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FSM's Yolanda Joab brings a powerful message to the world with a powerful voice



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 1, 2016

Ottawa, Canada—1300 “One Young World” Ambassadors gave the FSM’s own Yolanda Joab a standing ovation after her speech in Ottawa, Canada. It was the only standing ovation given for a

delegate speech during any of the plenary sessions during the One Young World summit.

This year the subjects chosen for the plenary sessions were Education, Environment, Global Business, Health, Human Rights, and Peace and Security. Joab, 26, was one of five speakers chosen from among hundreds of applicants in an extremely competitive process.

One Young World was founded in 2009 by David Jones and Kate
See “One World” on page 5

FSM Labor and Immigration temporarily reverses decision to expel foreign workers

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 13, 2016

Federated States of Micronesia—In late August, the FSM’s Department of Labor and Immigration (L&I) notified Pohnpei’s Chief of the State Labor Office that it was returning applications for 46 foreign employees without its endorsement. The letter said that Pohnpei should notify the employers of those foreign workers that they should make arrangements for the employees to leave the FSM’s jurisdiction within 15 days of the notice.

The vast majority of the foreign workers listed on the letter were Filipinos. Jose Gallen, FSM’s Secretary for the Department of Justice (DOJ) said that is “because they constitute more than 80% of alien labor in this country.”

Two days later the Chuuk Office of FSM Labor and Immigration similarly notified employers in Chuuk that it would not be
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Repairs on the main fiber optic line will mean Internet limitations

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 14, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—FSM Telecommunications has announced that from October 31 through November 8, Internet services will be slower than usual. The dates have changed several times since the announcement was first released and may yet change again. Telecom has said that it will keep its valued customers posted if the date further needs to be changed.

In order to minimize the impact on its customers as the main fiber optic line is being repaired, Telecom will be switching to satellite service. It means that for about a week, Internet services will be back to the bandwidth that was available before the fiber optic cable landed in Pohnpei several years ago. It will be very slow. There may also be voice quality degradation.

FSMTC is asking its customers to be considerate and to minimize their internet usage to the bare essentials such as email and messaging. Streaming videos during that time will only degrade the Internet service for
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IN THIS ISSUE

USAID partners with Peace Corps Response in Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction

On September 30th, workers in the community of Piis Paneu, a small island within Chuuk's lagoon, completed construction on the island's first home as part of the continuing rebuilding efforts following Typhoon Maysak. Peace Corps Response Volunteer, Steve H., led a group of eight Chuukese community workers, guiding them through the work plan designed by USAID and IOM architects and engineers.

Steve previously served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chuuk and is familiar with the language, culture, and people:

"I was in the Peace Corps on the outer island of Onoun, part of the Namonuito Atoll in Chuuk State, from 1967-69. I've had almost 50 years to reflect on that experience and the degree to which it shaped my life... The opportunity to return this year to help in the reconstruction efforts following Typhoon Maysak struck me as an ideal way to express that gratitude in a real way, on the ground. Onoun was hard hit by Typhoon Amy in 1971 and I missed that entirely. This time, I wanted to pitch in and help out."

Steve is one of four Peace Corps Response Volunteers working on Typhoon Maysak reconstruction in Chuuk. Acting Peace Corps Country Director, Elizabeth Neason, clarifies the difference between the Peace Corps and Peace Corps Response programs:

"Peace Corps Response is different from our regular two-year volunteers. Response volunteers serve three months to a year depending on the objectives.

Their projects are targeted, with a specific set of deliverables... in this case we have an agreement with USAID to provide volunteers in service construction. The partnership seems to be working really well."

The four volunteers will spend the next year partnering with IOM and USAID as part of the Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project, an effort to rebuild homes and public infrastructure in the FSM following Typhoon Maysak in April 2015. Over 50 homes have been constructed on Weno by Chuukese construction workers. The home in Piis Paneu represents the first to be built off of Chuuk's main island. The Peace Corps Response volunteers oversee the construction while receiving input and guidance from IOM, which is responsible for ensuring that the homes maintain consistency and are built to high standards of quality. Once the house is completed, it undergoes a series of checks and inspections by IOM's engineers. All of the Peace Corps Response Volunteers in Chuuk were selected based on their expertise in construction techniques:

"My father was a contractor. I learned to work and build with my hands when I was a kid," states Steve. "Chuuk has great carpenters and many are great with tools. I was familiar with the types of shelter they used, but even more so, I knew the culture. Being able to laugh and make jokes is one of the great parts of being out here. My immediate family is all gone. I felt drawn to do something for my Chuukese family. This story isn't about me - it's about them."



Steve and his team of Chuukese community construction workers



Steve at his work site Piis Paneu



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Pacific dialogue centers on human rights

11 October 2016

Nadi, Fiji – A regional consultation has opened in Fiji today on the participation of Pacific Island countries in the United Nations-led review process of national human rights records.

The consultation will assist 11 Pacific countries to prepare for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by sharing stories of impact and major gains, including examples of best practice in the region.

It is the latest event organised by the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) to help countries commit to, and observe, international human rights standards.

Supported by the European Union, the Government of the Netherlands and the Australian Government, the four-day (11-14 October) human rights dialogue in Nadi provides a platform for Pacific countries to share their experiences with the UPR process and learn from one another.

In her opening remarks, SPC Deputy Director-General, Dr Audrey Aumua, saluted the efforts under the UPR process to date by Federated State of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

“The Pacific region has been able to utilise the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, as well as other treaty body processes, and these have provided an opportunity to promote and protect the rights of Pacific people, focused at the national level,” Dr Aumua said.

“This south-south learning on relevant challenges and achievements is important and so is documenting the journey of interacting with this global UN process, not only for ourselves but as an accountability process for people in our region,” she said.

All Pacific States have completed two four-year UPR cycles (2008-2011 and 2013-2016), with the third set to take place over four years from April 2017 to 2021.

For Pacific countries that are UN Member States, it provides the opportunity to draw the world’s attention to the realities and challenges of implementing human rights and declare what actions they have taken to improve human rights in their countries.

This includes how States have begun to implement the human rights recommendations from the UPR; the challenges small islands states experience in

implementing accepted recommendations; and identifying possible strategies towards advancing recommendations.

The dialogue this week will raise awareness of challenges that may need addressing with the assistance of donors and other bilateral partnerships, and also map implementation strategies between reviews, including identifying policies, models, mechanisms and tools for implementation.

Convicts send letters asking to be removed from Guam

*By John O'Connor
Reprinted by permission of
Guam Daily Post*

Guam—Four convicts originally from Chuuk have propositioned Gov. Eddie Calvo to have their sentences commuted in exchange for being removed from Guam, never to return. Calvo said he received the letters recently and one of the inmates even wrote a second letter stating his family would be willing to pay for the trip back to Chuuk.

