and solutions to protecting Pohnpei's valuable coral reef resources. The development of the workplan was lead, and shared across, the three State bodies overseeing coral reef fisheries management in Pohnpei: Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA), Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) under the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The plan includes processes and mechanisms as well as appropriate budgets to ensure a cohesive approach across the three implementing partners. In his opening speech at the workshop, Joseph Saimon,

Administrator of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) stressed that if the Plan is not in place well before the time that the financial provisions of the Compact end, Pohnpei will see a coral reef fisheries collapse. He said it was of immediate importance that his Office along with DLNR and DPS/DFW take ownership, "so that we can come up with a direction for Pohnpei; we need one 'living' adaptive plan and speak the same management language."

The four top issues identified for immediate actions at the workshop were appropriate coral reef fish and market regulations, effective compliance and enforcement, options for alternative livelihoods and 'ridge to reef' management. As long-time Pohnpei fisheries scientist, Dr Kevin Rhodes, from the University of Hawaii has warned: "We are currently three times over sustainable yield for coral reef fish. A continuation of our current fisheries, management and enforcement practices will soon lead to an imminent fisheries collapse if improvements aren't made. The grouper aggregations at Black Coral are a good example of the need for effective

enforcement. Before Dakio Paul died, the numbers of groupers were steadily increasing and the aggregations were the largest recorded for those fish in the Indo-Pacific. Since his death, we've seen a steady decline in fish numbers and current trends suggest these aggregations will be gone by 2020 without improved enforcement by the state and less poaching by fishers."

After seventeen years of scientific and political lobbying, recent success stories for Pohnpei's fisheries include new fisheries regulations that will be enforced in 2015. These include minimum size limits for sale of groupers (mwanger), trevallies (aorong), sweetlips (koahng), paddletail snapper (pwahlahl) and brown-marbled grouper (ripw-ripw), an increase in net-mesh size to 4 inches gillnets, a ban on speared lobster (uhrena) and a 10-year moratorium of four of Pohnpei's endangered species, including humphead wrasse (merrer), bumphead parrotfish (kemeik), giant clam (pahsu), and giant grouper (maud). An extension of the grouper sales ban to include February for all groupers and January to May for squaretail coral grouper (sawi) will also become enforceable. Strengthened awareness of these regulations to market owners and fishers will help reduce the impacts of night-time spearfishing and other unsustainable fishing practices. These cumulative efforts and the implementation of the Workplan in 2015 are designed to improve the sustainability of Pohnpei's marine resources and maintain Pohnpei's precious fishing culture for future generations.



A Pohnpeian fisherman and his catch for the day. Photo by Steve Lindfield

The workshop and symposium was hosted by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA), Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, with facilitation assistance from the Micronesia Conservation Trust, The Nature Conservancy and RARE International. The organizers would like to thank Packard Foundation's Western Pacific Program for their grant through MCT for funding the workshop.

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Managing Editor

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President releases 2013 4th quarter Consumer Price Index



Chief of Staff Leo Falcam looks on as FSM's President Manny Mori and Pohnpei Senator David Panuelo have a brief conversation before the Fifth Special Session of the 18th Congress begins

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

November 20, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—On November 4, 2014, President Mori transmitted to Congress the FSM Consumer Price Index for 4th Quarter 2013.

“The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in prices of a ‘basket’ of goods and services which are representative of purchases by private households in the FSM,” the letter says. “Therefore, this publication presents a vital indicator on the quarterly performance of FSM’s economy, especially the inflation rate on these selected goods and services.”

The cover letter to the report presented highlights:

- Nationally, the annual inflation rate for the fourth quarter 2013 was 0.9 percent, a 1.6 percentage points

decline compared to the annual inflation for the same period last year. The smaller overall increase in the current period was due to the decreases in prices of rice, kerosene, and medicines.

- The annual inflation rate for the fourth quarter 2013 was 1.4 percent in Yap, 0.8 percent in Pohnpei, 0.8 percent in Chuuk, and 0.4 percent in Kosrae.
- The annual inflation rate for domestic items for the fourth quarter 2013 is 1.1 compared to imported items at 0.8 percent, indicating an overall increase in the prices of both domestic items and imported items.
- By State the annual inflation rate for domestic items was 3.2 percent for Kosrae, 1.2 percent for Yap, 1.0 percent for Chuuk, and 0.9 percent for Pohnpei. In addition, the annual inflation rate for imported items was 1.5 percent for Yap, 0.8 percent for Pohnpei, 0.7 percent for Chuuk, and -0.2 percent for Kosrae.

NORMA expects record fishing revenue for FSM EEZ

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlle Press

November 20, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—A letter dated November 15 from the National Oceanic Management Authority to Congress says that it has already negotiated with Japan and Taiwan for increased fishing day prices in the FSM EEZ. It says that it still has China and Korea with whom to negotiate.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement, of which FSM is a signatory, last year agreed to increase fishing day prices to \$8000 a day beginning in January of 2015, but both Japan and Taiwan have agreed to pay a higher figure in the FSM.

It said that the negotiations with Japan concluded on October 29 with Japan agreeing to buy 2300 fishing days at a prices of \$8,521 per day for a total value of \$19.6 million, up from the \$13.2 million Japan paid for 2014 fishing days.

The letter said that it took the Board a full day to negotiate an agreement with Taiwan which ultimately agreed to buy 1,540 fishing days, the same number of days as they bought in 2014. This year they will pay an average of over \$9,500 per day for a total access fee of \$14.7 million, up from the current amount of \$9.24 million.

Under the Pacific Islands Parties agreement with the United States negotiated in July, the U.S. will pay a package price of \$90 million to fish 8300 days. After complicated regional negotiations, the FSM share will be \$11.4 million, more than double what it received in 2014.

Adding in another unnamed “small negotiation” of \$600,000, NORMA already has commitments for \$46.3 million which almost matches all of this year’s fishing access revenue even before they go to the table for negotiations with China and Korea. The letter says those negotiations are scheduled for December at which time NORMA will know the final figures for 2015 which it says should be significantly more than in 2014.

Migrant Resource Center Organizes pre-departure orientation and Human Trafficking Awareness trainings for COM-FSM and Pohnpei Port Authority

International Organization for Migration

Pohnpei – Now in its second year of operation, the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Pohnpei has received requests from NGOs, civil society, and communities, to provide its pre-departure orientation and human trafficking awareness trainings. The orientation sessions help any potential migrant be better prepared for their move, and the courses offered also include sessions to help understand the associated risks of human trafficking.

In October, 28 students from the College of Micronesia-FSM and three members of

civil society completed a two-day training that covered both of these topics, while the MRC was invited to conduct an anti-human trafficking awareness raising session for 25 Pohnpei Port Authority Officers in November.

The MRC also receives walk-ins at the Center. In November, the Center was privileged to provide an anti-human trafficking training to two college students, one of whom was working on a school paper on human trafficking. Both students have plans to travel abroad for the first time in order to further their education.

The participants who completed the trainings rated them highly, emphasizing their utility and suggesting to expand similar services to the communities and other FSM states. Approximately half of the students who completed the training plan to pursue their education in the United States after their graduation from COM-FSM. One of the students cited, “Now I

know my constitutional rights and how to budget accordingly”. Chief Petriko Sahn of Pohnpei Port Authority, explained how the Counter Trafficking training would improve the Pohnpei Port Authority’s border management. “After all, we are the point of entry and we want to show the world that Pohnpei will not tolerate the acts of trafficking”.

MRC-Chuuk opened earlier this year as an extension of the Pohnpei office and has already trained over 66 members of the civil society, NGOs, students, women organizations, and government officials on

anti-human trafficking and 78 members were offered pre-departure orientation training. Similar trainings are being offered in the States of Kosrae and Yap.

Funding for MRC Pohnpei and Chuuk is provided by the FSM National Government.

For further information on Human Trafficking or to find out how you can join the next Pre-departure Orientation Training please contact IOM/Micronesia at mrcmicronesia@iom.int or telephone: (691) 320 8898.



