

FSM National Police arrest 33 Vietnamese fishermen in Chuuk's waters

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 7, 2016

Federated States of Micronesia—FSM National Police Maritime Wing officers have arrested 33 Vietnamese fishermen. The men are currently incarcerated at the Pohnpei State jail.

Clayton Lawrence, Assistant Attorney General at the FSM Department of Justice said that the vessels were discovered at about 6:00 on the evening of June 29 in waters North-Northwest of Chuuk. While National Police were on patrol in those waters a vessel appeared on their radar approximately three nautical miles away. As they approached the vessel, another vessel was picked up on the radar. As the police approached the vessels, they attempted to establish communications through VHF radio but did not receive a response.

A boarding team consisting of Ricky Hadley, Michael Pretrick, Johnson Edgar, and Ken Albert, Jr. boarded the vessels at approximately 7:00 PM. They discovered that the vessels were collecting sea cucumbers and they also observed

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Moran Eye Clinic performs nearly 200 sight restoring eye surgeries during a busy week in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 4, 2016

Pohnpei, Micronesia—Last week the team from the Moran Eye Center Outreach in Micronesia took Pohnpei by gentle and compassionate storm, transforming the lives of all who came to them for treatment.

The world renowned Moran Eye Clinic of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City has an international outreach program that reaches out to countries around the world performing eye exams and eye surgeries where they are needed. This visit was their fourth to Pohnpei but it was the largest team of doctors and support staff that has ever come. 23 volunteers came from the Moran Eye Clinic along with five Mahi International volunteers. The Pohnpei State Hospital staff also served in a supporting role.

John Schroer of Mahi International said that they invited them to come four



Photos by Michael Schoenfeld team photographer



years ago and Moran's Global Outreach Mission has taken it upon themselves to come every year since then. Mahi International is the in country partner that hosts them each year.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Pohnpei Governor installs cabinet and board members



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 4, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—12 new board members and a cabinet member were sworn in during a ceremony at the Pohnpei government complex this morning after advice and consent from the Pohnpei State Legislature. Governor Marcello Peterson administered the oaths of office.

Former Lt. Governor, Churchill Edward is the new Director of the Department of Education, a cabinet level position.

Six new members of the Environmental

Protection Agency were sworn in. They were Zorro Donre, Ginger Porter Mida, Lucille Apis Overhoff, Kanoperson Asher, Stuard Penias, and Norleen Diorio.

Lynn Pangelinan, Ricky Cantero, and Alik Alik were sworn in as board members of the Pohnpei Port Authority.

Donald David swore an oath of office for the Pohnpei Sport Commission.

Pius Roby was sworn in as the Pohnpei Board member of the Micronesia Petroleum Corporation.

Richard Adams vowed to represent

Pohnpei's interests on the FSM Telecommunications, Incorporated Board of Directors.

The ceremony was broadcast live on the State radio station, V6AH.

(Editor's note: Spellings of the names in this article were taken directly from the program of the ceremony except where we knew better. We apologize for any other misspellings.)

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US Embassy celebrates 240th Anniversary of the United States and 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps in Micronesia

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 2, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM— The U.S. Embassy in the FSM held its 240th Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 2 at the Spanish Wall Ball Field in Kolonia. It was also the commemoration of the 50th US Peace Corps Anniversary in the FSM and Palau.

Children lined up to have their face painted and hot dogs were served in plenty.

As is traditional at many US Independence Day celebrations, speeches were also served up in plenty.

Richard Pruitt, who served as the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission eight years ago and who is now serving a short term stint at the US Embassy as the Management Officer, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the lengthy program.

Pastor Epel Ilon gave the invocation and a beautiful team of singers from Pohnpei who call themselves "Dreams" sang the national anthems of the FSM and the vocally challenging anthem of the United States. The members of "Dreams" were Tremay Esiel, Jan Santos, Janice Hebel, Demi Edgar, Reyonna Weilbacher, and Ariel Perman.

Following the anthems, US Ambassador Doria Rosen gave welcoming remarks.

Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Samson Pretrick followed with a speech on behalf of the FSM government congratulating the US on its 240th anniversary

Lt. Governor Reed Oliver gave an engaging speech during which he mentioned the myriad of US Agencies who offer services in the FSM outside of the Compact of Free Association with the United States.

FSM Postmaster General Ginger Porter Mida said that one of her first jobs in the FSM was when she worked for the first Country Director of the Peace Corps. She also unveiled a new limited edition philatelic stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the US Peace Corps in the FSM and Palau (see separate article).



Peace Corps Acting Director of Programming and Training Steve Nagler also spoke about the history of the Peace Corps in the FSM.

Loren Peterson was the second Peace Corps Country Director. In a humorous and endearing fashion, he presented a short history of the Peace Corps here. He also pointed out that many of the FSM's leaders at one time or another had sat under the tutelage of at least one Peace Corps volunteer who served as a teacher in the public schools—including his own son, Governor Marcello Peterson.

Frank Burkett served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Pohnpei in the early 1980's and has returned to live here again. He's a big man with a very southern Alabama accent who immediately endeared himself to the crowd who otherwise might have begun to be impatient. He spoke about bringing organized basketball to the FSM and named several people who are now leaders who played on teams that he coached when he was a Peace Corps volunteer. Someone once asked him to thank then President Reagan for sending Peace Corps volunteers to Micronesia. He told them, "Well, now, if I ever do happen to see the man, I certainly will do that!"

Students from the College of Micronesia presented cultural dances from Chuuk and from Yap.

Deputy Chief of Mission Hugues Ogier presented the closing remarks which closed the celebration.

During her welcoming remarks Ambassador Rosen announced that she would be leaving the FSM and would be replaced by Ambassador Robert Riley who will arrive from his current posting in Indonesia in early August.

"The United States looks on the development of the FSM with hope. We want a strong and united Federated States of Micronesia as a partner," she said. "This has been the object of our foreign policy since you gained independence 30 years ago. Success comes not from plans and studies alone, but in the determined actions on the part of the people, and in the support and investment in the people – the entrepreneurs, the students and the small business owners. The United States' goal, as stated in the Compact, is to promote 'the economic advancement and self-sufficiency' of the people of the FSM."

"One group that has continually demonstrated this interest through direct action is the Peace Corps, which has been working in the FSM for the past 50 years... More than 4,340 Peace Corps Volunteers have served here since that time assisting in the areas of education, health care, water and sanitation, recreation, fisheries industry, and the environment," she said.

She was also quick to point out that US President John F. Kennedy said on establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961 that, "Our Peace Corps is not designed as an instrument of diplomacy or propaganda or ideological conflict. It is designed to permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development."

She said that the US Embassy in the FSM recently facilitated the travel for Michaela Saimon of the FSM Economic Development tourism section to the Global Entrepreneurial Summit (GES) in Silicon Valley where both President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry spoke.

5000 applications were filed for the summit. 1500 were chosen. Michaela was one of those.

"In particular, GES seeks to empower youth and women to become actively engaged entrepreneurs. As Secretary Kerry stated in his address at the GES Summit, 'there is no person too young to have a great idea that can't be applied in some way and often commercialized and brought to scale.' It is essential to engage the youth of a community to spur development."

"The Compact language reaffirms that the governments of our nations 'are founded upon respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,'" she said, including for underrepresented groups like women and children. "We have heard time and again that no country is going to make it, no country can move up in the modern world, with up to 50 percent of its population on the sidelines because of discrimination against women. It is a waste of half the nation's natural resources."

She also spoke of the importance of the rule of law for economic development. "Without protections for investors and accountability and enforcement throughout the legal process, economic development is an uphill battle. Any investor will want assurance that she or he and their investments are secure. It is essential that EVERYONE is afforded legal protections, backed up by transparency, accountability and enforcement by the government."

"240 years ago, 13 colonies were able to come together to become what is now the United States of America. We believe that the many islands of the FSM are also stronger together; and united in purpose can provide security and opportunity for future generations. We must work together to protect that future by tackling the challenges that we as a world face in combating climate change, enhancing maritime security and fostering sustainable economic development," she said.