“Here are prisoners that voluntarily want to remove themselves and not be a burden to our correctional system and our tax payers ... The only problem now is ... even if I were to agree, even if the convicts want to go back to their home country, it appears now with the policy of the (government of the Federated States of Micronesia), that is not their desire.”

No assistance

In September, Adelup issued a release stating the FSM Consulate General Office had indicated it would no longer assist in the removal of migrant criminals from Guam. At that time, an inmate from the Department of Corrections was identified for permanent removal to his home state of Yap. While he had the travel documents required for FSM citizens traveling into the Micronesian nation, the governor’s office was told the individual would not be allowed back into the FSM.

“Over the course of the last two months, the government of Guam has requested that the Consulate of the Federated States of Micronesia verify the citizenship of several individuals who are incarcerated in jail in Guam, and who have been selected for the commutation of their sentence and eventual repatriation back to the FSM,” stated a letter from the FSM government.

“Although I have previously provided

information to the government of Guam certifying that the individuals in question are FSM citizens, I can no longer do so.”

Stumbling block

Calvo later wrote a letter to FSM President Peter Christian about his government’s refusal to assist in the removals. While he said there was some “victory” in seeing convicts want to return to their home island of their own accord, the position of the FSM government has become something of a stumbling block for his own policy, which has so far seen 11 inmates removed from Guam’s correction system. Of the individuals removed, seven have been from Chuuk.

About a third of Guam’s prisoners are non-U.S. citizens, according to Calvo, who criticized the federal government for its lack of action in helping alleviate the island’s overcrowded prison system by deporting convicted non-citizens. Calvo said his decision to commute sentences and remove migrant criminals was not a “get out of jail card” but a decision to keep island residents safe.

The last six criminals whose sentences were commuted were turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation.

Bill Raynor still giving to the NGOs he loved so much

On Thursday, September 8th, around the island buzz of the Pacific Island Forum, a small ceremony was held at the Care Micronesia Foundation’s NGO Center at the old MicSem building. Bill Raynor’s younger brother, Tom Raynor, had flown to Pohnpei to hand over three checks from Bill’s estate. He gave \$10,000 each for the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and Island Food Community of Pohnpei, \$50,000 to TNC’s Micronesia Program, and \$50,000 to the Micronesian Conservation Trust for the new Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Endowment Fund. Bill was a founding member/incorporator for three of the organizations (CSP, IFCP and MCT) and also served on the Boards of all three. Tom came and visited Bill’s family and participated in the one year anniversary remembrances of his passing and visited with the organizations Bill cared about. There were representatives from IFCP, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, MCT, The Nature Conservancy, and Bill’s daughter and her husband were present at the ceremony.

Even though he has left us, his presence is still being felt in large ways!



Director of CSP Eugene Joseph and Board Member Sammy Moses with Tom Raynor.



Director of MCT Willy Kostka and Board Member Doreen de Brum accepting a check from Tom.

...Fiber Optic

Continued from front page

all customers during that time.

The television stations that are streamed over the Internet will also be affected.

The problem with the fiber optic line is a matter that is out of Telecom’s control and is on the mainline, not the spur that leads to Pohnpei.

“An updated notice will be disseminated to the public when the repair is completed and services restored”, the announcement says. “Kindly direct your questions or concerns to your nearest FSMTC office or to customerservice@fsmtc.fm.”

Strategic partnership to strengthen emergency management and resilience

4 October 2016

Port Vila, Vanuatu – The Government of Vanuatu and the Australian Capital Territory Emergency Service Agency (ACTESA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding today to support the mutual exchange of technical assistance in emergency management and strengthen the long-term resilience of the Pacific Island country.

This strategic collaboration has been facilitated in partnership with the Pacific Island Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) which is implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) and funded by the European Union's €19.37million ACP-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project.

PIEMA is dedicated to creating safer Pacific communities and connecting emergency responders that are working to the highest standards with Pacific Island emergency response agencies to promote the transfer of knowledge and long-term cooperation.

"Although our geography and hazards are different, our size and the strategic emergency management issues are very similar. Our Emergency Services Agency is currently implementing reforms to improve the coordination and interoperability between the emergency services and the only way to provide the safety and resilience our communities

expect, is to work together as one," ACT Fire and Rescue Chief Officer, Mark Brown said at the official signing.

In addition to the signing at the Vanuatu Mobile Force Headquarters in Port Vila, ACTESA handed over two firefighting vehicles to the Vanuatu Government to strengthen emergency response efforts.

ACTESA also conducted a week-long induction on the driving, operation and maintenance of the new firefighting vehicles with Vanuatu's fire and emergency service personnel prior to today's ceremony as well as specialist training on the hydraulic "Jaws of Life" rescue equipment that is carried on the fire trucks.

"The Vanuatu government and Vanuatu Mobile Force proudly acknowledge the Australian Capital Territory Emergency Services Agency (ACTESA) not only for the generous donation of the two fire vehicles but also for being prepared to join with us for a long term partnership to share our learnings and knowledge and build our emergency management capacity and capability," Vanuatu Mobile Force Acting Commander, Lt. Colonel, Terry Tulang said.

Lt. Colonel Tulang also thanked the European Union for providing crucial funds to facilitate the vehicles' delivery to Vanuatu and commended joint efforts to develop a fire and emergency services legislation that aims to improve and expand Vanuatu's response and community safety capabilities.

"The series of initiatives being delivered to Vanuatu is a perfect example of the how the SPC hosted PIEMA is supporting Pacific Island nations to achieve

excellence in emergency management and build safer communities and we acknowledge the commitment of development partners like the European Union in supporting these important efforts," SPC Regional Director, Melanesia, Mia Rimon said.

"We congratulate the government and people of Vanuatu for pursuing these strategic initiatives and proudly support their planning, implementation and delivery," Ms Rimon said.

SPC, supported by the European Union, has also been involved in assisting the government of Vanuatu with the development of a Fire and Emergency Services Act. This new legislation, when adopted, will see significant reform and strengthening of existing fire services to expand their current roles to include additional services that can benefit the entire country.

...Immigration

Continued from front page

renewing contracts for foreign laborers. Shortly thereafter, several business owners and employers in Chuuk received letters detailing the names of their foreign workers who needed to leave the FSM within 15 days of that notice.

At least one attorney petitioned the action on behalf of a client. An Assistant Attorney General at FSM DOJ told the attorney in an email that DOJ had instructed L&I to rescind the letter.

Isaac Artui of Pohnpei's Labor Office said that there was never any formal written communication saying that the L&I letter had been rescinded. He said that his office received a phone call from L&I saying that they should go ahead and process the labor permits for the named employees.

"It was not rescinded," Gallen said during an online chat. "It was only extended for the next 6 months and up to a year to give all employers and their alien employees time to develop their plans to train up locals to do the work that most of the alien laborers are doing."

Artui said that the State labor authorities have not been notified that the FSM merely deferred the action rather than rescinding it outright.