FSM commemorates the 28th Anniversary of its Independence

On Monday, November 3, 2014 FSM commemorated the 28th anniversary of its independence in the Spanish Wall Park, State of Pohnpei. It began with law enforcement officers of the National, Madolenihmw, U, Nett and Kolonia Town Police Forces conducting a parade. Leading the Parade were five National Police Officers bearing the State's Colors side by side with the National Color flying in the middle. Followed by the National and State's flags were the Pohnpei State Municipal Government flags carried by the respective officers of those municipalities in attendance. The parade halted traffic and attracted spectators along the way in the main street of Kolonia. The Nation's anthem was eloquently performed by the Nanmand Church Youth while the men and women in uniform saluted the National Colors being hoisted by members of the National Police.

Senior Pastor Bethwel Henry, one of the few remaining forefathers of the Nation, delivered an opening prayer which allowed participants not only to be thankful of the Nation's Sovereignty but to join him in reminiscing the historic signing in Washington D.C. which gave birth to the independence of these Island Nation. Speaker Dohsis Halbert delivered warm greetings of Independence to everyone in the Nation and further acknowledge the uniqueness of the freedom exercised by citizens of this federation by saying; "Throughout history until independence, Micronesians people never lost their individualism and maintained a robust history of traditional rule. Through disarm nation of the Spaniards, to the Germans, to the Japanese and finally the Americans, people of our Islands kept their individual culture independent from foreign visitors". In delivering the Presidential address, Vice-President Alik Alik also extended warm greetings of Independence and reiterated the words of the Nation's founding fathers as conveyed through the preamble of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia in his efforts of motivating citizens to partake in efforts of developing the Nation in saying; "We are proud Micronesians, we are people of the seas where Micronesia began in the days when men explore seas in rafts and canoes, when the Micronesia Nation is born in an age when men voyaged among stars. My fellow citizens our greatest resource is our people. God has placed us giving more richly with talent, innovation and sincerity. Let us use these God given gifts to transform this great Nation of ours". These inspiring words by the higher echelons of the Nation allowed Vicar Julio Angken to close out the function with blessings and hope that leaders of the National and States be granted with the enthusiasm and love to continue to work together in promoting happiness, peace, justice and prosperity to all citizens of the federation. The commemoration was a brief one that lasted for an hour and half, while a dinner reception was held in that evening.



USAID strengthens women's disaster preparedness in Pohnpei

International Organization for Migration

Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM – An intensive humanitarian assistance-focused workshop was held on November 7th at the Mercedes' Hall in Kolonia. Twenty-five women participated in the Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance (EHA) Training, which was conducted in Pohnpeian by representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and a representative from the Red Cross Society. Support for the workshop was provided by from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the IOM-managed Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response ("PREPARE") Program.

The day's emphasis was the enhancement of both personal and community-level disaster preparedness, and presented an opportunity to discuss the specific strengths, vulnerabilities, and coping strategies of women and their disaster-related roles in the community. Global experience has proven that localized and gender-specific preparedness and contingency planning improves lifesaving efforts following a disaster, and facilitates the provision of relief assistance to those most vulnerable.

The training introduced key humanitarian principles, outlined essential aspects of rapid needs assessments, surveyed logistics and humanitarian relief distributions, and detailed the roles of local, state, national, and international disaster responders. Throughout the day, participants discussed their roles in disaster response, considered methods to bolster local response capacity in the absence of outside aid, and discussed cultural elements of community resilience.

IOM intends to further its partnerships with local grassroots organizations like Mercedes. By partnering directly

with local agencies, the international community will be more prepared to facilitate broad relief and recovery efforts following a disaster that exceeds local and national response capacity.

For further information and to express your interest in similar training, please email micronesiaenquiries@iom.int or call IOM/Micronesia's Main Office at +(691) 320 8735.

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Non-profit to begin river cleanup project in Kolonia

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 13, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—This afternoon members of the Central Union for Young Adults (CUYA) gathered at the UNDP-SGP office in Pohnpei to sign paperwork for a grant from the United Nations Office for Project Services (“UNOPS”). The total grant package is \$47,100 and will be used by CUYA to coordinate the cleanup of the Seidonokawa Stream in Kolonia Town.

The problem statement in the grant application submitted by CUYA says, “Seidonokawa Stream is one of two streams that exist in Kolonia Town. This stream runs through four sections of Kolonia Town, beginning in section 6 beyond Palm Terrace store and running all the way down to section 3 near INS store. The length of the stream is 0.87 miles (4593.6 ft) from. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 6 are most affected by

pollutants and are the target of this project.

“In these sections, the condition of the stream deteriorated to a point where the people of these communities cannot come in contact with the water. It is filled with trash and filth, and it has become an eye sore for the public. The stream now also poses a health risk for the people living in the vicinity, as the stream poses the threat of developing water-borne diseases. A recent study conducted by University of Hawaii and Pohnpei EPA showed the major contaminants of the stream include piggery, toilet facilities, and improper waste disposal. These are the major contaminants that were identified and solutions are needed to eradicate these sources in order to upgrade the condition of this stream.”

The grant will come to the organization in stages with built in reporting and accountability measures in place.



Signing Ceremony for the upcoming clean up project for Seidonokawa Stream in Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM. Witnesses are Kolonia Town Mayor Casiano Shoniber, UNDP-SGP Country Rep Patterson Shed, Speaker Fernando Scaliem, CUYA Executive Director Casdy Shoniber, Kolonia Town Councilmen (CUYA Advisor and Grand Writer) Jimmy Eldridge, Ryan Yamada, Quinton Lawrence, Rusty Carlos, and CUYA President Johnny Musrasrik

Exchange of notes for Non-Project Grant aid signed by the FSM and Japan

Embassy of Japan in Pohnpei

On November 4, 2014, the Government of Japan and the FSM Government held a signing ceremony in Tokyo for the Exchange of Notes for a Non-Project Grant Aid for the Provision of Japanese Products manufactured by companies in Japan. The Exchange of Notes were signed by His Excellency Masaki Sakai, Japanese Ambassador to FSM and the Honorable Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs, FSM.

The project in the amount of one hundred million Japanese yen will be utilized to purchase the products to support and facilitate the FSM’s efforts to improve socioeconomic development while it also aims to enhance recognition of Japanese products so as to promote business opportunities from Japanese investors. It offers a wide range of items to be granted to various agencies across the FSM based on diversifying needs, including medical equipment to Pohnpei State Hospital, nursing care training instrument to COM National Campus, data display, recording devices to DT & I in Kosrae, compost production equipment to EPA in Chuuk, etc. This ceremony marks the fourth Non-Project Grant Aid the FSM government has received from Japan.

Ambassador Sakai commended “I appreciate JICA volunteers for having been working closely with the FSM for this very important project. They helped various concerned government agencies such as Pohnpei State hospital to identify urgent medical needs. I wish for further collaboration between JICA volunteers and FSM staff in charge so that we can make the best use of the equipment which will be arriving in the near future.”



...PUC

Continued from front page

what he called the “vitaly important task” of maintenance on generators. He said that high speed generators should be able to last at least 25 years as long as they are properly and thoroughly maintained.

The generators provided by Caroline Fishing Corporation are both working and are currently contributing to the grid, along with two of the old generators that have been the mainstay of PUC’s power generation for several years. He said that the three generators provided by Vital (Micronesia Petroleum Corporation) should be ready to go back on line by the end of Tuesday, November 18 but that they won’t be needed right away.

When asked when PUC would be ready to completely end the power shedding that has left many PUC customers without power for large chunks of every day, Anson calculated for a moment. “The new generators should be commissioned by the first week of December,” he said. “After that we should be able to stop the power shedding.”

He said that PUC purchased the generators from Hawthorne Cat, the Caterpillar resource in the region, at a cost of \$2.3 million. The purchase price covered all of the ancillary equipment such as power transformers that PUC would need along with the cost of delivery and installation. The generators are running and are providing power to the grid but Hawthorne’s crew is doing all of the work that is necessary to be certain that they will be ready to hand over to PUC. That work should be completed within a couple of weeks. Until they are fully commissioned and handed over, PUC

cannot officially rescind the possibility of power shedding.

Reed Oliver said, “The next great goal is affordability for PUC’s customers through less dependence on imported diesel.”

That’s just around the corner too. With the introduction of renewable energy, PUC’s dependency on imported diesel will decrease. Oliver says when that happens it will mean lower power production costs that PUC will be able to pass along to its customers.

