

FSM Pohnpei office of the State Public Auditor leads the way on International Anti-Corruption



PASAI Secretariat

Acknowledging the importance of joining efforts in the FSM and worldwide in the fight

against corruption, Pohnpei Office of the State Public Auditor (OSPA) lead the way in their state in activities on International Anti-Corruption day on 9 December 2016. The UN 2016 Theme was "United Against Corruption for development, peace and security". The theme for the FSM Pohnpei OSPA this year was "TEAM UP AGAINST CORRUPTION."

The FSM Pohnpei OSPA lead the following campaign



activities in marking this significant International day:

1. Essay Contest among the High Schools (private/public)
2. Float/Parade Contest between Youth Groups

Their programme for the day included a float parade down the main streets of Pohnpei, followed by a short ceremony.

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Supreme Court employees charged with theft of over \$123,000 arraigned

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 20, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—During their arraignment this morning, Eric Elias and Ruthie Hadley pled not guilty to all charges related to over \$123,000 that went missing from the Pohnpei Supreme Court between 2010 and 2014. The trial on the 60 counts the Pohnpei State Attorney General's office has filed against them at the court is scheduled to begin in March of next year.

The AG's office alleges 12 counts for each year: Criminal Conspiracy; Criminal Solicitation; Fraudulent Destruction, Removal or Concealment of Instruments; Grand Larceny; Embezzlement; Theft by Failure to make Required Disposition of Funds Received; Cheating; Forgery; Concealment, Removal or Alteration of Records or Proceeds; Misconduct in Public Office; Compounding a Crime; and, Use of

State Property.

The accused are innocent unless proven otherwise in court.

As reported in The Kaselehlie Press in June of 2014, the discovery of missing funds at the Supreme Court came as part of a surprise cash count inspection of the

See "Court Theft" on page 5

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Congress confirms Susaia for Ambassador and Hainrick for Auditor

Congress Public Information Office

PALIKIR, POHNPEI. December 21, 2016 – Congress has during its recent Special Session confirmed Susaia as Ambassador for the Washington Embassy and Hainrick to maintain his post as National Public Auditor

The President had called for special session highlighting the need for the Congress to address certain nomination pending before the Body. The Nineteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened its Seventh Special Session and adopted Congressional Resolution (CR) 19-318 to confirm Akillino Susaia to be FSM's Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the United States of America in Washington, D.C.

Susaia had previously held important positions for the Nation including FSM Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Secretary for the national department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure and also the post of Secretary for the national department of Economic Affairs.

Another adopted nomination was CR 19-328 which confirmed Haser Hainrick to serve as the Public Auditor for the Nation. As reflected in his resolution, Hainrick had served the same position in previous administrations and therefore possess the requisite qualifications.

Congress also confirmed three nominees the President wish to continue their tenure on the FSM Banking Board and they included CR 19-314, for Alexander Narruhn; CR 19-315, for Joseph Habuchimai; and CR 19-318, for Reed B. Oliver.

Along with the nominations Congress adopted CR 19-320, to approve a 500,000 grant from the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs to fund the Single Audit for Fiscal Year 2016 as required under the amended Compact.

In addition to the resolutions, Congress had during the Special Session passed several Acts to clarify certain public projects and use of funds previously appropriated for social programs in the states. Congressional Act (CA) 19-138 changed the use of certain funds previously appropriated for public projects and social programs in the State of Yap. The State of Chuuk also had changes to certain funds previously appropriated for social programs and public projects and they are contained in CA 19-139 and CA 19-140.

Through CA 19-141, the State of Kosrae de-appropriated \$100,000 from its infrastructure priority funding that was allotted through a previous law and placed it in CA 19-142 to fund the defunded programs and activities of the government of the State of Kosrae. Also for the Kosrae was CA 19-143 which changed use of certain funds previously appropriated for public projects and social programs in the state.

Congress passed CA 19-144 to clarify the use of the FSM's United Nation's membership fees and related contributions. The final measure from the Congress is CA 19-145 which changed certain allottees and uses of funds previously appropriated for the State of Pohnpei.