"For the record," Gallen said, "currently the National Government is reviewing the FSM Labor laws and regulations including FSM Foreign Investment laws and regulations to (be) more economically and socially driven in the interest of the FSM given the current trend of increased and dominant foreign laborers in the country, and the mass exodus of FSM citizens leaving the FSM, and their families looking for...better opportunities than in the FSM. This is politically, socially, and economically incorrect."

"Why are we hiring more aliens to do the work that the locals can do," Gallen wrote. "Why are we allowing our

citizens to leave the country to look for opportunity outside? Two simple answers: 1) We are not providing the opportunity; 2) Government and private sectors prefer outsiders because they do not have funerals. These are wrong—politically wrong and economically wrong."

The FSM's letter to the Pohnpei labor office said that the FSM Code "states the functions and duties of employment service which is 'to conduct continuing surveys of manpower needs, assist in preparing training programs, and recommend other measures for alleviating shortages and reducing the need for nonresident workers.'"

Gallen confirmed that the FSM has not been conducting labor surveys to determine whether or not qualified locals are available for positions that are currently being filled by foreign nationals.

Artui said that the Pohnpei Office of Personnel and Labor has been doing surveys. He claims that the move by FSM L&I is an attempt to wrest control of the process of issuing permits from the States. "We have our own labor laws for the best interest of Pohnpei State," he said.

Gallen asserts that employers have not been training locals to fill positions currently occupied by alien workers. He didn't answer when we asked several times if that had been happening in the retail businesses he owns.

Some FSM employers have complained that they quite often spend time and money to train their fellow citizens only to have those employees take their new skills to Guam or to the US mainland.

Artui said that his office has issued work permits to all of the alien workers mentioned on L&I's list, so at least until it is time to once again renew the permits, those employees are legally authorized to work under their contracts. He said that his office would continue to issue permits for applications that meet the requirements of the law and with Pohnpei's labor needs.

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...One World

Continued from front page

Robertson. They are a UK-based charity that gathers together the brightest young leaders from around the world, empowering them to make lasting connections to create positive change.

They stage an annual Summit where the most valuable young talent from global and national companies, NGOs, universities and other forward-thinking organizations are joined by world leaders, acting as the One Young World Counselors.

At the Summit, delegates debate, formulate and share innovative solutions for the pressing issues the world faces.

Joab said that each chosen speaker was paired with a counselor. The counselor and the delegate spend some time before the plenary sessions getting to know each other. After several people had asked to have their photograph taken with the man assigned to be her counselor she asked, "What are you, some sort of rockstar?" He just laughed and didn't answer. When she finished her speech he enthusiastically congratulated her, gave her a hug and said, "You're the rock star!" It was Bruce Dickinson the lead vocalist for the internationally famous heavy metal band, Iron Maiden. Dickinson divides his time between his job as a commercial pilot of jumbo jets and touring with the powerful Iron Maiden.

The video shows an obviously very nervous Yolanda Joab introducing her topic and telling the audience that that we "need the most carbon polluting nations to take action." But that doesn't mean that Pacific Islanders are "merely waiting to be saved" nor "standing idly by... We are adapting! We are fighting," she said.

"Well, I am the walking and talking reminder that came here all the way from the Pacific Islands of the Federated States of Micronesia so that we DON'T forget," she said and was interrupted by applause. She gave a slight smile and the speech took off pausing only when the audience erupted in applause several times.

She quickly dispensed with the necessary and impressive but potentially boring statistics from CADRE "Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction & Education Program" For five years she has worked in the FSM, RMI and Palau to educate more than 10,000 school students in 62 schools in 57 communities.

Bruce Dickinson,
"You're the rock star!"



The program has been helping island communities to take matters into their own hands and develop schemes for tackling climate change according to their own needs.

It has resulted in sea walls being erected on the islands of Kosrae and Pohnpei, she told the audience. Rainwater stations have been set up in schools across the region. Other schools, which previously lacked reliable energy sources, have installed solar panels. In Chuuk, under-served schools have been rejuvenated through the introduction of sanitation and clean water programs.

"But this isn't about numbers," she said, "it's about people... But for me personally it's about raising of a generation of young Micronesians knowledgeable of this reality because if we don't stand up for ourselves then who will?"

"It's not just about the big and expensive solutions, it's usually the smallest steps that make the biggest difference," she said and the audience interrupted with applause again.

But Joab told the audience of 1300 young leaders from more than 190 countries that "climate change is not just our problem," and that islanders deserved support.

"We are co-owners, co-creators and co-authors in this story and it can have a very different ending from what I fear," she said. "But only if, in addition to what we are doing back home, our global community pours the same amount of energy, time and effort into investing in renewable energy technology the same way we did as inventing the same iPhone, over and over again," and the audience interrupted

again with thunderous applause.

She called on the media to give the same attention to "the untold stories of indigenous people struggling to preserve their oceans" as they give to reality television shows like "Keeping up with the Kardashians."

Joab concluded that mankind's history showed that it possesses the means to tackle the climate change problem and called the young leaders to action. "Show me that we can work together, show me that greatness that I know is in all of us and let's change this course together."

Joab is currently in Taiwan as a fellow at the East West Center's Pacific Island Leadership program. She said that before she could agree to be a fellow she had to get permission to take part both in the One Young World summit and also to do a dramatic presentation on climate change and the environment at the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) World Conservation Congress in Hawaii she'd been invited to give again in front of a world audience.

We told her that we were disappointed that the video of her speech hadn't gone viral though it had been seen by many people all over the world. "The goal was never about going viral but to move the people in my audience to think about this and move it up their priority list but to also collect Micronesians and other Pacific Islanders behind this and serve as a voice and ambassador that is worthy of the story we have," she wrote. "On those standards...and all of the connections I made after that from people from all over the globe, plus seeing how much my fellow countrymen and women appreciated it

and were hungry for a positive light to be shown on us for once, I'm happy. The only way from here is up!"

Sometime after her speech, Joab wrote another impassioned plea on her Facebook page.

"I came to the One Young World Summit, myself and country a stranger. I left known as the girl in the green dress in front of a standing ovation. My country not so unfamiliar anymore; the fabric of that dress, from home, sewn together by the hands of my aunt."

"So many have asked me why and how I spoke the way I did. My question is, how could I not? No one really questions other countries for building up militaries, clandestine services or border patrol all in the name of national security. For us, climate change is a matter of national security. Though it may not look like a state of emergency to most right now, as a mother, it sure does feel like it. The worst case scenario may be waiting down the line decades from now, but the time to turn it around is now.

"Most of our islands are just like strips of fabric from that dress. Green and beautiful, laying thinly on top of the Pacific Ocean. Unknown to the world, until the girl born from it and wearing it on her skin spoke out.