Anson says that the Nanpil hydro electric plant is already providing a maximum of 725 kilowatts of power to the grid but only when the river that drives it is running strong. It produces nothing at all when water flow is low.

Soon the solar arrays that have been

installed at the College of Micronesia FSM National Campus, and those installed on the roofs of the Nett Elementary School buildings will go on line. Anson says that when they do, they will be able to provide a peak of six megawatts of power to the grid when conditions are optimal. It’s enough to provide all of Pohnpei’s power needs on a bright sunny day.

The prospects for Pohnpei’s days and nights in future are looking bright but Anson warns, “The people need to know that there will probably never be a time when there will be no power outages,” Anson said. “There will always be problems like trees in the lines that might cause temporary power outages.”

But after the generators are commissioned, the island wide power outages and power shedding plans should be a thing of the past.

Migration profile of the FSM: A tool for strategic policy development

International Organization for Migration

On November 6th, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a workshop to introduce the "Migration Profile of the Federated States of Micronesia: A Tool for Strategic Policy Development" project, funded by IOM's Development Fund (IDF).

The workshop was held at the Pohnpei Governor's Office and was attended by the representatives from FSM National Government, the US Embassy, the College of Micronesia-FSM, World Health Organization, Secretariat of the Pacific Commission, Pohnpei Consumer Association, and was primarily chaired by consultant Michael Levine.

Dr. Levine has a long history in the region. Michael earned a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan by studying population pressure on scarce resources on Eauripik atoll in Yap State. He also received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University. He worked at the East-West Center during the 1970s, and then for the US Census Bureau for 29 years, before finishing his active career at Harvard University. He has worked on 1973, 1980, 1994 and 2000 FSM Censuses. He also assisted in developing, implementing, and analyzing the Micronesian migrant surveys of Guam in 1992, CNMI in 1993, Guam and Hawaii in 1997, CNMI in 1998, Hawaii, Guam, and Hawaii in 2003, and with

Father Fran Hezel, the 2012 FSM migrant surveys of Guam, CNMI, Hawaii and the US Mainland. He is currently associated with the East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program.

The event introduced the concept and objectives of Migration Profile initiative that will encompass a range of statistics and data related to national migration policy such as labor, student, and irregular migration, brain drain, and remittances.

Under the Compact of Free Association, citizens of the FSM are visa exempt and can freely migrate to the US and its territories. A migration survey conducted in 2012 indicated that 49,840 Micronesian nationals currently reside in the United States and its territories; almost a third of the total Micronesian population. While not fully analyzed, the linkages between the high emigration rates and the negative population growth over the past decade are evident. Apart from the declining population, high emigration has been attributable to adverse impacts on the countries of origin and destination, including poor integration of Micronesian nationals into U.S. culture and lifestyle, heightened risk of human trafficking, poorly managed systems of deportation, and concerns over health screening for communicable diseases.

In addition to offering an overview of the key factors underlying current and past migration patterns in the Federated



States of Micronesia, the Migration Profile will also provide a general assessment of the institutional and policy framework governing migration in the FSM. Smoother integration and safe migration practices have been promoted through IOM's establishment of a Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in March 2012, and the FSM Government is now supporting its continued operations. The completed Migration Profile will enable the Government to have an evidence base to better facilitate a strategic migration management policy and harness the benefits of migration.

Finally, the Migration Profile will indicate existing data gaps and possible strategies to improve migration statistics and subsequent

migration management practices.

In this endeavor, IOM will work closely with a variety of stakeholders, including the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Justice, Division of Immigration and Labor Office, Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development and Compact Management, and Department of Health, World Health Organization, US Embassy, College of Micronesia-FSM, and other NGOs just to name a few.

For further information regarding the Migration Profile, please contact IOM/Micronesia at email micronesiaenquiries@iom.int or by calling (691) 320 8735.

FSM National Human Rights Awards - 2014



Tell us your story!

The Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in collaboration with the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs is seeking human rights stories for an FSM Human Rights Awards event to coincide with the International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2014. The theme is: Human rights in everyday FSM life.

The award will be given to best stories of outstanding advancement of everyday human rights in FSM by individuals or groups and winning stories will be submitted for the 2015 Pacific Human Rights Awards. Human rights include economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to good health, education and housing.

The story submitted must capture and demonstrate the strong commitment of an individual or groups in the realisation of any human right within the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the past 3 years, and can be submitted in any medium (print, audio, visual) or as an artwork.

The stories will be reviewed by a panel who will be looking at the quality of the story in terms of it showing outstanding human rights advancement, the quality of the narration/presentation and the creativity shown in the presentation.

The closing date for the receipt of stories is 30th November 2014. Winners and awards will be announced on 10 December 2014, International Human Rights Day. For further information about the human rights awards and the submission form, visit www.rrrt.org/events/human-rights-awards or contact George Isom, SPC RRRT Country Focal Officer for FSM on phone (691)3203160, or (691) 3204585 or email georgezi@spc.int or contact Eleanor S. Mori at FSM Health and Social Affairs at esmori@fsmhealth.fm or call 320-2619/2643.

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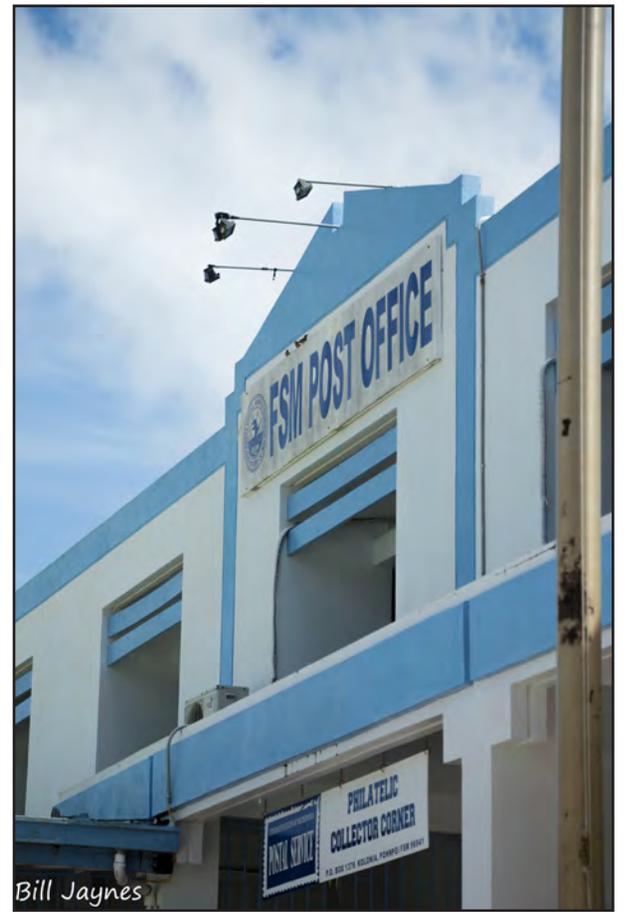
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FSM Postmaster making improvements and coping with challenges



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 17, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—Monday, November 10 marked the opening of the newly paved parking lot and interior renovations at the Pohnpei Post Office. A short ceremony was held to mark the occasion.

It's just one on a string of improvements FSM Post Master Ginger Porter Mida has made to the FSM Postal Service since she took the job.

On October 10, the doors opened on a brand new post office building in Kosrae. Previously, a new post office facility also opened in Weno, Chuuk with an additional 1000 post office boxes that were not being used at the Yap Post Office. A renovation of the Yap Post Office is also being planned.

Mida says that the new postal substation at Pohnpei International Airport will soon be offering same day shipping. Once the service is ready the substation will begin to "... accept packages for Kosrae, Ebeye, Majuro and Honolulu only on TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS....for Chuuk, Guam, Yap, Palau and Asia Pacific....MONDAYS AND SATURDAYS only," she wrote in an email.

Plans are underway for the Philatelic Branch to expand its services including the possibility of selling some locally made handcrafts.

Postal employees have sharp new uniforms that were locally designed. Steel toed boots are on their way for employee safety.

Mida says that development of Postal Service personnel is vitally important and United States representatives have provided training for FSM Postal Service (FSMPS) personnel.