"Immigrants from around the world dream of coming to the US and young people aspire to study at our universities. As a result of our unique relationship, these opportunities are afforded to FSM citizens in equal measure to US citizens. We are especially pleased that this year two Pohnpeian Xavier High School students have set off to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Hitoshi Oue and Youky Susaia Jr. These students will return to the FSM following graduation to invest their educations in the development of their own nation," she said.



U and Nett ban sea cucumber harvests in their waters until after farming is done

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 8, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei's Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) held a meeting yesterday to make final plans for the highly controversial harvest of sea cucumber which is scheduled to begin sometime next week.

Meanwhile, both U and Nett have passed ordinances making it illegal to harvest sea cucumbers in their waters unless an environmental study has first been conducted followed by farming of sea cucumbers. The penalty for violating their laws is six months in jail or a fine of \$500 or both such penalties. The Nett District Government had a meeting this morning to affirm their intention to enforce their new ordinance regarding a harvest that they have now declared illegal unless the specific order for harvesting is followed.

U and Nett's ordinances are nearly identical and both municipalities say they intend to enforce them.

U, Nett and Sokehs Municipalities each earlier passed resolutions asking the Governor to at least delay the harvest of sea cucumber until after further study if not to cancel plans for the harvest all together. A spokesperson at the Sokehs Municipal government said that just the same, V6AH radio had run an inaccurate news item saying that Sokehs had approved the harvest.

U and Nett spokespersons said that they decided to pass ordinances because the Governor had not responded to their resolutions and they felt they needed to take a stand.

Spokespersons for the Madolenihmw and Kitti municipalities said that their governments had taken no action because they felt they didn't have the constitutional power to pass an ordinance counteracting a State law.

"If you read the Constitution," said Mason Albert an attorney who is an U councilman and the legal counsel for Nett, "the only relevant clause dealing with local governments' authority suggests that local governments have authority to enact any law that does not Contradict State laws. This law that we have enacted, in our view, does not contradict the existing state law. It clarifies it."

"If you know the original intent of the State law, this is exactly what we did. Firstly EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment), then Farming, and final is harvest," he said.

State Law 8L-58-14, passed in 2014 makes no mention of farming sea cucumbers at all before or after harvesting them in the wild. It merely says that the harvest must be conducted "sustainably". The OFA regulations on sea cucumber harvesting do

require "seeding or spawning" but that requirement is the next to last item in a list of requirements regarding harvests in the wild.

"It's like taro," Willy Kostka of Micronesia Conservation Trust argues. "I can't harvest my taro until after I've planted it. How can you harvest something you haven't planted?"

It's an imperfect analogy but is certainly the view of many regarding sea cucumbers which one study conducted by a University of Guam expert in Pohnpei's waters suggests are declining in population.

"The recent radio program from the Governor's Office really twisted the issue," Albert said. "They are claiming that the Local Governments should try to understand the Constitutional powers of levels of Governments. Plainly put, the State thinks that the local governments do not have power to enact laws relating to waters within our boundaries. "

Dr. Manoj R. Nair, Director and Chief Scientist for Aquaculture Research, Development and Training with Land Grant Program said that just over a year ago all of the sea cucumbers that were in their farms were completely devastated. He said that after Tropical Storm Dolphin, there was a period of low tides that completely decimated the sea cucumber stocks in farms.

When asked if had "signed off" on the sea cucumber harvest he emphatically said that he had not. He said that he was simply a part of a committee to evaluate the claims made in bids provided by two bidders



Dr. Nair



Intern Owen Rangto holds sea cucumbers from a farm



Sea Cucumbers not quite ready to be moved to the farm.

for the sea cucumber harvest. His area of expertise is the study of how best aquaculture can be performed for maximum economic benefit. He said that he has no knowledge about the populations of sea cucumbers in the wild. Anecdotally he said that he had noticed that in the last year it has taken much longer to find brood stock in the ocean. His program has permission to harvest sea cucumbers in the wild for spawning purposes.

The OFA regulations require re-seeding or spawning.

Dr. Nair gave us an extensive tour and explanation of the aquaculture project at Nett Point which will be the subject of a feature in an upcoming issue of The Kaselehlie Press. Bringing sea cucumbers up from the point of cell division through the hatchery, to the nursery and then into a protected farm is a lengthy process that can take upwards of two years before they are of harvestable size (350-400 grams).

He pondered why the Pacific Islands are not full of sea cucumbers if the re-seeding, or "cutting" method actually works. The "cutting" method takes advantage of sea cucumbers' ability to regenerate body parts that are missing (transverse fission). Both halves of a sea cucumber that is cut in half will potentially generate the other half in a matter of a few months resulting in two sea cucumbers. If performed over and over could result in exponential numbers of sea cucumbers and it has been done successfully many times before. However, high success rates for asexual reproduction require a controlled environment that is not found in the sea cucumber's natural habitat. A sea cucumber that is cut in half and then left in its natural habitat could be more susceptible to predators and other factors that could cause its demise.

Scientists are divided on the idea of "cutting" as a viable means of sustainability for sea cucumber harvests.

The harvest is set to begin sometime during the week of July 11. It remains to be seen whether there will be any court challenges on the U and Nett ordinances.



...Sight

Continued from front page

This was the first time for the team to work alongside FSM's resident ophthalmologist, Dr. Padwick Gallen who in addition to receiving valuable training during the eye clinic also had eye surgery himself as did his father.

The Moran eye team has made a commitment to work with Dr. Gallen to help develop a long term sustainable eye program for the entire FSM. While here they were able to sit and discuss future plans for eye care with FSM Secretary for Health Magdalena Walter and Acting Director of Health Dr. Hedson.

All in all, Moran Eye Clinic doctors performed 184 sight restoring and ocular plastic surgeries, 17 retina laser procedures to prevent people suffering with severe diabetic retinopathy from losing their sight. They gave 410 comprehensive eye exams and handed out over 450 pairs of reading glasses, 50 pairs of custom prescription glasses, and 300 pairs of much needed sun glasses.

People from all walks of life took advantage of the team's special skills up to and including FSM's President Peter Christian.

I was a personal beneficiary of the team's compassionate care. They performed cataract surgery that I didn't know I needed and the results were nothing short of extraordinary. After the post operation visit when they removed the eye patch I'd worn over night I discovered a whole new universe waiting for me outside of the hospital doors. I hadn't realized that I had lost all capability of seeing in three dimensions. When I saw the vibrant colors of Pohnpei and the amazing depth of field I had been missing for several years I openly wept tears of gratitude.

My personal gratitude must pale in comparison to the gratitude of others who received sight saving surgeries. One of those people is Anteras Paiden who came to the clinic with only "light perception". He now has 20/20 vision after surgery. He was just one of many examples of people who experienced a remarkable world transformation because of Moran's humanitarian service in Pohnpei. The State Hospital was crowded full of patients each morning there for post operative evaluations. The faces of the happy people told a story that mere words cannot.

Many donors made the mission possible but Moran was unable to provide a list of them before the deadline for the newspaper. There were several corporate donors who helped make the trip possible including medical supply corporations that donated



Photos by Michael Schoenfeld
team photographer

the consumables for the surgeries. Another company donated the after care products including sunglasses and reading glasses.

Two of the donors were Fred and Christine Fairclough who came with the team and served every day in the clinic. I was privileged to be able to personally thank these generous humanitarians though every time I thought about what they had done I wept again and still do a week later. It was difficult to get the words out.



...Fishermen Arrested

Continued from front page

that some of the crew members looked familiar.

In terms of marine life, only sea cucumbers were aboard.

The FSM Maritime Wing began escorting the two vessels back to Pohnpei beginning at approximately 10 PM that evening and arrived at Pohnpei's Port on July 3.

In total there were 33 Vietnamese fishermen and two vessels involved. On July 4, the FSM Department of Justice charged all of the men for violation of title 50 of the FSM code. Title 50 says, "It is unlawful for a person who is not a citizen of the FSM to unlawfully enter or attempt to enter the FSM without having been issued an appropriate entry permit." The penalty for this charge is up to two years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine.