"To the many of you from all corners of the world that came up to me, thanked me, and embraced me, do something for me so that I can thank you in return soon. Do what you can to ensure your leaders are upholding the COP21 Paris Agreement. For those of you who were against what I did on that stage, I thank you now, for being the fuel to my fire. I invite you to muster up more of the courage that is required of you to sit behind the shadows of your computer screens and throw anonymous and faceless negativity, but also dare to step into the light in front of a crowd of 1,300 and make your case. I will listen. If you still doubt, I invite you to come to our islands and see for yourself. If you do, I assure you, you will be treated with that warm island hospitality that separates us Davids from the rest of the Goliath world. Kalahngan Lap & Kinisou Chapwur."

King of Morocco's climate change gift to Pacific island countries – all expenses paid to COP22

By Morocco World News

October 10, 2016

Marakech, Morocco—Morocco has announced it would pay for “Travel Expenses and Accommodation” for Pacific island countries’ Heads of State and their delegations to the United Nations climate summit, called COP22, taking place in Morocco next month.

The High Instructions of HM King Mohammed VI was formally announced by Morocco’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Omar Hilale during a ceremony where the European Union presented their ratification instruments that enabled the Paris Agreement to cross the necessary ratification thresholds.

Mr Hilale said the royal decision is an act of solidarity to allow the Heads of State for Pacific island countries – the most vulnerable to climate change – to attend the Marrakech conference to highlight their vision to meet the challenges of climate change.

The President of the UN General Assembly, Fiji’s Peter Thomson, asked Mr Hilale to convey his deep gratitude to HM King Mohammed VI for the noble royal gesture.

Mr Hilale also welcomed and re-emphasized the EU’s ratification of the Paris Agreement, which allowed the crossing of the Paris Agreement’s double threshold of ratification: 55 countries and 55 percent of emissions.

FSM and JICA aims for the promotion of solid waste management through implementation of JPRISM II

The Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (JPRISM II) is once again underway for the Federated States of Micronesia. The overall goal is “Sustainable management of solid waste in the Pacific region is enhanced based on Pacific Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025(Cleaner Pacific 2015)”, which was adopted by the 26th SPREP Meeting in September 2015.

The first delegation of a Basic Design Team on JPRISM II headed by Mr. Junji Ishizuka from Global Environmental Department of JICA Headquarters along with three consultants from EX Research Institute, Ltd., and KOKUSAI KOGYO CO., LTD visited each State in the FSM from June 8th to July 4th, 2016 to discuss on the Project contents for working out the framework of the Project with related authorities from the National and State departments such as Office of Environment & Emergency Management (OEEM), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Pohnpei, Chuuk, & Yap, Yap Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T), Department of



Final Consultation meeting between FSM and 2nd Basic Design Team on JPRISM II from JICA Headquarters

Transportation & Infrastructure (DT&I) of Pohnpei and Chuuk, Pohnpei Waste Management Services (PWMS), and Kosrae Island Resource Management (KIRMA). On 11th Aug, the second Basic Design Team on JPRISM II mission, headed by Mr. Mimpei Ito, held a final consultation meeting along with invited representatives from counterpart agencies of Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and SPREP, in which they concluded the contents of the Project Design Matrix (PDM), Plan of Operation (PO), and the draft Record of Discussion (R/D).

Through the assistance of JPRISM II, each state will revise the current State Solid Waste Management Strategy (SSWMS) in line with the Cleaner Pacific (2016-2015). Good practices of solid waste management/3R in country and the region will be also promoted during the phase II. OEEM will also support those activities. Furthermore, improvement of waste collection in Yap and Kosrae is expected during the project.

The project expects to commence at the end of this year 2016.

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COM-FSM Hosts Round Table on a New Foreign Investment Bill

By *Mason Wiley*
COM Center for Entrepreneurship

October 5, 2016

Palikir, Pohnpei—The Young Executive Society (YES!), a student club at COM-FSM, and the Center for Entrepreneurship of COM-FSM collaborated to host a Round Table on National Campus to discuss a proposed bill that would change the way foreign investment is done in the FSM. Among other countries in the world, the FSM ranks near the bottom for friendliness towards foreign investment. The FSM National Government aims to remedy this by providing simplified processes for foreign investors. The new law would remove the responsibility of registering foreign investment from the four states of the FSM and place that power within the FSM National Government instead. Ideally, increased foreign investment could boost the FSM's economy by injecting new capital that could create new jobs while also increasing tax revenue for public services.

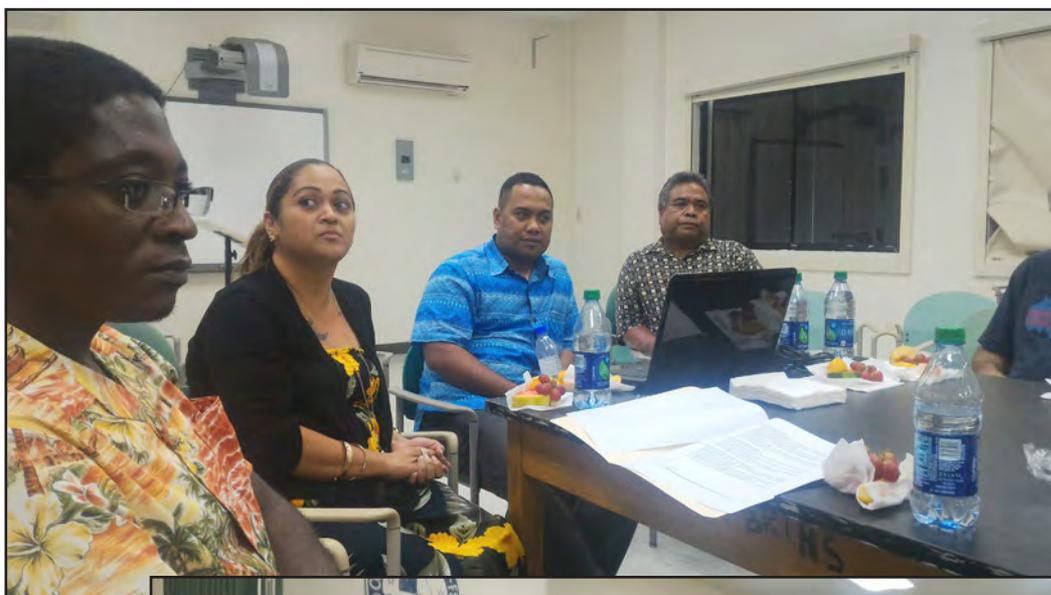
Besides the several dozen students who attended, both the FSM National Government and Pohnpei State Government sent staff to go over the details to help the students understand the effects. Florian Yatilman, National Trade Advisor with the FSM National Government, briefed the students on the purpose and scope of the bill followed by summary from Quirino Loyola of Pohnpei State's Registrar of Corporations on the role of the government in registering and promoting foreign investment. The students then had the chance to voice their opinions and ask questions. The President of YES!, Hainrick Isaac, asked for more details on how these changes may affect land ownership for FSM citizens, and was assured that the bill would not alter any constitutionally protected land rights. There was also discussion on future plans to attract foreign investment for specific industries and services.