She has insisted that all incoming mail be stamped with the date the package or envelope came into the Post Office. Electronic package tracking is up and running and even now, new electronic systems are being put into place. FSMPS will also have a new website which is slated to open next month.

FSMPS has certainly made remarkable progress in the last few years. Mida says that revenue

is up in part due to the changes in technology but also because more customers are shipping more outbound packages.

Recently though, the United States Postal Service (USPS) implemented some changes that they didn't communicate to the FSM. One of them was the elimination of United States Postal Service Priority boxes for the shipment of freight from the FSM. Shippers from the United States will still be able to stuff as much freight as they can into the various sized Priority boxes and ship them for the same flat rate depending on the size of the box regardless of weight. FSM postal customers shipping outbound parcels will now have to pay by weight.

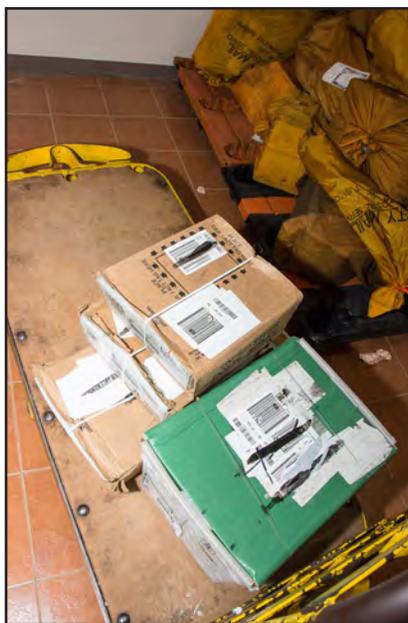
Mida explained that under all previous agreements with the U.S., FSMPS was to have long ago begun standing on its own two feet for outward bound parcels. The recent U.S. decision to cut off the service was actually long overdue. Be that as it may, the cut took FSMPS by surprise.

Mida says that FSMPS is in the process of designing their own boxes and is seeking a contractor to construct them. She's thinking that the plan will be to sell the boxes for a small charge for each box in order to cover the cost of making them and then will charge a flat rate for mailing them. She hopes to implement that plan by February. For now, FSMPS has to charge by weight for outgoing freight but she hopes to implement a flat rate even before that plan can be implemented.

Another issue of customer frustration is the inconsistent time for arrival of mail in the FSM. Mida is also frustrated about it. On the day of our interview she was waiting for her own personal and long overdue packages to arrive. She had no more recourse than do any other FSMPS customers.

She said that for years the Honolulu Post Office

sorted packages bound for Pacific Islands and sent them on their own separate ways, but that has changed. She claims that Honolulu Post Office now lumps all of the postage with zip codes beginning with 969 and sends it to Guam which has now been saddled with the responsibility of sorting the "969" mail it receives and then forwarding it on to the destination countries. The "969" countries and territories include Palau, Guam, CNMI, RMI, and all of the FSM states.



Five boxes carried by United. Asia Pacific Airlines carried 3000 pounds on the day before.

According to Mida the new process came as a surprise to the Guam office which recently had a shift in personnel, including Guam's Post Master.

She said that during a meeting in June, FSMPC was told that all FSM cargo would land in Chuuk. She made arrangements for a container provided by Matson to store packages at the Chuuk International airport. It hasn't happened once and the container in Chuuk sits empty.

According to Mida, United Airlines has the contract to carry postal packages and they have sub-contracted Asia Pacific Airlines to pick up the slack when they can't carry the freight. United Airlines' priority is passenger service. Asia Pacific Airlines' (APA) priority is fish. Freight is a second source of income for both airlines. Whereas previously the freight carriers were assessed fines when they didn't carry the postal freight in a previously determined timely manner, no such penalties exist today. The contract is not with FSMPS.

A package from the U.S. may arrive where it is electronically marked as having arrived and having been sent out. From that point the

tracking seems to stop until the package arrives in the FSM but before that point FSM packages arrive in Guam and are sent out. If United can't carry them because of their passenger's requirements, they go on APA to Majuro which drops them there and then carries on to Honolulu. If on the return flight, APA doesn't have enough room to carry the freight, it sits there until it does have enough room.

Sometimes packages appear to fly straight through from the U.S. to the FSM. It's really a matter of the luck of the draw and FSMPS has no control over when packages might arrive.

On the day that we toured the Pohnpei Post Office, half of the 3000 pounds of postal freight that APA had brought on the previous day was left to be sorted. United Airlines had brought five small containers of first class mail on its afternoon flight.

Mida said that beginning in October, United had told FSMPS that it was limited to 400 pounds of outgoing freight on its flights. "That's nothing," Mida exclaimed, "and Christmas is coming."

She had much more to say about registered mail and certified mail, including safeguards for those items within the Post Office. She said that the FSM Post Offices make attempts for at least 30 days after receipt of items before they are returned to sender as unclaimed.

She said that FSMPS is really at the mercy of USPS. The U.S. pays for everything including landing fees. It's currently a good thing, but she is concerned about what will happen when the financial provisions of the Compact of Free Association as revised ends in 2023. "We need to stand on our own," she said.

[Editor's note: The FSM Postmaster General wanted to let the people of the FSM know that she is available to answer questions at email address. fsm.pmg@mail.fm. FSM and State postmaster phone numbers are available in the phone book or online at www.fm.]

Bill Jaynes

Panuelo takes Budweiser Catch 5 fishing tournament

Pohnpei Fishing Club

According to the Pohnpei Fishing Club, the 11th Annual Budweiser tournament was a big success. 20 boats registered for the "Catch 5 tournament" which was sponsored by Budweiser, Ambros, Inc./Shimbros, Inc. and was held on November 15. Every boat that entered received a case of Budweiser and T-Shirts for the crew.

The goal was to catch at least one each of Billfish, Yellowfin, Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, and Skip Jack. No one caught all five species. If there was a tie in the number of species, then weight of the individual fish determined the winner. The "Happy Hooker" captained by Kumer Panuelo managed to catch all but a skip jack.

The prizes are listed below.

| Boat | Captain | Species | Weight | Prize |
|-------------------|------------------|---------|-------------|----------|
| Happy Hooker | Kumer Panuelo | 4 | | \$400.00 |
| Pohnpei Surf Club | Allois Malfitani | 3 | 119 pounds | \$300.00 |
| Boat | Alex Tretnoff | 3 | 72.5 pounds | \$150.00 |

Prizes were also given to individual anglers for the biggest fish in each species. Each of the biggest fish winners took home a \$100 prize.

| | | |
|------------|------------------|--------|
| Marlin | Saimon Mix | 134.00 |
| Yellow fin | Allois Malfitani | 82.5 |
| Mahi Mahi | Matt Piasente | 25.5 |
| Skip Jack | Arleen David | 14.0 |
| Wahoo | Arleen David | 26.5 |

Club Secretary, Steve Finnen says, "Congratulations to all the winners. Many thanks to Mangrove Bay to hosting the weigh in. Also a big thanks to Paul, Bill, Kumer's guys, Tina, Shareen, Uta and Maggie for helping at the weigh-in. Proceeds from the barbecue went to the Pohnpei Public Library. Please note two new computers were bought from barbecue proceeds. Your support is appreciated."

True Value 19 Annual Fishing Tournament

The True Value Fishing Tournament took place on Saturday October 25th in Pohnpei. The winners were:

| Men Biggest Catch | Angler | Species | Fish Points |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|
| Lp Gas Captain Hook, Ryan Hawley | Brandon Hawley | Yf | 67.5 |
| Heaviest Boat | | | |
| Miss Yirwor, Alex Tretnoff | Boat Weight | | 237 |
| Women's Biggest Catch | | | |
| Miss Yirwor, Alex Tretnoff | Mary Tretnoff | Yf | 62 |



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Three Vietnamese Boats Detained For Illegal Fishing In Palau

Vessels captured in Kayangel State following citizen tip

Island Times

Nov. 7, 2014

KOROR, Palau— Three Vietnamese boats with some 38 crew were apprehended by Palau authorities on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. Bureau of Public Safety (BPS) Division of Marine Law Enforcement Chief Thomas Tutii said they received a call around 9:15 Tuesday from a concerned citizen regarding the presence of three foreign fishing vessels at Velasco Reef in Kayangel State. He said that they

immediately dispatched to the area three boarding parties aboard the Kabekel M'tal patrol vessel and the new inflatable patrol vessel donated by Nippon Foundation. Tutii said the DMLE was assisted by personnel from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Drug Enforcement, and Kayangel Rangers. The DMLE Chief said that later that day they received another report informing them that there were five boats in the area. "We then dispatched the PSS Remeliik to assist in the operation," Tutii disclosed.