The five-day special session convened on December 14th as called by the President and adjourned sine-die on December 17, 2016.

While awaiting trial on federal charges Cary Lee Peterson lists "American Friends of Micronesia" as new client

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

FSM—Cary Lee Peterson has filed an LD-1 form with the US Secretary of the Senate to disclose a "new" lobbying client, "American Friends of Micronesia". An LD-1 form is used by lobbying firms to register clients. The Lobbying Disclosure Act requires the form to be filed with the Secretary of the Senate within 45 days of either the hiring date of a lobbyist to make a lobbying contact or when a lobbyist makes a second lobbying contact.

Peterson created the committee by filing an FEC Form-1 with the Federal Election Commission in July of last year. It has been in existence since that time. Peterson is listed on that form as the Treasurer with the title Chief Director. The form also lists fictitious bank information, listing Bank FSM in San Francisco.

There seems to be no basis to the claim on the LD-1 form that "American Friends of Micronesia" has hired Peterson to lobby on their behalf unless Peterson himself hired himself to lobby for the committee.

Peterson claims on the form that he has been hired by "American Friends of Micronesia" to lobby on the issues of "bilateral affairs between the US and Micronesian Islands regarding reform of Trans-Pacific Partnership, amendments and changes Compact of Free Association

(COFA), in addition to broader national security and military presence in West Pacific to address sanctions with North Korea."

The form provides a set of codes in order to list lobbying issues. Peterson listed them in the following order: BAN-Banking, CIV-Civil Rights/Civil Liberties, AGR-Agriculture, DIS-Disaster Planning/Emergency, MAR-Marine issues, EDU-Education, DEF-Defense, HOM-Homeland Security, and TRD-Travel (Domestic/Foreign). Under additional lobbying interests he listed TOU-Travel and Tourism.

The reports listing of the Federal Election Commission under the FEC Identification for the committee shows that other than the initial FEC Form-1 establishing the



See, "Lobbying" on next page



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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...Lobbying

Continued from previous page

“American Friends of Micronesia”, the committee has failed to file required reports with the FEC. Listed on the FEC page are three notices of failure to file for April, July and October quarterly filings. The notices say that “...failure to timely file a complete report may result in civil money penalties, an audit or legal enforcement action.” The FEC page for the committee lists no reports that have been filed.

It appears that the committee has seen no action since Peterson initially established it in March of last year, or if it has, it has not reported on it.

Last March, shortly after Peterson’s last visit to the FSM, the FBI arrested and charged him with two counts of false certification and securities fraud. He pled not guilty and was released from federal custody on a \$200,000 bond last June. According to “The Center for Public Integrity”, Federal authorities released him into the custody of his mother, who lives in Arizona. Court records show Peterson is currently subject to electronic monitoring and a daily curfew. Furthermore, Peterson was required to forfeit his passport and to resolve other,

unrelated warrants for his arrest. During his visits to the FSM he promoted a Medical Marijuana program supposedly in partnership with Albania. He discussed plans to open a bank in the FSM, but after several conversations never submitted any of the required paperwork to the Banking Board to legally undertake such an activity.

On his Facebook page Peterson posted photos of himself outside of the “One World Center”, a beautiful office building in Kolonia, Pohnpei owned by Murphy Panuelo. His posting suggested that he had built the building as headquarters for the non-existent, “East America Development Bank”. He not only had nothing to do with the building at all but Panuelo had already denied him office space in the building. As soon as Panuelo heard about Peterson’s Facebook posting he instructed Peterson to take it down. He did.

The FSM has no relationship with Cary Lee Peterson to lobby on its behalf whatsoever.

The FSM Department of Justice confirms that Peterson is still under investigation in the FSM.

The FSM gets ready for the Green Climate Fund

The national inception workshop for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Program for the FSM was held in Pohnpei State, from November 21 to 24, 2016. The workshop was attended by the key stakeholders for climate change from the four States including the traditional leaders and dignitaries from both the national and state governments.

Lieutenant Governor of Pohnpei State, Honorable Reed B. Oliver, gave an invigorating welcoming address and referred to the recently released documentary on climate change. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunities offered by the Fund, especially as a way to bypass the ‘climate change deniers’, and urged participants to keep engaged with the task of reducing emissions and increasing resilience of communities in the FSM, beyond the workshop.