One concern was how the new law might

affect local businesses or infringe on the states' current laws designed to protect local economies and the environment from foreign corporate interests. The FSM National Government's Assistant Secretary of Trade and Investment, Camille Movick, replied that they are working closely with the state governments, stating that the law can only work if the states favor it and want it to succeed. Many of the current restrictions on minimum capital, natural resource extraction, and protected industries may remain.

Jean Bertrand Azapmo, National Trade Adviser, encouraged students to become involved in the larger conversation as well, asking that they speak to friends and relatives to provide comments on this bill and other pending legislation. Randy Sue, a member of YES!, said that this kind of public participation is vital, but that most legislation is overly complicated and difficult to understand for many citizens. He suggested that important legislative proposals should include a digested version that explains the law in plain language. All in the room agreed.

Although foreign investment registration might not sound like a terribly exciting topic, many students walked away with a new understanding of its importance in shaping the FSM economy. Both the government officials and students agreed that conversations like these are necessary for FSM's democracy, by giving the FSM's future leaders the opportunity to understand the big topics and to voice their opinions. The Center for Entrepreneurship and YES! hope this will be the beginning of similar discussions between students and government in the future.



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Asia Pacific youth meet for a dialogue in Chengdu, China



By Avalon Edward

October 10, 2016

Chengdu, PRC—The Asian Pacific Youth Dialogue was held at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) in Chengdu, China beginning on September 20. The forum, sponsored by Perfect World, a China-based video game company, was held in order to provide a platform for discussion on topics of regional interest and a bridge to the 10th UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris next year. It was only fitting that the Asia Pacific Youth Dialogue (APYD) began on the International Day of Peace.

The three day forum was attended by 100 delegates from 46 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Each country had at least two delegates. The delegates were selected after a Call for Applications was issued via national and regional youth networks, as well as to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) online platforms.

Maverick Dores and I were fortunate enough to be selected to represent FSM.

We arrived in Chengdu, excited to meet new people, learn about the different cultures, and share ideas. The night before the official opening day, the delegates kicked off our time together with a Cultural Object Show & Tell – where each delegate had to present a cultural item and explain how it relates to youth dialogue. I spoke about the significance of lapwopwou and kol as Maverick modeled the cultural objects.

Aside from the many speeches given by selected presenters during the plenary sessions – the delegates were asked to participate in different discussions on themes we mostly related to or were interested in.

Topics included:

1. Culture in promoting positive peace
2. Promoting positive peace in a digital era
3. Gender-based violence, respect for human rights and harmonious societies
4. Climate Change
5. Combatting Extremism
6. Social Development.

After the morning thematic workshops – we had sub-regional discussions in the afternoon on the various themes and drafted recommendations that were to be submitted to UNESCO, who will then send the recommendations to inter-governmental bodies and heads of state. The recommendations submitted by the Pacific Islands 5 Key Thematic Foci follows:

We, the Youth Ambassadors from 8 Pacific countries including Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Aotearoa -New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga, at the Asia Pacific Youth Dialogue (APYD) in Chengdu China, 20th-23rd September, 2016 call upon:

Investing in Youth; Strengthening Action and Implementation

- UNESCO member states to work with National Youth Councils across the Pacific to ensure fair and proportionate representation of males, females, transgender and other marginalized youth groups. This will help to facilitate more equitable outcomes through increasing the visibility of the needs and aspirations of a diversity of youth.
- UNESCO member states to work with National Youth Councils across the Pacific to ensure fair and proportionate representation of males, females, transgender and other marginalized youth groups. This will help to facilitate more equitable outcomes through increasing the visibility of the needs and aspirations of a diversity of youth.
- UNESCO member states to support youth-led movements for self-determination in the Pacific, enabling youth to greater contribute to defining the priorities of their nation.
- UNESCO member states to further invest in entrepreneurship

training for young cultural practitioners. This will aid in empowering the creative capacity of Pacific youth through a deeper immersion in their culture whilst also contributing to more sustainable, innovative, people centered economies.

- UNESCO member states to further invest in entrepreneurship training for young cultural practitioners. This will aid in empowering the creative capacity of Pacific youth through a deeper immersion in their culture whilst also contributing to more sustainable, innovative, people-centered economies.

Strengthening Intercultural Dialogue and Regional Relationship Building

- UNESCO member states to prioritize the preservation of indigenous cultures within national school curriculum as a means to promote a more holistic education system, enhancing intercultural understanding and the preservation of cultural traditions across the Pacific.
- UNESCO member states to facilitate more action-based exchanges between Pacific Island states. This will contribute to the preservation of indigenous knowledge and the strengthening of regional relationships through increased intercultural dialogue, particularly around issues affecting youth.

Investing in Health, Cultural Wellbeing and Celebration of Diversity

- UNESCO member states to provide greater investment in health and support services for Pacific youth, particularly those addressing mental health. This investment should focus on holistic services which take into consideration the diversity of factors impacting youth health and cultural well-being.
- UNESCO member states to make greater efforts to develop supportive environments for its gender and sexuality diverse communities.

These initiatives should

also facilitate greater understanding and celebration of the diversities in and amongst these broader groupings (LGBTI, MVPFAFF).

- UNESCO member states to provide further investment in empowering the creative capacity of young people within the Pacific region through cultural, sporting, artistic and entrepreneurial pursuits such as participatory video-making, as a means to mobilize youth around violence prevention and its linkage with breaking down binary gender norms. Engaging youth through these innovative outlets will help to increase awareness around gender education, conflict resolution and the building of positive peace.

Action on Climate Change

- UNESCO member states to provide greater investment in engaging Pacific youth in the integration of indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge around issues such as climate change. This intercultural and intergenerational knowledge-sharing should take place through facilitated action-based exchanges, internships and investment in social enterprise initiatives, mobilizing a youth-centered

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

- approach to enhancing capacity-building around climate change and environmental sustainability.
- UNESCO member states to urge Australia and New Zealand to implement resettlement and displacement policies for Pacific peoples displaced by climate change. These policies should include a climate change refugee quota for small island developing states most threatened by the impacts of climate change.
- UNESCO member states to conduct a stock take on existing climate change agreements in the Pacific such as the Small Islands Developing States Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway, the outcome statement of the Third United Nations Small Island Developing States Conference (UN-SIDS) 2014, and the Pacific Climate Treaty. This will enable further recommendations to be made around the implementation and domestication of stated goals and aspirations, with a focus on greater accountability and action.

Communication and Responsible Journalism

- UNESCO member states to provide greater investment in the telecommunications sector to ensure that affordable, reliable and accessible internet is available to all countries within the Pacific. This will enhance education and vocational opportunities, particularly for Pacific youth.
- UNESCO member states to support youth-led movements for responsible journalism across the Pacific. This will foster greater accountability and awareness around issues of particular concern to youth.