Tutii said the three Vietnamese fishing vessels were apprehended by the patrol boats around 3:00 in the afternoon of Oct. 5. "Because of the later report that five boats were in the area, we made an aerial survey aboard the Palau Mission Aviation plane to make sure no other

boats escaped. Except for the three earlier captured, we did not see any other foreign fishing vessel there," he said. Tutii said that the Vietnamese boats were carrying sea cucumbers, 2 Hawksbill turtle, and live lobsters when caught.

FSM leaders unveil post-Compact action plan

04 November 2014

HAGÁTÑA, Guam (from FSM Education Department page) — Taking a proactive approach, leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia unveiled an action plan — that they hope will alleviate the effects of an expected US\$50 million shortfall 10 years from now — to FSM citizens on Sunday night at the Astumbo gym.

FSM President Manny Mori along with Yap Governor. Sebastian Anefal, Pohnpei Governor. John Ehsa and Governor Lyndon Jackson of Kosrae attended the meeting along with the Secretariat of the 2023 Action Plan Committee, Evelyn Adolph.

The meeting was called by the FSM leaders to present the action plan to FSM citizens on Guam and allowed for FSM citizens to share their concerns.

The leaders proposed growing tourism and agriculture in the islands to help offset the \$50 million they will no longer have access to in 2024. Authorities hope to capitalize on tourism, focus on branding the islands and marketing them to a different class of tourists.

As for agriculture, officials said one plan is to pay cash for produce grown by residents in the villages of the outer islands.

At Sunday's meeting, authorities stressed that another good part of the plan is to develop the private sector because governments worldwide are known to be inefficient.

Mori said there are other plans in place and other plans that will be brought up, but this plan is an action plan that the governments intend to follow.

"As we approach 2023, going into 2024, we must have a plan to prevent the huge problems that we are anticipating in 2024," Mori said. "2024 is the year after which all the assistance from the United State will be terminated. Let me make that very clear because there have been rumors that in 2023, the Compact of Free Association is going to terminate."

Mori said it is not the agreement itself that will terminate, but instead, the financial aspect of the COFA will cease. The U.S. government will no longer supply the FSM with funding for much more than health care and education. The Secretariat of the 2023 Action Planning Committee said health care and education funding coming from the U.S. government will be cut in half after 2023.

In 2023, the FSM government anticipates US\$83.4 million in federal grants to help the island governments. However, the next year they will only receive funding from the trust fund interest, which is considerably less. Between 2023 and 2024 funding from the U.S. government unrelated to health care or education will go from \$83.4 million to \$38.2 million, a decrease of about US\$50 million.

"We have no choice but to grow our economy," Adolph said, adding that the FSM economy has performed dismally over the last 10 years. "It's going to be challenging."

Mori said if the FSM does not start doing something now, there is a "very scary future" ahead.

Part of the plan includes the FSM Congress investing in the private sector, in the businesses of the island nations to grow the private sector, Mori said. He said Congress will be putting \$15 million a year into the private sector until 2023. "If we concentrate on developing the private sector businesses, I think we have a good chance of surviving a disaster in 2024," Mori said.

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|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Student Services Specialist IV | National | \$11,444.00-\$12,896.00 | November 28, 2014 |
| System Specialist I | National | \$8,846.00-\$9,968.00 | December 9, 2014 |
| Clerk Typist II | Yap | \$5,562.00 | December 9, 2014 |
| Accountant IV | National | \$12,804.00-\$14,428.00 | December 9, 2014 |
| Comptroller | National | \$24,184.00 | December 9, 2014 |
| Administrative Specialist III | Kosrae/AHEC | \$8,537-\$9,620.00 | December 11, 2014 |
| Security Officer | Kosrae | \$5,196.00 | December 13, 2014 |



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Rachel I Tara | P.O. Box 540 | Malem, Kosrae |
| Stanley K Taulung | P.O. Box 463 | Tofol, Kosrae |
| Luther Timothy | P.O. Box 197 | Tofol, Kosrae |
| Matthew C Rott | P.O. Box 901 | Tofol, Kosrae |
| Qumina T Livaie | P.O. Box 257 | Tofol, Kosrae |
| Mwichen Asor | P.O. Box 461 | Weno Chuuk |
| Kuttu Municipality | P.O. Box 1212 | Weno Chuuk |
| Northwest Financial Services Corporation | P.O. Box 6 | Weno Chuuk |
| Dynamic Engineering Consultants Co., Ltd | P.O. Box 189 | Weno Chuuk |
| Wpf Marriage Encounter | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Imwenipin Eot | P.O. Box 250 | Weno Chuuk |
| Aketa Jose | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Andon Inek | P.O. Box 393 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Penia SMC Finalisi | P.O. Box 98 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Chuuk Priest-Sister Scholarship Fund | P.O. Box 250 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Don Otto | P.O. Box 282 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Menas Makimi | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Maketo Robert | P.O. Box 1100 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Oscar Amram | P.O. Box 174 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Michicho Ukuk | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Kuku Sammy | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Founukumwar Apartments | P.O. Box 92 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Chuuk State Government | P.O. Box 849 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Francis Diamond | P.O. Box 675 | Weno, Chuuk |
| CB Radio Truk State Kaeo | P.O. Box 351 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Fatima Beseway | P.O. Box 97 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Mona Maianne L Kom | P.O. Box 87 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Reikina Kusto | P.O. Box 352 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Lazaro Rosokow | P.O. Box 613 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Mercedes F Robert | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Jonas Madeus | P.O. Box 577 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Enjoy Nakamura | P.O. Box 874 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Mitiwina Aapas | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Teruo Erlet | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Serlin Nutwik | P.O. Box 1051 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Sandus Suda | P.O. Box 510 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Sincerely Salep | P.O. Box 1209 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Eot Municipality | P.O. Box 1604 | Weno, Chuuk |
| Mizpah Special Project | General Delivery | Weno, Chuuk |
| Suzanne A Acord | General Delivery | Colonia, Yap |
| Gilman Inclusive Youth Club | P.O. Box 372 | Colonia, Yap |
| Bernie Lifar | General Delivery | Colonia, Yap |
| Leonard Pagal | P.O. Box 818 | Colonia, Yap |
| Rose Fiin Datmag | P.O. Box 115 | Colonia, Yap |
| Klaus A Foebles | General Delivery | Colonia, Yap |
| William Jerry Barnet Shearer | P.O. Box 700 | Colonia, Yap |
| Rika J Shinji | General Delivery | Colonia, Yap |
| FAO/ITA/FSM/01 | P.O. Box PS-12 | Palikir, Pohnpei |
| Palau Rock Island | P.O. Box Drawer | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Enipein Powe Youth | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Attorney at Law Trust | P.O. Box 1480 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Maridelll A LaMar | P.O. Box 55 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Pohnpei PATS Alumni | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Mikel Kosmas | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Magdaleno Marcos Roseavila | P.O. Box 09 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| FSM Women Network Association | P.O. Box PS-78 | Palikir, Pohnpei |
| Parem Solar Utility | P.O. Box 1352 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Karl Troost | P.O. Box 1935 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Lucas Yamada | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Vincent D Sanchez | P.O. Box 2007 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Meitik Paremkep Youth | P.O. Box 1569 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Bernard F Weilbacher | P.O. Box 815 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Sapwalap School | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Marihno Seiola | P.O. Box PS-170 | Palikir, Pohnpei |
| WP En MMCM | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Ekarihne D Handy | P.O. Box 2525 | Joplin, MO |
| Serlihna Aia | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Roosevelt D Kansou | P.O. Box 581 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| William Ayres | P.O. Box 3980 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Esteban J Aldis | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Murphy Panuelo | P.O. Box 1921 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Loner Roby | P.O. Box 793 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| JICA Alumni Association, FSM | P.O. Box G | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Elson Daidad | P.O. Box 159 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Merko Route | P.O. Box 605 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Emilio Musrasrik | General Delivery | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Kapingamarangi Municipal Government | P.O. Box 887 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |
| Francisca Moses | P.O. Box 2429 | Kolonia, Pohnpei |

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform these customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2015. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2014.