During the booking process fingerprints were collected from all of the fishermen.

FSM National Police Investigator Kasner Aldens, FSM Fingerprint specialist ran the finger prints against those on file and confirmed that seven of the individuals taken into custody on June 29 had at least been arrested for the same crime last year and one of them had been charged and convicted of the crime.

Last year FSM National Police made a similar arrest involving approximately

100 Vietnamese fishermen. Of those, the previous Secretary of the Department of Justice filed charges against only 25 of them.

Lawrence said that the man who was previously charged and convicted in the FSM was sentenced to two years in jail and a \$10,000 fine but that sentence was suspended upon agreement that he would leave the FSM and never return. That fisherman has violated that agreement and now faces the possibility of having to serve out his previous sentence and if convicted of this year's violation he could end up with an additional sentence on top of the previously suspended sentence.

Lawrence said that he is looking into the possibility of charging the six men who returned after being arrested last year but who were never charged with two counts of violation of Title 50 of the FSM Code since the statute of limitations has not expired for the previous alleged violations.

FSM National Police are still investigating the matter and more charges may yet be added. Part of the police investigations might include what incentive was so strong that the men, especially those who had escaped real punishment in the past, would be willing to risk being caught and prosecuted.

The FSM Department of Foreign Affairs has instructed FSM Ambassador Carl Apis to register a complaint with the Vietnamese government about the prevalence of Vietnamese vessels violating the FSM EEZ.

Unfortunately, the clinic was not promoted as well as perhaps it has been promoted in the past. Had I not personally run into a volunteer I knew from a visit last year who was here this year using his vacation time to serve, I would not have known about it and the world would still be flat for me.

Team members expressed their desire to return next year if at all possible.



Pool robot donated by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China

By **Jim Tobin**
FSM National Olympic Committee

June 29, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—A short dedication ceremony was held at the FSM National Olympic Committee (FSMNOC) Office and Swimming Pool complex on Wednesday, June 29 to thank the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for donating a state-of-the-art "Pool Robot" for use at the Pohnpei swimming pool.

Attending the ceremony were Ambassador H.E. Li Jie, Counselor/DCM Madam Li Cuiying, and Second Secretary Mr. Song Deqin of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China; FSM Congress Vice Speaker FSMNOC President Berney Martin; FSMNOC Vice President Mike Loyola and Secretary General Jim Tobin;

swimming coaches and staff, parents; and most importantly, members of the junior swim team.

In his opening remarks, FSM Congress Vice Speaker, FSMNOC President Martin, welcomed Ambassador Li Jie and thanked the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for supporting youth sport grass root development by donating the pool robot. Martin explained that the Dolphin Wave 300 pool robot was the top of the line, and would properly clean and maintain the bottom floor of the 8 lane 25 meter outdoor swimming pool.

In his short remarks, Ambassador Li said he is happy that the Chinese Embassy donated this Pool Robot and provides facilities to serve the local residents and FSMNOC team. The Chinese Embassy will continue to support sport development in the FSM.

He said that China has a proud history in sport including having been the host of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. In closing, he recognized Debra Daniel, FSM female Olympic swimmer who competed in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and will be competing in the upcoming Rio 2016 Olympic Games next month.

On behalf of FSMNOC, President Martin presented Ambassador Li with a Certificate of Appreciation for the Pool robot donation.

The dedication closed with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a demonstration on how the pool robot cleans the swimming pool.



CCA "Salutatorian" correction

In the last issue of The Kaselehlie Press we listed the valedictorians and salutatorians for each school in Pohnpei. Through a miscommunication one name was left off the list. Virginia John, principal of Calvary Christian Academy says that their school does not have valedictorians or salutatorians for the eighth grade class because they feel that the students are in no way finished with their education. They instead provided the name of the person with the highest grade point average in the eighth grade class which we listed as the valedictorian. Strictly speaking that is not accurate though no less an accomplishment. We listed no salutatorian for CCA but since we listed the name of the person with the highest GPA we should also have listed the person with the second highest GPA which was Jessica Villanueva. Congratulations to Jessica for her hard work and accomplishments. We apologize for inadvertently leaving your name off of our list of high achievers.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON:

July 25, 2016

Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end of
working hours on:
Wednesday July 20, 2016

US Embassy says farewell to Deputy Chief of Mission Ogier

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 4, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—On the 240th anniversary of the United States of America, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Doria Rosen held what was announced to be a "hail and farewell" reception at her residence in Nanpohnmal.

The small reception was to say farewell to Hugues Ogier who has served as Deputy



Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in the FSM for two years. It was his first time as DCM at a U.S. Embassy and he thanked Ambassador Rosen for "showing him the ropes" as well as the invited guests who worked with him as he learned his new position.

Unfortunately, Ogier's replacement, Joanne Cummings had a cancelled flight that meant that she would not arrive until July 7 so she was not able to participate in the July 4 reception. Cummings is coming to the FSM straight from a position as a teacher at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Ogier will be the DCM at the US Embassy Conakry, Guinea, a French speaking country just north of Sierra Leone in western Africa. During his remarks to the small gathered crowd he said that he may not be able to experience the same freedom of movement there that he has known in the FSM but that he is looking forward to the challenge.

He will leave the FSM on July 6.

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Rotary Club of Pohnpei installs new officers

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 30, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—As a long time member of Rotary International and now a member of the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Australia's Ambassador George Fraser hosted the annual changeover of officers at his home in Dolonier. Rotarian Denise Adams was the co-host for the dinner reception.

Melner Isaac, who has served as Rotary Club of Pohnpei President for the last year, served as the master of ceremonies for the event. His last official duty was to install Uta Finnen as the Treasurer; Konrad Englberger as the Sergeant at Arms; and Noel Boylan as the President of the Rotary Club of Pohnpei for this year. Steve Finnen is the President elect for the year following Noel Boylan's term.

The person elected for the Secretary position had extenuating family commitments that would not allow her to accept the position. Since that time, Patrick Pedrus has been selected to fill the position of Secretary for the next year.

After his installation as the President of the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Noel Boylan addressed the small crowd. He told them that Rotary International is more than just the small club in Pohnpei. "Rotary is 35,000 clubs worldwide with 1.2 million members. There are even two Rotary Clubs

in Antarctica," he exclaimed. "At the Rotary International Convention last month, there was a Flag Ceremony that must have taken an hour (just) to present the flags from more than 200 nations. Carrie and I did our best to acknowledge the FSM flag when it was presented, but with over 40,000 Rotarians at the convention, we might have been lost in the crowd. But the Taiwanese delegation sitting next to us appreciated our effort," he joked.

He said that the theme for this Rotary Year is, "Rotary Serving Humanity" which is what Rotary clubs all over the world have always been doing.

"You are probably aware of our club's ongoing scholarship program which assists Micronesian students with their college education expenses.

"We also provided funding to assist with the construction of the playground at the Pohnpei Public Library," he said.

"(Rotary) recently completed a water and sanitation project at the Sapwalap Elementary school where we installed a 15KW Solar Power Generator to provide power to keep the toilets flushing and the water purifier running. This project was funded through a Rotary Foundation Grant.

"We are currently working on a project to fix the rain catchment and water purification



systems at the Chuuk Women's Council facility on Weno. We have applied for a Foundation Grant for this project as well.

"We are just starting to work on a project to assist MAHI International with a project to screen all school aged children in the FSM for Rheumatic Heart Disease. We think this project will have a major impact on the health and welfare of Micronesians. This will also be a Rotary Foundation project.

"The Rotary Foundation is a huge foundation and we will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this Rotary Year. I hope to focus attention to gain a greater

appreciation of the Rotary Foundation," he said.

"For almost 40 years, the Foundation and Rotarian volunteers have been working hard to eradicate Polio from the face of the earth. It is estimated that 30 years ago, there were 350,000 new cases of polio each year. In 2015, there were 74 cases, so we are looking forward to saying good bye to polio."