I don't think I realized the enormity of the event until after a couple of Pacific Islanders and I discovered that there were over 7,000 applications submitted for this forum but that only 100 delegates were selected. Mind you, a majority of these applicants were most likely from the Asian countries but it was still an impressive feat that one of our Fijian brothers told us to take pride in.

I spent four days in China which was not enough time to talk to everyone and to learn their names. In fact, on the third day, I confessed to my roommate, Ms. Archana Reddy from Fiji that I had no idea what her name was and that I referred to her as the "girl from Fiji" when anyone would ask who I was rooming with. This was a

familiar song as most of us called each other, not by our first names but the names of our respective countries. Four days may have been short but it was enough for me to make lifelong friends and to create great memories, to learn from like-minded youth from different countries across Asia Pacific, and to reaffirm that the problems that we face in the FSM are not that different from what other countries face.

I share my experience because I know there are youth members out there who are wanting to get more involved and be a part of the dialogue that is happening. We are blessed (and cursed) as we live in an era that has made information instantaneous. I encourage the youth to take advantage of it! Feed your curiosity, educate yourself. Be aware of what is going around the world and take ownership of whatever it is you would like to explore. As Ms. Tanzila Khan, a 25 year old youth activist/entrepreneur/author from Pakistan said, "It is only when we take ownership of each other's problems and hold each other accountable that we be able to create a more peaceful world."

Pohnpei Youth Council is hosting an award ceremony for its competition on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on October 24 at COM Gym. Everyone is invited! And if you haven't, I encourage you to 'like' Pohnpei Youth Council's page on Facebook where you will be updated on events happening on island and opportunities happening abroad.



Pacific Coast Banking School announces new graduates for 2016

September 2016

FSM—Local resident, Antonio John, Vice President, Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia, graduated from Pacific Coast Banking School (PCBS) on Friday, September 2, 2016. This year's graduating class consisted of 224 executives representing 26 states, American territories and other countries. These students attended courses encompassing risk management, financial performance, and leadership to gain an executive-level understanding of the business of banking.

For 78 years, the prestigious Pacific Coast Banking School has partnered with the University of Washington Graduate School of Business to provide this three-year graduate-level program to over 10,000 members of the financial services community. Graduates attended a two-week resident session each August on the University of Washington campus, as well as completed seven rigorous inter-session written assignments, including an original management thesis.



Japanese Ambassador witnesses Taiso (exercise) at Pohnpei Catholic School

Japan's Ambassador to the FSM Ryoichi Horie visited Pohnpei Catholic School last week to witness the practice of Taiso ("exercise") that happens every morning. The exercise routine is uniquely Japanese and is also practiced in China.

During a meeting with FSM's Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert and Ambassador Horie, Father Ken Urumolug mentioned that Taiso had been introduced in Pohnpei during the time of Japanese occupation in the FSM. He said that the morning exercises are still a part of the daily activities of Pohnpei Catholic School students and invited the Ambassador to come and witness the morning ritual.



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Pacific-Caribbean learning exchange to strengthen capacity for researchers and extension officers

Monday 10 October, 2016

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Nine Pacific Island researchers and extension officers commenced a two week learning exchange in the Caribbean islands of Jamaica and Trinidad. Over the next 2 weeks extension officers from Vanuatu, Samoa, PNG, Fiji and the Pacific Community will learn and exchange practices covering staple crops such as yams, dasheen (taro), cocoyam (xanthosoma) and sweet potatoes with their Caribbean counterparts.

This exchange, is hosted by the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and supported by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA), and the Pacific Community (SPC) through the European Union supported Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP). The exchange will take place at two centres – The Biotechnology Centre at the University of the West Indies (UWI), and the Scientific Research Council. In addition, the exchange will involve interaction with Caribbean farmers and exposure to root crops value chains such as the UWI-Columbia cassava flour project, Red Stripe cassava beer initiatives and bammy production.

Vili Caniogo an APP Adviser stated that these south-south exchanges were extremely

valuable given the similarity in climatic conditions, the much needed focus on food staples and the common goals for the agriculture sector in both regions.

“This exchange focussing on food staples is extremely topical and is selected for strategic reasons. There is evidence that Pacific crop staples such as taro, sweet potatoes and breadfruit and related cropping practices are relatively resilient to projected climate change – hence the need to increase their role in meeting food demand. We hope that these south-south learnings will help officers from both regions exchange, adopt and disseminate new, proven methods”

Mr Caniogo went on to state that a recent review by SPC of National Agriculture Sector Policies covering 15 Pacific countries showed that food security and climate smart agriculture was a key goal for many countries and as such “Exchanges like these will help implement these strategic goals”

The exchange which starts on the 9th October and ends on the 27th October is the third of a series of ‘south-south’ initiatives for knowledge sharing and learning across the two regions. It follows two previous attachments by Caribbean researchers and extension



Pacific scientists and Caribbean hosts in a group photo with exchange coordinators, Salome Tukuafu of SPC Suva (sitting, right) and Samson Vilvil Fare of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), The Netherlands (standing, 4th from right)

officers with the Pacific Community (SPC)’s Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) in Suva, Fiji in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Sustainable development across both the Pacific and Caribbean regions is increasingly focused on food and livelihood security. A recent spate of highly damaging natural disasters including Tropical Cyclones Pam and Winston (which severely impacted several Pacific countries), highlighted the extreme vulnerability of small island states to these now frequent occurrences. The extent of devastation from these natural disasters have been widespread, adversely affecting thousands of households, infrastructure and farming systems.

According to SPC Deputy Director General, Dr Audrey Aumua, “as part of SPC’s programmatic efforts to improve resilience

to climate change and disaster in our region, climate smart agriculture is at the forefront of our contribution to the global agenda on sustainable development. We are grateful to our valued donors such as the European Union and our partners, CARDI and CTA through the Intra-ACP PAPP for the significant collaboration on this technical exchange”.

Participants during the two week exchange were selected following a detailed process managed by SPC and CTA through its existing networks which include the Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (PIRAS), and the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON). Participants are all currently involved in existing work with roots and tubers in the Pacific, to ensure post-impact implementation following the Caribbean exchange.

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Ethnobotany class visits Island Food Community of Pohnpei

By: Dana Lee Ling

Twenty-three students in the College of Micronesia-FSM SC/SS 115 Ethnobotany class visited the Island Food Community of Pohnpei on Tuesday October fourth, 2016. Emihner Johnson presented on the CHEEF benefits of local foods here on Pohnpei. The CHEEF benefits refer to Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, and Food Security.

CHEEF starts with C for culture, and culture is the best place to start. Local traditional island foods are a core part of the cultures and customs of Micronesia. A party in Kosrae would not be complete with the soft taro dish fahfah. In Chuuk pounded breadfruit, kón, is used in determining whether an apology is accepted between families. Consumption of local foods also promotes local farming and local farming practices - cultural practices and knowledge.