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemye nusin Customers nukewa ,ma e akkalemyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfeh itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2015. In oralla account se lom an tia putatyan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu in tuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2014.

Chuukese:

Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2015, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2014 Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:

Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2015, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2014.

Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2015. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2014 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.



Nine Chuukese graduate from 120-Day CME program

Nine Chuukese men ranging in age from 20 to 46 have recently graduated from Guam's Center for Micronesians Empowerment (CME) 120-day residential training and placement program and now have construction jobs on Guam. Receiving their Certificates of Completion at a graduation ceremony and celebration at the Palmridge Inn in Barrigada on Saturday night, October 25, were: Rombert Paul, 46, from Weno; Ainsworth Kuor, 21, from Houk; Tom Malon, 24, from Umon; Sinchu Ludwig, 34, from Udot; Richy Emanuel, 25, from Weno; Renter Narian, 20, from Tol; Benjamin Dinney, 26, from Kittu; Parson Sally, 28, from Weno; and Stephen Rappa (44) from Tonas. All were unemployed and residing on Chuuk when recruited for the program.



CME Executive Director Jay Merrill, who MC'ed the ceremony, touted the graduates as one of the most successful groups in recent CME history and expressed his appreciation for the support of the construction community, especially DCK Pacific who employed five of the nine graduates at \$8.20 per hour for their Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC) project. The other four graduates were hired by Black Construction at \$8.50 per hour for a wharf project in Cabras Harbor. DCK provided a large congratulatory cake

for the affair and sent representatives including Karen Storts who read a letter from GRMC Project Superintendent Grant Loverage praising the CME employees' for their exceptional attendance record, and their willingness to help and learn. The graduation was attended by about 100 people including CME board members, instructors and staff as well as community leaders, members of Guam's construction industry and family members of the graduates who congratulated the graduates with leis at the end of the ceremony. All were treated to a wide array of island food including BBQ fare cooked up by the students.

Participation in the 120-day CME program, funded by the Chuuk Department of Education, included three weeks of training at the Guam Contractors' Association

Trades Academy where a core curriculum of basic construction skills included introductory courses in safety, hand tools, power tools, construction math, blueprints, rigging, communication, employability and materials handling. The four-month CME program also provided housing at the Palmridge Inn, meals, transportation, health insurance and a \$50/week stipend for incidental expenses as well as extensive acculturation training at the Palmridge facility. All who entered the program graduated from the Trades Academy and were employed at good paying jobs.

Bob Dames, the Campus Director for CME said, "The students from Chuuk are ambassadors for the Chuuk people demonstrating that their help to build Guam is not only appreciated but impressing employers. I hope that the Chuuk

government continues to participate in the CME program." The Executive Director of CME, Jay Merrill, concluded by saying, "There is no doubt that the people of Chuuk can contribute to building our region. We hope that the Governor and the Department of Interior will allow us to continue to prove the value that the Chuuk people can contribute to Guam's future."

The Center for Micronesians Empowerment was established in 2007 to train Micronesians to address Guam's shortage of construction workers as an alternative to bringing in H2 workers from the Philippines for the military buildup. The Guam-based non-profit organization has long range plans to do the same for the hospitality and health care industries on Guam.



Alvin Y. Mori of Matson presents a donation of \$500.00 to Mr. Clark Graham of the Akoyikoyi School of Chuuk, continuing its tradition of supporting the needs of the Micronesians community that it has serves for nearly 15 years.

According to school principal, Chris Pieterick, "Akoyikoyi School is a pilot, charter-type, community based elementary school serving at-risk children in the state of Chuuk, FSM.

Currently enrolling grades K-3, Akoyikoyi School is working to expand each year by accepting a new Kindergarten class until we are a fully functioning K-8 Elementary School.

One of the key components of the education provided to the students is the use of Direct Instruction materials for language, reading and spelling which fosters a high level of student participation that begins as early as the first days of Kindergarten. This cooperative approach to student education has produced promising results in the school's early going, and provides a method to continue stimulating student involvement and interest in showing up to school each and every day. Our efforts to reach our lofty goals wouldn't be possible without the high level of support we have received from the local community in which we operate. So far enrollment has been limited to the more impoverished villages of Chuuk, and this grassroots approach has led to parent involvement in showing up to PTA meetings and assisting with other school programs which in turn helps develop a sense of pride and ownership within in the community that helps us achieve in ways we could never hope to do alone."

For more information, call
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Chuuk State Department of Health Services: poor procurement practices and inventory management led to excessive costs (FY 2012-2013)

Office of the FSM National Public Auditor

A digital copy of the report is available for public review online at www.fsmopa.fm and printed copies are available at the ONPA offices in Palikir, Pohnpei and Weno, Chuuk. The audit was conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The objective of the audit was to determine whether the procurement process allows the receipt of quality pharmaceutical and medical supplies in a timely manner and at the lowest cost. It covered the fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Article X Sections 6 and 7 of the Chuuk State Constitution provide for the establishment of Chuuk State Department of Health Services (DHS). The Constitution mandated that the State Government shall provide for the protection and promotion of health, and shall ensure, within the limits of its resources, that no person is discriminated in the distribution of medical care, or refused medical care because of inability to pay. The DHS mission is to promote and maintain a holistic system of health care that will improve the health and longevity of the people. In order to achieve its mission, DHS established two strategic goals: 1) improve the primary and secondary health services and 2) develop a sustainable health care financing mechanism. The Department has five divisions: Public Health, Dental, Dispensary, Nursing and Administration under the Director who oversees the operation of the Department. A Chief of Division heads the division.

Based on the audit, we conclude that the DHS procurement process did not allow the receipt of quality pharmaceutical and medical supplies in a timely manner and at the lowest cost.

The DHS has been buying its pharmaceutical and medical supplies at a very high cost. With the same amount of budget and had the procurement process been efficient, the DHS could increase the quantities of procured pharmaceutical and medical supplies more than twofold during the period covered by the audit. By not considering all the factors that could achieve the lowest costs for its purchases, DHS has lost the opportunity to save significant amount of money paid for the awarded bids. In addition, it did not conduct all the procurement transactions in a manner that would provide for full and open competition. For example, the DHS awarded the bid for narcotics to a single source (single bidder) in FYs 2011-2012 that resulted

in a very high cost of medicines due to very unreasonable prices charged by the single

source. In addition, the DHS did not have a purchase plan in place to ensure that inventories of pharmaceutical and medical supplies were available at all times. Thus, it purchased a significant number of items thru high-priced regular and emergency purchases that further increased the costs of procuring pharmaceutical and medical supplies.

Furthermore, our audit found that the DHS did not strictly require the delivery of bid items to comply with the contract terms and conditions. For instance, it did not impose the penalties required by the terms and conditions of the contract for delayed deliveries. Hence, the vendors became accustomed to violating the delivery terms and conditions.

Lastly, we found that the internal controls on the inventory of pharmaceutical and medical supplies were weak. For example, the system failed to establish the accuracy of the custodians' accountability of the inventories. The custodians were not held accountable for any missing inventory and there was no inventory reconciliation done to verify the existence of recorded inventory and regular reporting of expired medicines.

Our findings are summarized as follow;

- Non-competitive procurement / lone-bidder increased the costs of procuring pharmaceutical and medical supplies by about \$379,000;
- Potential savings of over \$300,000 not realized in fiscal years 2012-13;
- Over \$324,000 worth of paid pharmaceutical and medical supplies not timely delivered;
- Frequent emergency/regular purchases had significantly increased the costs of procuring pharmaceutical and medical supplies by an average of 76%;
- Lack of accountability on pharmaceutical and medical supplies inventory increased the risks of inventory theft, loss, misuse and abuse; and,
- Many pharmaceutical and medical supplies with short-shelf life were bought.

We provided the copies of the report to the Chuuk State Governor as the Contracting Officer, the Director of DHS, members of the Chuuk State Bidding Committee, and the Chief of the Office of Planning & Statistics for their management responses. Only the DHS Director submitted the management response, which we included as an appendix in the final audit report.