The Pohnpei Rotary Club meets on Thursday afternoons at the Riverside Restaurant at Seven Star Inn. The club invites people to join them who have an interest in "Serving Humanity".

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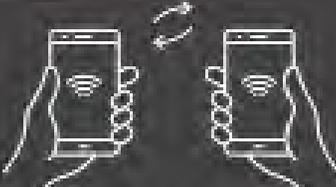
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VA No. 401-16-007

Cooperation and comms helps nab IUU fishers

Forum Fisheries Agency

June 27, 2016

Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS—Strong communications and cooperative work amongst the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries nations identified six tuna fishing vessels and four Vietnamese ‘blue boats’ targeting coastlines of Pacific nations as part of the region’s latest maritime surveillance operation.

Operation Tui Moana/Islands Chief for 2016(OPTMIC16), a ten day regional surveillance operation which ended on Friday 24th June, involved full or partial participation from all 17 FFA member nations, as well as the Defense force assets of the ‘Quads’ – Australia, France, New Zealand, and the US.

Infringements during OPTMIC16 were linked to vessel markings and identifiers in Kiribati (reported by Cook Islands patrol boat Te Kukupa), FSM (reported by FSM patrol boat Palikir) and Tuvalu (reported by Tuvalu patrol boat Te Mataili).

Significantly, two unidentified ‘dark targets’ were found in Fiji’s EEZ by HMNZS OTAGO. The Chinese-flagged LongLiners did not have automatic location transponders required by FFA and WCPFC regional VMS systems—the first rule for fishing in Pacific waters as it allows for tracking and remote monitoring of location and activity by Pacific maritime officials, and the FFA’s Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC).

“The detection of these vessels is a credit to active participation and communications support by Pacific nations working across the 30 million square km of Ocean covered by OPTMIC16, as FFA members act together against IUU fishing in their own and neighbouring EEZs. As the investigations and follow up work continues into the outcomes of this operation, I thank the participating members and our quad partners for their strong support for vigilance over fishing activity across our shared oceanic resource,” says FFA Director General James Movick.

“The sightings of dark targets that may actually be targeting the southern Bluefin fishery to the south of the WCPFC

fishery area and of Vietnamese blue boats aggressively expanding to poach reef resources deeper into the Pacific Island region, exemplifies the importance of coordinated MCS engagement to effectively fight the scourge of IUU fishing. It’s important that the contribution of developing Pacific nations and support of the Quads be well-recognized and valued, because the future of our tuna and other oceanic and reef fisheries and sustainable fisheries management rests upon this monitoring work.”

OPTMIC16 saw 213 vessels detected, with 99 sightings supplementing the 162 boardings at sea and in-harbour. The operation involved close to 500 personnel mostly based in the 11 Pacific Patrol Boats, the HMNZS OTAGO, and 2 US Coastguard cutters who spent a combined total of 110 days at sea. Port boardings contributed significantly to the region-wide success of this Operation. Fifty aircrew, leading missions out of the Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, PNG, Solomon Islands, and French Polynesia added to the international group at the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre. Officers from Australia, New Zealand, FSM, Fiji, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the US were part of the numbers at the RFSC.

“Skills development in the use of the Regional Surveillance Picture, information systems and intel work is a key part of the watch-keeping experience for our Pacific officials,” says DG Movick. He commended Tuvalu’s Saifoloi Talesi for his leadership and “outstanding” efforts as Chief of Staff for the Operation. “As we broaden the experience base and level of involvement with RFSC members throughout these operations, the increase in levels of responsibilities by individuals like Sai will also impact on MCS work at the national level when these officers return home”, he says.

DG Movick noted the new challenges presented by the rising detections of ‘blue boats’ – linked more to inshore pillaging of reef resources than to any tuna fisheries, “and highlighting the interplay between the Coastal and Offshore sides of the Future of Fisheries Roadmap. FFC Ministers will most likely discuss these newer threats when they look at IUU issues in the region and the MCS agenda, during the forthcoming Ministerial in Port Vila next week.

He commended all involved in the operation, for the “proactive engagement and communication between all parties involved, which has helped the Pacific nations to send a strong and clear warning to IUU fishers that their activity is seen, and will not be tolerated.”





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PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTOR VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: June 14, 2016

CLOSING DATE: Extended to July 22, 2016

OPEN TO:

GENERAL PUBLIC

POSITION:

Executive Assistant

Local hire position based in Pohnpei.

SALARY RANGE:

\$10,981 to \$14,026 (starting salary)

WORK HOURS:

Full-time; 40 hours/week (80 hours bi-weekly)

Final hiring contingent upon availability of funds

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties and responsibilities is available online at

<http://micronesia.peacecorps.gov/>

OR

via e-mail request to Ms. Naihila Peterson

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VA No. 401-16-004

Vanuatu welcomes Pacific Fisheries Ministerial

Vanuatu Fisheries Department

Monday 4 July, Port Vila --Pacific Ministers of Fisheries are in Port Vila this week for talks aimed at ensuring best economic benefits and sustainable futures for the region's shared tuna resources.

Prime Minister Charlot Salwai will be giving the official keynote to Ministers tonight (Monday 4 July) at the Farea Pacific Convention Centre, at Le Lagon/Warwick, with Minister Matai Seremaia Nawalu to lead the welcoming ceremonies for his Pacific colleagues.

As host of the 13th Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial, Vanuatu is also taking on the role of Chair of the FFC for the next 12 months, taking over from Tuvalu.

"The Chairing of the FFC Ministerial and our hosting of regional Ministers is a chance to showcase our work, opportunities and challenges to the region," says Vanuatu's Director of Fisheries Kalo Pakoa.

"As the meeting rotates amongst the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries, Vanuatu will not expect to host the ministerial for 16 more years, so I thank the taskforce team helping to organise the work behind

the scenes ensuring that we make the most of bringing the regional focus on Tuna Fisheries, to our shores."he says.

Topical issues on the regional agenda are likely to include discussions of the 2016 launch of a Pacific report quantifying IUU fishing in Pacific EEZs, with recommendations on next steps. The FFA workplan, budget and administrative issues are an ongoing part of the meeting agenda. Ministers will also be looking at outcomes of the recently concluded US Treaty talks in Auckland, New Zealand, and issues to go before the Pacific Forum Leaders when they meet in Pohnpei, FSM, this September.

"Oceanic and coastal Fisheries are a key part of Vanuatu's resource base, and as a member of the FFA nations stepping into the role of chair, we are keen to develop and enjoy the economic benefits of sustainable fisheries management," says Pakoa. "We look forward to hosting a productive meeting and showing our Pacific visitors the legendary hospitality of our people."

Forum Fisheries officials in the Pacific delegations meet today ahead of the formal opening function, with two days of talks rounding off with a Ministerial Retreat, press conference, and closing farewell at the Iririki Resort, on Wednesday.



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PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTOR VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: June 4, 2016

CLOSING DATE: Extended July 29, 2016

OPEN TO:

GENERAL PUBLIC

POSITION:

Information Technology Specialist

Local hire position based in Pohnpei. Any cost associated for relocation will be the sole responsibility of the candidate.

SALARY RANGE:
\$16,279 to \$22,377 (starting salary)

WORK HOURS:
Full-time; 40 hours/week (80 hours bi-weekly)

Final hiring contingent upon availability of funds

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties and responsibilities is available online at

<http://micronesia.peacecorps.gov/>

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via e-mail request to
Naihila Peterson

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Pacific Island leaders' call for action to save coral reefs answered by scientific experts

28 June 2016

Honolulu, HAWAII – Pacific Island leaders have sent a clear message to the international community: coral reefs are rapidly declining, and humanity must act now to protect what remains in order to perpetuate the numerous benefits to the people and cultures who depend on them.

Last week, the Presidents of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands held a Summit with scientific experts during the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium. Out of the Summit, the three Presidents released a Call to Action requesting immediate assistance from the scientific community to improve coral reef protection. During the past few decades, coral reef health in the Pacific has declined by pollution, overfishing, and acidification and bleaching due to climate change.