The H in CHEEF is health. Promoting health is a second benefit of local foods. Many of the local starches have a high fiber content, which slows down the rate of conversion from starch to glucose. This allows the body to produce lower levels of insulin than would be necessary for a starch such as rice. Rice converts very quickly to glucose and the demand on insulin spikes as a result. Foods that cause rapid rises in blood sugar are correlated with the development of diabetes.

Local foods are also generally grown without chemical fertilizers and pesticides. On island, local foods are the original organic foods.

Some of our local bananas, breadfruit, and taro, have been shown to contain beta-carotenes, the precursor to vitamin A. Local food also contains minerals and trace elements that are important to overall health.

Local starches also gluten-free starches, a benefit for those who are gluten intolerant. At this point in the presentation Saimon Mix, owner of Saimon's market, dropped by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei office to deliver breadfruit flour.

Saimon noted that breadfruit flour is now available in the local market. He had recently returned from a conference in Hawaii where breadfruit flour sells for as much as nine dollars. He noted that a significant portion of the local breadfruit crop either falls on the ground and rots or is fed to pigs, while the rest

of the world is celebrating this healthy starch and paying top dollar to access breadfruit and breadfruit products.

The E in CHEEF benefits is Environment. Local foods have a reduced impact on the environment. Local foods are not typically packaged, there is no plastic container that becomes waste in the local garbage dump. Local foods either come in no container, such as cucumber, or come in a biodegradable container, such as a banana peel.

The second E in CHEEF is economy. Local foods benefit the economy. Local traditional foods are grown by on-island farmers. When one buys local foods, the money goes to a local farmer. The farmer, in turn, then spends that same money here on island. The result is that both the farmer and those from whom the farmer buys are gaining income. More than one family is benefitting from a single purchase. This is termed a multiplier effect. When one buys imported food, the money is sent off-island and no one else on island benefits from that money. There is no multiplier effect for imported foods, at least not in terms of benefit to the island.

In addition, when one eats local food instead of imported food, that represents an import substitution, and reduces imports.

The letter F is the final letter in CHEEF benefits. Food security is having a reliable source of food in the face of uncertainties in the future global food supply. Potential impacts of climate change on food production could lead to shortages in the global food chain. Having a local source of food is food security. You cannot starve if you have all the food you need on your own land and in the sea around you. That is food security and only local foods can deliver this.

I noted that nutrition advice, especially for Pacific islanders, had shifted over the years. I mentioned the report in 2013 that noted a traditional high fat, low carbohydrate diet was found to be more beneficial for Pacific islanders. Last year studies were reported that found that dietary cholesterol and blood cholesterol are not necessarily correlated. Cholesterol levels are controlled internally with 85% of the blood cholesterol manufactured in the liver. Trans-fats, however, are unhealthy. Then a couple weeks ago news came of studies funded by the sugar industry in the 1960's to shift the blame away from sugar and toward fat. The real culprit in the non-communicable disease crisis in

the Pacific is rice - a simple starch that converts quickly to sugars in the blood stream.

The complex, nutrient and fiber rich local starches had sustained Micronesians for centuries on their islands. Returning to the food of the local land and nearby sea

are key components to a healthier life.

My thanks to Emihner Johnson and to Saimon Mix for their time and for sharing the benefits of going local, eating local.



Emihner Johnson speaks to the class



Students listening to the presentation



Class photo with Emihner

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Senior Citizens Day in Pohnpei

By Pohnpei Office of Social Affairs

October 3, 2016

Kolonia, Pohnpei—On September 30, 2016, Pohnpei state held a ceremony for the Senior Citizens Day in the large conference room in Peilapalap, Kolonia. The program started at 1:30 in the afternoon. Mr. Bethwel Henry, currently the president of the Pohnpei Senior Citizens Association, gave the welcoming remarks of the day.

226 elders showed up and participated in the program ceremony.

The people who had been gifted with the greatest number of years of life were recognized. From U, a woman named Maria who is 93 years old, and Carlos Sohs, who is 88 were recognized. From Madolenihmw municipal, Mr. Luthmiro Damus Kubo who is now 92 years old and Mr. Etrina Pelep, 92 years of age were recognized. Mr. Joel Gallen who is now 79 years of age, and Ms. Billa Joel who is 91 years of age from

Mwokilloa were also recognized.

The program also recognized the winning contestants for the Essay writing competition both in English and vernacular. Ms. Rochelle Chuun won the English part of the competition, while Ms. Ashlany Dorres won the vernacular part.

Those who sponsored the Senior Citizens Association Program of this year were the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, White Sand, FSM Development Bank, Genesis Pharmacy, 7 Star Inn, Namiki Enterprises, Governor of Pohnpei State, Hon. Marcelo K. Peterson, and Lt. Governor, Reed B. Oliver.

The Officers of the Pohnpei Senior Citizens Association (PSCA) are Mr. Bethwel Henry as President, Mr. Gabriel Spencer as Vice President, Mr. Tosiwo Liwi as Secretary, Treasurer Mrs. Enerika Peterson, and Leaser officer Mr. Waltis Ferdinand.

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Drawings to be held at Quiz Night
Saturday, November 5, 2016
Cupid's Bar & Grille

Proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club of Pohnpei Scholarship Fund and other Community Projects

Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

Letter to the Editor

In our last several EC editions we have been telling a story about a young man named Navarro Navarro. Some readers wrote and said they did not understand what was happening and did not the idea of this Navarro as the main character because he was not a properly trained teacher. That said EC should make another try with this Navarro. We explained that in teacher education we call educational stories case studies. These are when lifelike education examples are set up using student, teachers, parents, administrators, and others as actors to teach educational lessons. In fact case studies are more like plays than stories. We use case studies for critical thinking and student/readers think about questions and decisions. In case studies we look at behaviors and think about what the story is supposed to teach. Remember Navarro is a made up character dealing with a big problem—he has no teacher training. In these case studies we will always put Navarro in learning situations trying to figure out what he should do. For certain Navarro make mistakes—of course. He has not had teacher training. E C readers will observe the errors and see if Navarro corrects them—or improves.

The case studies begins many years ago (let's say Trust Territory times) with Navarro accepting a 5th grade teaching position at a Micronesian Roman Catholic elementary school. He accepted the job on a Sunday morning to begin teaching the next morning-Monday morning the first day of school. But as all good case studies there is a good problem. In these stories the problem is this. Navarro has never had any teacher training at all. That is he never was taught how to teach. We do find out that Navarro was a good student when in school and he knows his history and geography; science and math; and he was good in English, perhaps even more fluent than his own Micronesian language. And then Navarro's problem is compounded when he realizes he must teach ESL and he cannot even recall how he learned English. So we find Navarro sitting on the Sunday evening wondering what he would do the next day at 8 A.M.