The case for Pacific Island regionalism

Senator Brett Mason
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

5 November 2014 9:00AM

A few months ago I stood on a beach in Tarawa, the most populous of islands comprising the Micronesian nation of Kiribati. It's long and thin sliver of land where you can walk from one side of the island to the other in minutes. It has a population density up to twice that of Sydney or New York, but only a fraction of their infrastructure and economic opportunities.

As I watched the villagers cast their nets in the lagoon to eke out a subsistence living, it struck me that one really needs to come to a place like Kiribati to understand the sheer range of challenges facing regional cooperation across the Pacific, but also the absolute necessity for such cooperation if the Pacific Island states are to have a brighter future in the 21st century.

Europe and the Pacific have had different histories, faced different challenges, and – not surprisingly – developed different collective responses in the form of the European Union and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). There is little doubt that successful regionalism is easier to achieve where population density, economic development and not to mention close physical proximity, make for a certain critical mass. If anything, however, sparse population, vast distances and limited resources make closer regional cooperation a necessity rather than a luxury for the Pacific. Europe could arguably survive and prosper without the EU, as it had done in the past, but it is difficult to imagine Pacific Island states thriving in isolation.

And while there may never be a Pacific Union, that does not mean Australia's Pacific neighbours should not be exploring enhanced ways of working together.

Australia was a founding member of key regional organisations like the PIF, but also the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC, formerly the South Pacific Commission), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Foreign Minister Julie Bishop made it clear that we will continue to play an active role in the region; it is after all our home, and the Pacific Island states are among our closest neighbours. But we should not – and, indeed, will not – drive the regional agenda or try to impose any particular vision on the region. We will, however, continue to encourage and assist where we are needed and wanted because we know from our own experience that cooperation and collaboration works, and we know it can deliver more for the people of the Pacific as it has for other parts of the world.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of visiting the Fiji campus of the University of the South Pacific, perhaps the best example of practical regionalism in action. The USP is jointly owned by the governments of 12 Pacific countries and it maintains a presence in all of them. In large part thanks to advanced information and communication technology, the University

can provide quality tertiary education throughout an area three times the size of Europe. It shows what Pacific countries can do together, and something they would not have been able to do with nearly as much success if pursued separately.

The Forum Fisheries Agency is another much-touted example of successful collective action. Tuna, after all, is a migratory species that doesn't respect national boundaries. Management and conservation can only work as collective efforts, lest one of the Pacific's greatest natural resources falls victim to 'the tragedy of the commons'.

There are many other areas where the countries of the Pacific could benefit from the economies of scale and resource pooling that only closer regionalism can create. Procurement, transport, telecommunications, customs, standardisation of commercial laws and institutions have all been mentioned in the past as areas which could benefit from collective attention by island states, though there are many others. This perhaps is one of the problems; the spectre of too many potential opportunities can blur the focus and sap will and initiative.

None of these concerns are new, and there is a widespread perception that regional cooperation in the Pacific has, to some extent, stalled in recent years at the same time as an ever growing range of challenges faces the region. The 2005 Pacific Plan, the original master strategy for driving regionalism, was itself subjected to a comprehensive review in 2013 under the leadership of former PNG Prime Minister Sir Mekere Morauta. At the PIF Leaders' Forum held in Palau in July 2014, leaders agreed on a new Framework for Pacific Regionalism to replace the Pacific Plan, which was criticised for having become more a development document than a strategic plan for regional cooperation. The new Framework commits PIF members to advance beyond regional cooperation towards deeper forms of regional integration. It also creates mechanisms to enable leaders to better prioritise issues.

Arguably, it is better to focus on a small number of truly regional challenges and address them effectively than risk getting bogged down in an attempt to fix everything at once.

Whatever top priorities Pacific leaders choose to focus on, it makes eminent sense to seek regional responses to regional issues. The Pacific faces many of the same development challenges as other parts of the world, but they are uniquely compounded and complicated by the human and natural geography of the region.

By and large, the island states, particularly Pacific micro-states, are simply too small and too remote to succeed on their own. With some economic estimates indicating that by 2015 the Pacific will constitute the slowest-growing region of the world, there is a clear and urgent need for a new approach. The new PIF Secretary-General, PNG's Dame Meg Taylor, will have her hands full. But, as Pacific leaders themselves acknowledge, in our increasingly integrated and interconnected world, the status quo is no longer an option.

Australian Embassy celebrates 25th anniversary in Pohnpei with Wombat Fun Run/Walk



245 runners and walkers turned out for the first ever "Wombat Sunset Fun Run/walk". The event was staged in order to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei. The Embassy hopes to stage the event annually.

The event began at the Mangrove Bay Marina which meant that participants, including many families with their children first had to negotiate the steep hill before traversing the streets of Kolonia. The turnaround point was the Spanish Wall Park.

Enthusiasm was high amongst the participants many of whom stayed at the Mangrove Bar afterwards to have a few drinks and to chat.

Registered participants (147 men and 98 women) each received a T-shirt that received rave reviews.

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Opinion Editorial

Kosraean knowingly destroys ancient burial site

Adam Thompson

At the beginning of February of this year a very rare and ancient burial site of some of the first people to settle Kosrae was discovered. An archaeologist specializing in human bones is now planning to come to Kosrae in August to perform additional excavation to learn as much as we can from the site. However, she may be disappointed. A recent return visit to the site in April found that the local landowner was continuing to mine sand and had knowingly destroyed more of the site. Human bones were scattered throughout a pile of sand that had been dug from the area less than ten feet from where the burial had been found.

The burial was first identified when human bones were brought to the Kosrae police station. They had been found in a pile of sand that had been mined from Yekula, Tafunsak as construction material. Through word of mouth, archaeologist, Adam Thompson, who was living on the island heard about the bones from a friend. He offered his assistance to the police and observed that the bones appeared to be ancient. Bone preserves very well in sand but not in other soils, so such sites are very rare on an island like Kosrae with few unexposed sandy areas. No such burial had been documented from the island to this time, making it a big find.

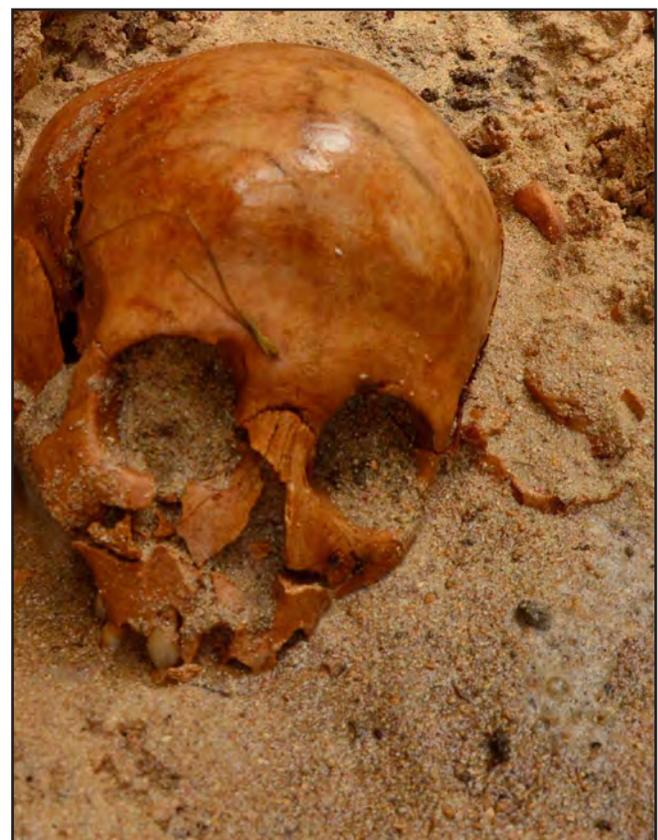
The Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority and the Kosrae Historic Preservation Office working in tandem were able to easily locate the sand mine where the bones came from. Human bones could be seen at the bottom of the pit and a piece of skull was exposed in the side wall. The archaeologists carefully exposed the skull and found three intact burials that had only been minimally disturbed. Excavation was performed to ensure the remains were not

further destroyed. It revealed that the three individuals had been buried in a crouched position close together and buried with a shell arm band and a shell bead necklace. One of the remains is believed to be of a young female while the other two appear to be older males based on the thickness of the skulls and brow ridges.