“Coral reefs are the foundation of life in our island nations,” the three Presidents state in their signed Call to Action. “They are extremely important for our food security, economic well-being, livelihoods, protection from natural disasters, and cultural identity and traditions.”

In the letter, the Micronesian leaders make a bold commitment to coral reef stewardship. They identify several immediate actions including: basing policies on sound science, bridging science with traditional knowledge, building upon existing national and regional networks to expand networks of protected areas, and strengthening the technical and financial capacities of Pacific island nations.

Former Speaker of the Palau National Congress and Ministry of Natural Resources Senior Advisor Noah Idechong said, “We see no alternative but to act now. We urgently need to protect our coral reefs. Our political leaders are ready, and fortunately these leading scientists are willing to support them.”

In response to the Call to Action, a group of leading coral reef scientists and technical experts from Stanford University, the University of Hawai'i, James Cook University (Australia), and several other institutions pledged their support to link science to policy action to better manage and protect coral reefs.

These experts represent an international team of highly qualified natural and social scientists, engineers, and lawyers, who promise to “fully engage and support national leaders in their bold policy actions to address urgent threats to coral reefs” by providing scientific advice, technical assistance, capacity building, and other site-based support to help better manage and protect coral reefs.

“This summit forged a novel and strong commitment to action by the Leaders and equally strong support from the scientific community. It is time to stop talking and start doing what is necessary to make our reefs more resilient to climate change,” said Larry Crowder, Science Director for the Center for Ocean Solutions at Stanford University.

“In the wake of COP 21 where 196 countries committed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, we have a historic opportunity transform reefs to be more climate resistant. This is critically necessary for reef ecosystems and the people who depend on healthy, productive reefs,” he continued.

Coral reefs around the world have recently

bleached and are dying at alarming rates due to sustained elevated seawater temperatures associated with the 2015-2016 El Niño Southern Oscillation event. These devastating impacts include an estimated 90% bleaching and 50% mortality of the northern coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef, in Australia. In light of climate change, it is imperative that other threats, such as pollution and overfishing, are minimized so that reefs are more likely to survive and rebound from the impacts of climate change.

“The urgency to act is clear, along with the mandate from the Pacific Island Leaders. The community of coral reef scientists, managers, policy makers, lawyers and stakeholders must come together to apply knowledge to action and push for the political will critical to leaving a legacy of vital reefs for the future,” said Robert Richmond, Professor at University of Hawai'i at Manoa and Director of the Kewalo Marine Laboratory.

Despite the challenges ahead for conserving Pacific Island communities and natural resources, Idechong is optimistic that strong partnerships between science and policy will bring positive change.

“We are fortunate to be working with really great scientists who believe in the things Palau is doing and have supported us for a very long time. That's why we've been making a lot of progress,” he said.

“In the old days we could use our tradition and that would be enough for us,” continued Idechong, “but there is no traditional knowledge to explain climate change in Palau, so we need the science to help explain how we should best manage our reefs.”

Pacific nation leaders acknowledge that they have lacked the institutional, financial, and human capacity in the past to adequately protect their coral reefs. Despite these challenges, they recognize that inaction to the threats facing coral reefs is not an option.

“I'm going to take back what I learned from participants at the Leaders' Forum this week to my island and see how we can strengthen our science-based management to help communities improve decisions to protect their reefs,” said Eugene Joseph, Executive Director of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

“We've been working on reef management at the community level for 16 years,” said Joseph. “What we want to see now is state level policies better reflecting what the communities are doing on the ground.”

While the Leaders' Forum participants expressed optimism for better management of Micronesian coral reefs in the future, they emphasize that even the strongest conservation efforts won't be enough to save coral reefs unless nations globally reduce fossil fuel emissions and make more concerted efforts to protect ocean ecosystems.

“We need the world change their attitude,” Idechong explained. “Palau is a small place. If the boat sinks, we sink with it. We will be the first ones under water. Our actions will never be enough, but at least we can prolong livelihoods for our people and make sure we are doing the best we can while we work on bigger picture change.”

Said Idechong, “We cannot just rely on hope. We need to change hope to action. We need to change our leaders' attitudes. That's what I believe in.”



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
40th Anniversary 1971-2011

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

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

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and exciting opportunities have arisen for the following to join the Secretariat: a Climate Change Financing Adviser, a Trade Policy Adviser, a Trade Policy Officer and Research Officers.

Climate Change Financing Adviser

This job exists to provide high level policy advice to the Senior Management Team and representatives of Member States on climate change financing, and build effective relationships and coordination with key actors working on climate change financing. Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- In coordination with PIFS staff and other stakeholders, including CROP agencies and partners, to prepare high level policy advice to senior officials of Pacific Island Forum member states and the Senior Management Team of the Forum Secretariat, in particular the Secretary General, on climate change finance issues, including access, disbursement and policy setting;
- Support Forum member states to improve their access and management of international climate change resources;
- Contribute to high quality analysis of opportunities and challenges for Pacific Island Forum member states to access international climate change resources; and
- Support the Secretary General and Executive of the Forum Secretariat in negotiations on access to climate change financing for the Pacific region, including at the annual UNFCCC COP negotiations.

Applicants should have a Post graduate degree (preferably Masters) or equivalent experience in Marine Science, Environmental Management, Climate Change, Natural Resources, Economics, Finance or related fields. Candidates should have up to at least 5 years relevant work experience in supporting Pacific Island Countries on climate change

financing or related fields of work. They should also have relevant work experience in policy formulation and high quality advice to Executives, Senior Officials, Ministers and Leaders, management of consultants and coordination of multi-disciplinary teams of professionals. Applicants should also possess high level of initiative and self-management with the ability to think laterally and identify innovative solutions.

The starting salary will be in the range of **SDR39,868 to SDR44,851** per annum. At the 1 June 2016 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to **FJD112,304 to FJD126,340**.

Trade Policy Adviser

This job exists to oversee the management of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiation and implementation process with the European Union (EU). Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Manage a team of trade policy staff and consultants to deliver timely and high-quality technical advice and assistance to FICs on trade policy issues with focus on the EPA and other trade agreements, EDF 11 programming, Aid for Trade, the fisheries priority and the work agenda on trade mainstreaming (i.e. TPFs);
- Manage a team of trade policy staff and consultants to provide timely and high-quality briefings, correspondence, reports and analysis for FICs, Regional Negotiating Machinery, Forum Secretariat Executive and other stakeholders;
- Manage a team to organise Officials and Ministers meetings, including Pacific ACP (PACP) related meetings at the Ministerial and Leaders levels; and
- Build strong relationships through Officials-level liaison with FICs and other counterparts.

Applicants should have an advanced degree in Economics, Law or International Trade/Investment. Candidates should have extensive relevant work experience at a senior level dealing with economic and multilateral trade policy issues in the Pacific region or in an international environment. They should also have extensive direct practical experience with international trade negotiation and the provision of high-level policy advice on negotiation strategy and substance. Applicants should also have the ability to develop and maintain strong and effective working relationships with a range of stakeholders including high level government officials.

The starting salary will be in the range of **SDR39,868 to SDR44,851** per annum. At the 1 June 2016 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to **FJD112,304 to FJD126,340**.

Trade Policy Officer

This job exists to provide technical support and advice in the broader economic development of the region focusing on economic reforms,

trade integration and private sector support. Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Respond quickly and effectively to requests from Forum Island Countries (FICs) and Forum Secretariat Senior Management for the provision of advice, correspondence, briefings, media statements and reporting covering various areas including economic reforms, trade policy issues, and private sector engagement. Focus will be on economic analysis, implementation of trade agreements, EDF 11 programming, Aid for Trade, the fisheries priority and the work agenda on trade mainstreaming (i.e. TPFs) as well as on priorities determined through the FPR process;
- Coordinate and organize meetings, workshops and training seminars including preparation of meeting and workshop papers and materials;
- Provide services and technical advice, either directly or through consultants, development partners or other counterparts;
- Monitor and report on mandates from Trade and Economic Ministers, including Pacific ACP (PACP) related meetings at the Ministerial and Leaders levels; and
- Develop and deliver work programs and budgets, and prepare periodic reports according to requirements.