Next, as Navarro sat he decided he wanted to do a good job. But with no teacher training he did not know what to do to be a good teacher. Therefore he decided to recall teachers he thought were "good" when he was a student. He also picked some that he thought were fair to students. Here too he did not really know

was "fair" was. Likewise he did not want to do a bad job so he recalled a teacher from some 60 years in his past a Miss Maupin. Miss Maupin was based upon a teacher dismissal case at a Longfellow Elementary School, Pasco, Washington, United States of America in 1957. It was used as an example of a bad teacher and in fact it was the worst we could find. We wanted a teacher that Navarro and all of us would recognize and use the term "bad". We used Miss Maupin to highlight another education issue that Navarro will learn about—special need students. And we used Navarro so we can eventually show how Navarro learns all about special needs students. Our Community is so fortunate nowadays with our Special Education programs and parent participation. We are most fortunate that the College of Micronesia-FSM has great expertise in this area and new teachers are prepared for teaching students with different abilities. Today's new teachers understand that all their students are special and therefore students with learning or physical disabilities are just students with different needs. And then these teachers learn different ways of how to teach. Indeed Miss Maupin was an extreme example and as stated, it was the worst example we could find. Most classroom teachers in those times were kind and did the best they could if student with disabilities were included in a regular classroom as we do today. In those days students with disabilities were separated and not included or treated equally with the respect all students deserved. With this said let's go right to Navarro's first day

Case Study: Navarro Begins

Navarro had found his first day with the fifth graders simply delightful. He was friendly but he knew he was not there to make friends. He knew he was the teacher and they were the students but that did not mean he could not smile, and joke a little. He even shared with the class that he was a real beginner at this teaching. He joked with them how he trained himself the night before and told them he wanted to be a good teacher but the class would have to help him. He promised to help them become good students if they would help him be a good teacher. The young man even had the students stand, raise their right hand and take a pledge.

I _____ promise to be the best student I can be and I promise to help Mr. Navarro Navarro become the best teacher

he can be.

Navarro thought of the night before. He did not know what he meant by a good teacher so he wondered to himself why he chose the word best. He thought about his English. In English ... good ... better ... best was how it went. He should probably know what good and better meant before he used best student and best teacher. But that first day he pledged himself to his class; more importantly, however, he made a pledge to himself. And all of Navarro's 5th graders took the pledge.

That first day Navarro found all of the fifth grade textbooks piled in his room and a nice copy of all of the books on the big desk which he assumed would be his—the Teacher's Desk. He was happy to find that there was a Teacher's Edition for English and grammar. Navarro had been a straight A student in high-school English and his college years in the States had sharpened his skills at reading, writing, listening to and speaking English. To be honest, Navarro was far better in English than in his own vernacular language. As a young boy he could count in more than ten (10) different ways and even understood "high words" used by chiefs. Now, English was almost his first language and he was actually happy that at Mt. St. Mary's the teachers must teach in English. In fact, on the wall of his classroom he saw a sign that read "English Must Be Spoken At All Times While On This Campus—And This Means At Recess Too." He noticed in small print that someone had added—in the bathroom too. Yes, he was grateful for that and confident in his own skills, but could he teach it? Somehow, he realized that teaching English was different. Certainly, being good at something did not mean one could teach it ... Navarro thought of his brother who was well known as an expert carver. No matter how hard he had tried to teach Navarro a little of that skill, Navarro could not carve the likeness of a shark. And further Navarro considered himself lucky to have ten fingers on his hands when he finished attempting to carve. TO BE CONTINUED-

Open letter to Governor Peterson on basketball for kids

Dear Governor Peterson,

We have never met but I sat beside your Father on July 2 nd on the Peace Corps 50th year in Micronesia celebration at Spanish Wall Ball Field. I spoke on Peace Corps 30 years ago as a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Nett.

I was the one who introduced Basketball on Pohnpei "Island Wide" 30 years ago and it was hard...Very hard and like then when the Government would allow only 37% of students to enter high school. Basketball was a chance to build sportsmanship-hard work to reach a goal and they learned skills that they are still using 30 years later because I meet former players in their 40s now here on Pohnpei and on FB. We had nearly 30 teams at that time, taking part in an Island Wide League then and used SDA Gym to play our games. Josh Phillips along with the Sports Council did the organizing with me holding basketball camps all over the Island and Coaching three teams along with Primo of Nett School. Some of those players are now Coaching at PICS but that league is now gone.

The grade school students I see and talk to 30 years later have nothing to do—nothing to look forward to. Oh, I hear that they do play games in Nett but you can't play basketball outside on Pohnpei because of the rain and heat. And in Kolonia, I can't believe that you have so many new gyms here and they are just sitting there doing nothing when you could have all the grade schools all over Pohnpei playing basketball again—something that will keep them busy—something that will make them work at something—something that will for sure keep them out of trouble and something that will help them developing skills of team work-hard work that will last a life time.

So, Sir, I'm not asking for myself but for your "Youth" on Pohnpei—the grade school kids—please take care of them and take an interest in their lives as Governor Moses did 30 years ago. Reach them before they start drinking and chewing that nut or dropping out of school and giving up on Education all together.

Thank you very much for your time. All it takes is a letter from you to the "Pohnpei Sports Council" and it's done.

Sincerely,
Frank Burkett
Returned Peace Corps
Nett 86-87

The Sacred City Of Pohnpei: Nan Madol

By *Pocahontas Moses*
Pohnpei Storyteller

Temwen, Pohnpei—

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, in the Federated States of Micronesia, on a small island called Pohnpei, lie the ancient ruins of the city of Nan Madol, facing from the East side of the island. The



city was built centuries ago by people of the island and some of the neighboring islands, but the plan to build this magnificent structure was constructed by two men, Olosohpa and Olosihpa. These two men were of the many ancestors who were said to have migrated from the West and East.

It is not like any city whose structures are of cement, but instead, it is made up of long, large piled up stones. Visitors call it the “Venice of the Pacific” because the structures are on islets scattered around the place.

The sound of the waves crashing on the rocks, the awe of the megalithic structures just gave me a sense of peace and tranquility. Our trip there was adventurous and full of fun. Walking

around with my peers and jotting down thoughts, feelings and taking pictures was an experience that I want to do again. The history of Nan Madol is intriguing and also scary, but it tells why our islands are sacred and respected.

It is surprising that an old, ancient creation could still last until today. The thing that surprised me the most was the “Dipwoapw” as we Pohnpeians call it. It is a type of nut

tree that is common around the island, but they are not as enormous as the one I saw at Nan Madol. I have been there many times and I did not even notice the tree standing there. I saw it the many times I went there but I did not know that it was the “Dipwoapw”. The leaves gave it away.

The “Dipwoapw” is not the only unique and enormous thing that is there. The rocks that made up the place weigh about 80 to 90 tons and are more than 10ft tall. “How did they move those rocks?” “How did they pile them up?”

Nan Madol is the root of history in Pohnpei. It is the place where many historic activities took place and where many of our traditional customs came from. So, yeah, Nan Madol is important to me because if it is lost then many of our beliefs and customs will disappear. Not many people from around the world know about it so it is best if it is kept that way. Like what my father used to say, “Something that is touched by many hands, it will either break or fall down.”



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