The burial was located five feet underground beneath a thick layer of dark soil. Because there was no evidence of a pit having been dug through the dark soil the burial must have occurred before the three feet of dark soil ever formed, a process that is estimated to have taken roughly 500-1000 years. However, artifacts found in the vicinity such as pottery and the shell arm band are more representative of a time even before that roughly 1500-2000 years ago.

Permission to send material off for analysis was obtained from the authorities and a sample of the bone material has now been sent away for analysis. Radiocarbon analysis will be performed to show how old the burial is. Ancient DNA analysis will be performed to see if any relationship can be detected between people on other islands to say where the first people who settled Kosrae came from.

These are the bones of the people who first brought breadfruit, taro, and all the food plants growing on the island today. These people should be honored. Archaeologist carefully study these remains with the greatest respect to re-discover their ancient story. It is only because of them that food grows plentifully on the island today freely. However, instead of honoring these ancestors the landowner has chosen to dig up their graves to sell sand so that he can buy imported goods. This is just one example of the direction FSM is heading, abandoning their ancestors, destroying their ancient culture, for money.



Coconut charcoal oven

Benefits of the coconut charcoal smokeless oven

1. Provides an easy, environmentally friendly, healthy and cost-saving way to cook food.
2. Environmentally friendly because the oven releases less carbon emission into the environment when compared to open air fires.
3. Healthy cooking option compared to frying food. Oven gets rid of unhealthy gases from the charcoal.
4. Saves money as you do not need to purchase kerosene or use cash power to cook.
5. Time saving efficient cooking of local food

Use

1. You can cook most foods in this oven. The best fuel is coconut shell charcoal
2. Heat up the charcoal on the fire and then put it in the metal tray in the bottom of the oven for about 10 minutes before putting in the food
3. Foods requiring the highest temperatures can be put on the lower shelf closer to the charcoal.
4. Depending on the type of food you plan to cook, you cover or contain it appropriately, shut the door and walk away until it's done.

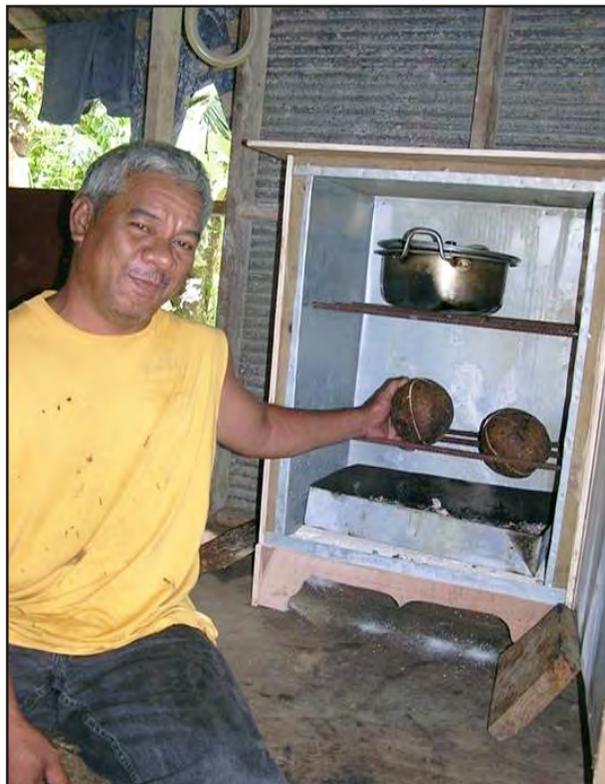
5. You can prepare two different dishes at the same time however be aware that should they require different cooking times, you will need to check frequently so that one does not overcook. You may not want to mix some food scents, such as fish and fruit. Whatever food you choose, just prepare it the same as you would any food, i.e. spices, marinades, etc, prior to cooking, then place it appropriately in the oven. Your food will have just a hint of nice smoky flavor to it. This really adds a nice touch to fish, other meats, and root crops.

Storage and Maintenance

1. The oven should be kept under cover away from the rain
2. The inside of the oven should be cleaned about every second use, in order to avoid a build-up of fats on the walls of the oven. The charcoal ash must be removed from the tray after each use.

Recipe ideas

- Breadfruit, pilolo, yam, fish, pork, bread, etc. Marinated chicken takes



about one hour.

Design

There are two height adjustable shelves in the oven. The ovens are approximately three feet tall, two feet deep and two feet wide, however the oven can be custom made to desired size. They are made from a fire resistant and termite proof material. All of the materials can be purchased here in Pohnpei. The original concept came from Mwoakilloa Island, and adapted by Bing Bardelas, of Capital Fabricators & Trading Co. and other local experts back in 2007.

If you are interested in more information regarding the charcoal ovens, please contact the Island Food Community of Pohnpei at 320-3259.

Island Food Community of Pohnpei sells custom made ovens for \$250

Illegal fishing caught at Ngulu Atoll

Yap State Office of the Attorney General

November 11, 2014

COLONIA, Yap — On November 6, 2014, the Yap State Office of the Attorney General (OAG) received reports that there were several foreign fishing vessels in or around Ngulu Atoll. The AG's office set the motion by contacting the FSM National Government to inform them of the report and requested assistance. Further discussions with the National Government became clear that it was not possible for the National Government to assist at that time.

Therefore, on November 7, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General assembled a small team to respond to this report; this team was to be something of a VBSS squad (Visit, Board, Search, and Seize). By 12:15 PM on the same day, three boats departed Yap for Ngulu with eleven armed police officers, one municipal police officer, and two (Marine Protected Area) surveillance officers from YapCAP (Yap Community Action Program) onboard, as well as the navigator Charles Tilweyar. Leading the team was Police Captain Calisio Rawel. The two boats carrying the squad were provided by YapCAP with a third boat carrying fuel and supplies provided by the Yap Fishing Authority (YFA).

One of the officers reported that upon their arrival in Ngulu, they witnessed several boats inside and outside the lagoon of the atoll. As the foreign vessels saw the police approaching, they pulled anchor and started to head out of the lagoon in full steam and the further away vessels started heading

out in different directions.

Captain Rawel ordered the two boats that first arrived on the scene to stand by, ready to board the closer vessels first than pursue the other farther vessels. There were approximately ten vessels at the scene, and all were in full steam moving away in different directions from the two police boats. It became clear at the time that the boats were hostile, and hostile boarding tactics were to be taken, said Captain Rawel. After assessing the scene, he ordered all arm officers to board these moving vessels from the rear. In approximately 40 minutes, four of the vessels were boarded, seized and under the control of the Yap State police. The other remaining vessels were out of range at that time to pursue them.

On November 8, 2014, at approximately 11:00 AM, the four foreign vessels were escorted into the Yap harbor and are now tied up at the Yap Fishing Authority dock awaiting further instructions from the Office of the Attorney General.

After a short briefing by the police officers to the Attorney General's office, a small gesture of appreciation gathering was held to thank all the brave and courageous young men whom reported to the call of

their State to perform what others say will go down in the history books in Yap as the largest surveillance arrest ever held by the State of Yap.

Thanks to the following people, for without them the visit, board, search and seize of these vessels would have never been possible:

1. John Gradwey Detective
2. Martin Talley Detective Sergeant
3. Steve Foruw Detective
4. Francis Memog Sergeant
5. Steventy "Bunny" Gilbandag Sergeant
6. Jerry Gorong Police Officer I
7. Francis Choay Police Officer III
8. Carlos Esamai Fireman
9. Augustine Eraumai Fireman

10. Calisio Rawel Captain
11. Benjamin Chiragmow Police Officer I

Also others that helped were Michael Gaag and Jesse Googdow, surveillance officers from YapCAP, Navigator Charles Tilweyar and Municipal Police Officer Mark Fitheg who also was there as the engineer of the team.

Taking into consideration the limited funding and experience of the Police force in Yap and the time to scramble and dispatch a team for this mission was somewhat close to a cartoon movie, however; despite all the shortfalls the team had in their way, they did great and we all thank them for a job well done, said the Attorney General.





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