Applicants should have a university degree in economics, finance or international trade with at least 5 years relevant and direct work experience dealing with trade and economic research and policy issues in the Pacific Island Countries or in a similar environment. They should have a good network of trade policy experts and officials at the national, regional and international level to leverage off and possess high quality writing skills.

The starting salary will be in the range of **SDR22,721 to SDR25,560** per annum. At the 1 June 2016 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to **FJD64,002 to FJD72,000**.

To be eligible for the positions of Climate Change Financing Adviser, Trade Policy Adviser and Trade Policy Officer, applicants must be a national of a Forum member country* and must be willing to travel periodically via economy class. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 4 August 2016.

Research Officers

These jobs exist to provide assistance and undertake comprehensive data and policy analysis to support the Forum Secretariat's engagement in all policy areas including economic, trade, social, climate, political, security, and governance policy as well as to oversee meeting logistics. Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Provide research and technical assistance to Advisers and Officers;
- Assist with the management of meetings and negotiations;
- Assist with meetings and negotiations, and related consultancies; and
- Manage website content.

We are looking for candidates with a University degree in Economics, Trade, Finance, Management, Marine Science, Climate Studies, Policy, Governance or other related discipline with at least three years' experience in a related professional environment and experience/knowledge in Pacific development issues and policy. Applicants must be able to work with minimal supervision and meet tight deadlines, have strong research and analytical skills, the ability to master new materials quickly, and the ability to draft research reports when required on key deliverables.

The appointment will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of **FJD 25,613 to FJD 28,814** per annum. To be eligible for the Research Officer positions, the applicant must be a Fiji national. **Deadline for applications is 22 July, 2016 at 5pm, Fiji time.**

All appointments carry competitive remuneration and benefits packages including medical and life insurance. For non-Fijian nationals, these salaries may be tax-free.

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

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

FSM soon to have seven new solar engineers (aka Solar Mamas) trained through the Barefoot College

In March of 2016, the Micronesian Conservation Trust, the Chuuk Women's Council and the Barefoot College of India launched a new program in FSM, funded by the Indian Government, that selected mature women from the islands Kosrae, Chuuk and Pohnpei who live in villages that are not connected to the main power grid, and sent them to the Barefoot College in India to attend a course to become solar engineers. These women will graduate in September 2016 and will come home and "light up" their communities in Pohnpei (Parem, Lenger, Mwahnd, Depehk and Takaiou Islands), Kosrae (Walung Village) and Chuuk (Parem Island) with solar energy systems which come as part of the program funded by the Indian Government.

At the Barefoot College, the group is not only learning to become solar engineers, but is enrolled in a comprehensive program called Enriche, which has a curriculum built around 8 building blocks to help women obtain additional skills and knowledge to fulfill their aspirations and transform their communities. This includes studying Self-Awareness (and self defence), Women Health (with a focus on reproductive health and nutrition), Financial Inclusion, Digital literacy, Human Rights and Civil Society, Environmental Stewardship, Micro-Enterprise Skills and Livelihood Skills. The objectives of the College are to increase women's control over their lives and their capacity to solve challenges; train women on relevant and practical solutions to

create self-sufficient and sustainable rural communities; enable women to transfer their knowledge to other community members; create livelihood opportunities through vocational training; and maximize impact on the community through continual support of partner organizations.

The program is a 6 month residential program that trains mature, non-formally educated women from rural non-electrified and marginalized villages to set up a solar workshop and to assemble, install, maintain and repair solar home systems. Over the six month solar training period, about 200 hours are allocated to conduct workshops and activities around the eight building blocks of the Enriche curriculum. Once the solar trainees return to their villages, they are encouraged by Barefoot College's ground partners to share their knowledge and utilize their new skills. A support network of locally implemented NGOs working in relevant areas is mapped out and connected to the communities. Once they are home, a revolving fund account will be set up so that villagers will pay into a system to make sure the women get paid for their time and so that some funds are reserved to support long-term solar equipment needs like replacement parts and new systems. The revolving fund will be managed by boards selected from within each of the participating communities so the project is community-owned. MCT is currently working with the FSM National Government to secure some funding from

the European Union EDF11 grant to expand this program to other communities around the FSM.

The participants in this first round of the project from FSM are Chuuk (Parem Island)

- 1. Marlin Karren,
 - 2. Betty Smith,
 - 3. Lynda Dereas
- Pohnpei
- 1. Renselina Victor (Parem Island, Nett),
 - 2. Loriann Primo (Takaiou Island, U)
- Kosrae (Walung Village)
- 1. Gloria Benjamin
 - 2. Sherlinda Nena



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SMS: Unlimited Local/Domestic SMS
This package expires 3:50AM daily
To activate this plan, dial *GET*1# or *438*1#
Charges will be deducted from your cell account.

\$30, Monthly Package
DATA: 2 GB Data
VOICE: 60 Minutes Local/Domestic Calls
SMS: Unlimited Local/Domestic SMS
Valid for 30 days
To activate this plan, dial *GET*2# or *438*2#
Charges will be deducted from your cell account.

\$50, Monthly Package
DATA: 5 GB Data
VOICE: 120 Minutes Local/Domestic Calls
SMS: Unlimited Local/Domestic SMS
Valid for 30 days
To activate this plan, dial *GET*3# or *438*3#
Charges will be deducted from your cell account.

NOTE: If you run out of voice or data on your plan before expiration, you will fall back to pay as you go rates. Pay as you go are still: Voice - local \$0.15/min; SMS - \$0.10/SMS; Data - \$0.10/Mb. For rates on domestic and international calls, call your FSM Telecom office. Once activated, packages renew automatically. To cancel automatic renewal, dial *OFF# (*633#). You can cancel renewal anytime while you are on a package.

Harmonising search and rescue cooperation in vast Pacific Ocean

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

24 June 2016

Suva, Fiji – Search and rescue experts will gather in Suva, Fiji, next week to set the strategic direction of regional sea search and rescue cooperation in the Pacific region over the next five years.

There is a moral and legal obligation on all nations to respond to any person in distress within their coastal waters.

This places huge responsibilities on small island nations and amplifies the need for international cooperation to coordinate search and rescue operations over the vast Pacific Ocean.

For example, in February this year, 13 crew members were saved by a search and rescue operation conducted by New Caledonia's Maritime Rescue Coordinating Centre after the LC Mahalia capsized in Vanuatu waters.

In an effort to strengthen such cooperation, the four-day Pacific Search and Rescue Discussion Group (PACSAR DG) Annual Meeting begins next Tuesday (28 June) in Suva, Fiji, supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) and members of the discussion group, including the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Maritime New Zealand and United States Coast Guard District 14 (USCG D14).

Fiji will join the discussion group for the first time. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) will also participate.

“This meeting is an important opportunity to identify the strategic challenges facing search and rescue in the region now and in the future, and to explore ways to address these over the next two-to-five years,” the Chair of PACSAR DG and Manager, Search and Rescue Planning and Business for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Christine MacMillian, said.

“The intention will be to continue to strengthen the cooperation and capability between the Pacific Island Countries and Territories through the work of the PACSAR DG,” she added.

The main priorities of the discussion group are to enhance regional cooperation on maritime and aeronautical search and rescue, and to improve and harmonise the response of Pacific Island countries and territories to people in distress at sea.

Also on the agenda is planning the seventh Regional Search and Rescue Workshop which will be hosted in Auckland in 2017 by New Zealand.

“SPC supports the Pacific Search and Rescue Discussion Group which is an efficient mechanism to coordinate efforts of the main authorities with responsibility for

FSM Postal service issues a collectable Peace Corps stamp

FSM Postal Service

July 4, 2016

Federated States of Micronesia—The U.S Peace Corps Micronesia 50th Year Anniversary Stamp is the latest addition of commemorative stamps to be issued by the FSM Postal Service.

On Saturday July 2, 2016, FSM Postmaster General Ginger Mida, U.S Ambassador Doria Rosen and Vice President Yosiwo George unveiled the 50th year commemorative stamp during the celebration of the United States Independence day and the U.S Peace Corps Micronesia 50th year anniversary at the Spanish Wall.

In commemoration of the U.S Peace Corps 50th year anniversary of service in the FSM, the U.S Peace Corps Micronesia volunteers sponsored an art contest among all the public elementary schools in the FSM.

Only one drawing was selected from each state and the winners were selected based on drawings depicting the theme, “50 Years of Growth, Exchange, and Partnership.”

The winners of the art contest were Krystal Lelay Gilmete from Enipein Elementary School (Pohnpei State), Timothy Bruce Andrew from Utwe Elementary School (Kosrae State), Junior Fritz from Udot Elementary School (Chuuk State) and Liberty Laatmol Faimau from Tamilang Elementary School (Yap State).

The U.S Peace Corps 50th Year Anniversary Stamp is the fourth stamp released by the FSM Postal Service commemorating their service here. In the previous years, the FSM Postal Services and the U.S Peace Corps Micronesia collaborated on the production of the 25th, 40th and the 45th year anniversary stamps.

The stamps are available and sold exclusively at the Post offices and the FSM Philatelic Bureau.

responding to distress at sea over vast sea areas covering most of the Pacific Island region,” SPC’s Deputy Director Transport, Thierry Nervale, said.

The meeting (28 June to 1 July) will follow the Day of the Seafarer – observed internationally each year on 25 June to celebrate seafarers.

The PACSAR DG was established following the fourth Search and Rescue Workshop held in Cairns, Australia, in 2011 to provide leadership for the development and improvement of search and rescue practices and resources in the region.

Library books sent as donations to Micronesian schools, public libraries

The Friends of the Library of Hawaii book sale at the McKinley High School cafeteria ended Sunday afternoon, but for the books not sold, it's the beginning of a journey to the Western Pacific.

When the sale ended at 2 p.m., volunteers from the local Micronesian community, Morgan Stanley and the Farrington High School football team swooped in and got to work. They boxed and loaded into containers about 10,000 unsold books

that will be donated to schools and public libraries in Palau and Pohnpei.

“Education and knowledge is power, so in these places in Micronesia, they don't get the broadband to get the information as quick and efficiently as we can here, so these books will help expand Micronesia's education greatly,” said Cierra Nakamura, volunteer coordinator for Reachout Pacific. Besides books, the containers are being loaded with school furniture from Palama Settlement and a variety of medical supplies from Shriners Hospital.

As for the money raised from the books that did sell, the Friends of the Library of Hawaii is hoping for a final tally of about \$200,000, money that will support programs that the state budget doesn't, like the summer reading programs throughout the state's 50 public libraries.

Tri Marine confident MSC status to boost Pacific brand

PNA Tuna Market Intelligence

Tri Marine says its own Marine Stewardship Council Certification status, proving its tuna is caught sustainably, will augur well for sales of the Parties to Nauru Agreement/Pacific brand.

Tri Marine has achieved MSC certification of two fisheries. One is for skipjack and yellowfin caught by US flag purse seiners operating out of American Samoa fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention area. The other is for Solomon Island flag purse seiners and pole and line boats catching yellowfin and skipjack within Solomon Islands' archipelagic waters and Exclusive Economic Zone.

Tri Marine Internationals Managing Director Phil Roberts said they had been working closely with PNA/Pacific to supply PNA MSC skipjack to a major Australian brand John West: "This marked the first major MSC contract for Pacific and Tri Marine is proud to have partnered with Pacific and the brand concerned on this exciting project. With the PNA fishery being the most sizeable source of MSC certified skipjack/yellowfin in the world, we are confident that this will be a catalyst for much more MSC business for Pacific."

Roberts said it will be business as usual in terms of its relationship with PNA: "Tri Marine's client vessels will continue to operate under PNA's MSC certification and supply the volumes required as demand continues to increase. In addition to our partnership with PNA, our own MSC fisheries certification expands MSC certification to now cover a larger proportion of the fishing grounds for our US and Solomon Islands' fishing fleets, which are not included in the PNA assessment, including Solomon Islands archipelagic waters, US territorial waters, and the waters of other non-PNA member countries."

PNA office releases analysis of new US agreement

PNA Tuna Market Intelligence

The PNA has done its own analysis on the pros and cons of the latest US Treaty renegotiation. On the upside, the US fleet is now subject to national laws (in the previous Treaty it over-rode national laws), the US fleet will also be fully subject to the Vessel Day Scheme without exemptions, and efforts by the US to meddle with the PNA's Scheme have been rejected.

On the downside, PNA was less happy about the fact Vessel Day Scheme participants are obligated to offer days to the US fleet at a fixed price for 4 years and the US fleet doesn't have to buy them, plus the arrangement tends to undermine the leverage of the VDS for investment in domestic development because it provides long term access for the US fleet without them having to invest in Pacific countries.

The PNA is also concerned with arrangements for the US Government to be notified of changes to the Vessel Day Scheme and arrangements for additional days.

They feel these concessions have been made solely for the purpose of securing the US Government \$21m Pacific-wide contribution, which will largely benefit the non-PNA countries which fishing nations are less interested in.

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New JICA Technical Cooperation for Hybrid Power Generation aims at fuel reduction and energy security of the FSM

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) dispatched the Detail Design Planning Survey Team (referred to as "the Team") headed by Mr. Tadayuki Ogawa, Senior Advisor from Energy and Power Sector, to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from the 9th to 13th of May, 2016. The main purpose of the visit was the preparation of the technical Project for Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System in the Pacific Island Countries" which is expected to commence around November of this year.

During this visit, the team had a series of discussions for the purpose of working out the framework and contents of the Project with Mr. Yamada, FSM Department of Resources and Development (DR&D)

and representatives: Mr. Waite, Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation (CPUC), Mr. Taulupe and Mr. Joe, Kosrae Utilities Authority (KUA), Mr. Anson and Mr. Kilmete, Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) and Mr. Nabeyan, Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC). The team and those representatives also observed the power station in Nanpohnmal, and COM campus, the President Office and Madolenihmw those of which sites currently have

installed PV system.

Observing PV system facility at COM campus donated by Japan

"The Hybrid Island Initiative" which was launched at PALM7 in May 2015 by JICA aims to improve hybrid grid system for fossil fuel reduction and energy security. Since the renewable energy supply is unstable, the right balance between fossil fuel with appropriate operation and renewable energy can give stable supply and reduce the fossil fuel consumption. In line with this "the Hybrid Island Initiative", the project has been set up and will target in FSM, RMI, Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu within the Pacific Region for five years.



Project contents discussion with representatives from Dept. R&D, CPUC, PUC, KUA, YSPSC, JICA Survey Team and JICA Staff

PACIFIC WOMEN SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

Call for Expressions of Interest

> Pacific Women Gender Advisory Panel

The Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) program is establishing a Gender Advisory Panel of 30 Gender Specialists and Gender Practitioners to support the provision of high-quality technical and strategic advice across fourteen Pacific Island countries.

The *Pacific Women* Gender Advisory Panel will form a sustainable, readily available source of gender expertise across a wide range of areas, including gender policy, program design and implementation; women's economic empowerment; women in leadership and decision making; ending violence against women; and capacity development to promote gender equality.

The panel will facilitate rapid external gender technical assistance through a pre-approved two-tier list of experts; specialists at a senior level (10+ years) and practitioners at a mid-level (5+ years) of experience. Panel members will include a mix of international and Pacific gender advisers and represent a range of experts (independent consultants). Working closely with the *Pacific Women* Support Unit based in Suva (Fiji) and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), panel members will be engaged on an as-needed basis to support DFAT staff and implementing partners.

Pacific Women is a 10-year program funded by the Australian Government and focused on enabling women and men across the 14 Pacific Islands Forum member countries.

Positions are open to Pacific Island nationals and international consultants. Pacific experience is preferred but not essential.

Applications should be made through the Cardno website and should include a CV, a cover letter that addresses the selection criteria specified in the relevant terms of reference, and a recent sample of work that demonstrates writing and analytical skills of the applicant.

A Call for Expressions of Interest and Terms of References for the tiers are available at www.cardno.com/jobsearch and search for the key word of the job you are interested in applying for :

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GO LOCAL for CHEEF Benefits Presents to HAP and Pohnpei/Kosrae Catholic Youth

By Mona Tara, Office Manager/IFCP

Xavier High School Apprentice Summer Program visits IFCP

The beautiful birds were singing in the botanical garden on Friday morning of June 24, 2016, while almost 90 summer students of High School Apprentice Program (HAP), walked toward the Island Food Community of Pohnpei office to learn what IFCP is all about. It is a Xavier program for recruiting potential future freshmen to enter this high school. This visit was facilitated by staff of Xavier and current Xavier Senior and Junior Students from Pohnpei.

Emihner Johnson, the Acting Executive Director of IFCP gave the presentation on the CHEEF benefits. Some of the students said that it was their first time to learn that local food is very good and healthy and they would share this information with their families.

IFCP would like to thank our volunteer Ms Alice Ehmes for her kind hands and heart.

Pohnpei Catholic Youth Camp

While the sun was still shining in the afternoon of June 24, 2016, the Island Food Community of Pohnpei staff happily drove all way to the old PATS compound in Madolenihmw. IFCP was invited to participate in the Pohnpei Catholic Youth Camp that started on Friday afternoon, June 24 and ended Sunday, June 26, 2016. Their theme: "Kitail me pwulopwul en rahnwet anahne wauneki, kesempwaliki, oh apwalih sampah me kitail koukouson powe".or "We the Youth of today must respect, value and take good care of the Earth we live on".

Mrs. Emihner Johnson happily did her presentation on CHEEF benefits: Cultural, Health, Environment, Economy and Food Security to almost 300 young people from Sacred Heart church, Saint Phillip and Saint Augustine church in Madolenihmw, Our Lady of Church in Kolonia, Immaculate Heart church in Seinwar, Kitti and Saint Peter in Sokehs.

The Youth leaders were happy that IFCP presentation was in line with their theme. In addition to the CHEEF benefits presentation, Emihner also shared with the youth the fact that consuming too much additives commonly known as salt, sugar, and fat is not healthy because it causes high blood pressure, heart attack and diabetes.

Island Food Community of Pohnpei would like to thank Senator David Panuelo and US DOI Tap Program for funding assistance.



Pohnpei/Kosrae Catholic Youth summer camp



Ryback Malachi and Karen Ehmes of Xavier High School with IFCP Staff

Education Corner:

July 6, 2016

The EC has been writing for some time now about just how do we know our students are learning or have learned the standards. We have used the term evidence and realize for now we are speaking of student test scores on the examinations given to all FSM students. For the present the concern is improving scores in the English language arts and mathematics. Tests in these areas have been given for a number of years. Somewhat disappointing results certainly means improvement is called for.

Last edition there was more reference to the Cognitive Domain or the thinking domain. We had Magellan landing in Guam in 1521 and some information on Magellan's expedition. Then we had some things about Captain Cook's voyages. The idea was after students have some lessons on the explorers' teachers gather their evidence. The teachers measure whether students can define, choose correctly, explain, compare, contrast, take apart, put together or even evaluate their knowledge of explorers. And it was mentioned that teachers should be gathering their evidence as they go along—not just mid-term or final examinations.

Today I saw for the first time the Pohnpei Studies Standards so I looked to see if they looked measurable and they did. I see where 2nd grade students must identify and explain cultural activities taking place in their local community (e.g., sususuk, nohpwei, peipei or laid) and two family or community elders who practice the activity. The teacher can measure this. I see that 2nd grade students should be able to: Identify the traditional tools used to make an uhmw (e.g., tihpw, dih, and pali) and the actions involving each component of an uhmw (e.g., gathering, preparing, assembling, and discarding). I believe a 2nd grade teachers can measure this. Likewise there are measurable standards for Pohnpei Studies in every grade through high school

along with the Pohnpeian language every grade and every year. This is far from an easy task. But this is what the traditional leaders, parents and the Pohnpeian community wants. Pohnpeians want their culture and the most important culture marker—the Pohnpeian language preserved. We want our students to know their culture and know their proper vernacular language. One day we would expect a 12th grader should be able to write Pohnpeian at a successful COMET level---that would be a terrific goal.

But readers should ask is the evidence of learning in the Cognitive Domain what we really want? Do you want students to be able to pass tests on their culture as described above? Do we want students to define respect or be respectful? Do we want students to name 20 healthy Pohnpeian foods for an A and never eat them or eat 10 imported junk foods each day? Or with culture are we looking for evidence in the Affective Domain?

Recall this has to do with an area that includes values, attitudes, feelings and emotions. Certainly, teachers teach attitudes and are concerned with emotions and feelings. We really want our students to be proud to be Pohnpeian while respecting the cultures of others. Teachers want students to have good attitudes and not bad attitudes. We want our students to be respectful, caring and thoughtful of others. These are Pohnpeian values. We want students to almost love being Pohnpeian. We want our students to appreciate their culture. When we listen to the community we know they expect the students to be able to do more than define culture. We want our students showing respect, and caring for others not defining or describing what respect is. If this is what is wanted the schools can do only so much. Readers-students are in school six (6) hours each day or 30 hours per week. The PDOE can do its best to preserve culture "on paper" and can do this. But if it is more than Cognitive Domain results the community wishes—it is the community that must do the bulk or the work. The traditional leaders and our valued elders must lead parents and teachers. But most importantly students must see community members practicing Pohnpeian values and cultural traditions. This is where a young Pohnpeian learns to BE a Pohnpeian. So community your PDOE will be doing as the community wishes but remember your children are only in schools but a short time—they are with you the rest of the time.

Lastly we want our student speaking, reading and writing proper Pohnpeian (or first Micronesian language) not Pohnpeish. It is here the PDOE truly counts on the traditional leaders and the elders. We are told by our language experts that much of the proper language is not practiced in the community. So this Pohnpei Studies and rededication to the Pohnpeian language is being welcomed as part of the curriculum. It is just fine that we have come full circle in education. Before there were school buildings and certified teachers-education was the job of the family and particularly the elders. It worked for several thousand years-it must be made to work once again. womackandassociates765@gmail.com

Richard Womack, Ed.D





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Yamaha and PITC sponsor Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament

Pohnpei Fishing Club

Yamaha and its local dealer PITC sponsored a fishing tournament on Saturday, July 2 that attracted 16 boats and netted fishers who were lucky enough to catch fish some nice prizes.

It was a beautiful day, but maybe too nice for some fishermen. Still others were able to come up with some great fish. Two big marlins were landed and other great fish were caught.

Everyone got back safely which is also important.

The format of the tournament was a "big fish tournament" with some really nice prizes, including a Yamaha outboard motor.

The Grand Prize of a 4-stroke 6 horsepower motor was awarded to Konrad Englberger aboard the Bavaria II for his 347.2 pound marlin.

Denise Etscheit also caught a big marlin of 293.2 pounds and won the first prize of \$500.

Eugene Kohler won \$250 for his 100.1 pound yellow fin tuna

Mark Johnny landed a nice 30.6 pound mahi mahi aboard the Happy Hooker II and was awarded \$150.

Fourth prize went to Bill Dakano and Johnny Marrington for their 26.9 pound sister wahoos and

were each awarded 10 gallons of straight gasoline from PITC.

The fifth prize of five gallons of straight gasoline went to Rospein Hawley aboard Salt life for a 26.7 pound mahi mahi.

The club has a brand new scale provided by Dr. Hedson and used it for the first time during the weigh in for the tournament.

They also had a barbecue with proceeds going to support the Pohnpei Public Library. The fundraising is now going for new computers.

Many thanks to Mangrove Bay for hosting and Kumer's guys for helping, also a big hand goes out to Bill, Francisco, Tina, Cel and all the others who helped make the weigh in a success.

The next Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament will be on July 16 at the Andt atoll.




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