On the closing day of the workshop, the Honorable Sihna Lawrence, Secretary of Finance and the designated GCF National Designated Authority (NDA) gave an inspiring yet cautious closing address. She highlighted both the opportunities and challenges not only in accessing the fund, but also in managing the funds, once accessed. In particular, she stressed that both national and state governments need

to continue mainstreaming climate change into the FSM education system as well as in other major sectors for development. She further highlighted that institutional and regulatory reforms are needed “to enhance our ability to maintain a green and clean culture within our societies” and “build a climate resilient environment to complement our development efforts.” The GCF is expected to become the main global fund for financing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in vulnerable nations like the FSM and other Pacific island countries. It aims to channel billions of dollars to back country programs and projects that deliver “transformational impact” towards low- emission and climate-resilient development.

The workshop was well attended and it was able to deliver on its outcome in engaging stakeholders in the opportunities and challenges at the FSM-GCF readiness phase. The next few months, will involve additional consultations with the States as well as with the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the development of the FSM Country Program

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Strategic plan to access GCF resources. The organizers would like to thank all the participants for their enthusiastic engagement throughout the three and half days, and commend each State delegation for including a representative from their respective women’s organisations. For more information on the Fund visit: greenclimatefund.org . For more information on the FSM Readiness Program, contact Kensley Ikosia/Belinda Hadley at 320-5852

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: January 9, 2017

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Wednesday January 4, 2017

Donors help to establish Pohnpei's first telemedicine center at Pohnpei State Hospital

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 16, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The Pohnpei State Hospital today held a short and small ceremony to open its new telemedicine unit at the hospital. The telemedicine service will allow for consultation with experts through the Pacific Basin Telehealth Resouce Center at the University of Hawaii Manoa Medical

Center. The service will help to eliminate some of the current need for expensive medical referrals. It could also allow for quicker access to medical treatment than might currently be available in Pohnpei.

Dr. Payne Perman, who spearheaded the efforts to get telemedicine to Pohnpei said that the teleconferencing system relies on VDSL technology which provides 10 Mbps data transmission

for crystal clear video and audio simultaneous transmission. Indeed, talking with an expert at UH Manoa over the system was like having a conversation with her in the same room.

Perman said that VDSL service usually costs \$5000 per month but that FSM Telecommunications Corporation had managed to provide them a VERY special deal of only \$400 a month for the service. The Leo Etscheit Foundation has agreed to pay that monthly fee.

Mahi International provided most of the electronic equipment needed to get the system hooked up. FSM's Department of Health provided the special camera at a cost of \$2000 that the system uses.

Perman said that the system is stand alone and is only accessible within the small room that services at the telemedicine center. In addition to the possible savings in medical referrals, Perman said that it could also be used to reduce travel costs for conferences.



Governor Marcelo Peterson said that his Christmas is shaping up nicely, not only with the opening of the telemedicine center but also with word he had received that morning that Pohnpei State's dividend in Caroline Fisheries Corporation will be \$400,000 this year.

After ceremony, Pohnpei's telemedicine had its first consult using the new facility with two consultations with Shriners Hospital for Children. Dr. Craig Ono from Shriners Hospital for Children in Honolulu was able to see two of his former patients in Pohnpei by video teleconferencing without expensive referral.

Global Greengrants funds five more projects in FSM



Waa'gey group photo for their *Mysteries of the Wayfinder Project*

The Global Greengrants Fund, administered by the Pacific Advisory Council, has funded five more community projects in the Micronesian region. The Oumoar Community Group (Sokehs, Pohnpei), the Chuuk Women's Council, the Senpehn Connection Sensation (Madolenihmw, Pohnpei), the UFO Conservation Society (Fefan, Chuuk), and Waa'gey (Yap) all received \$5,000 grants to implement their community projects. The Oumoar Community Group will create a Task Force from members of the four coastal communities in the Palikir area to oversee the protection of the new Palikir Pass Marine Protected Area through educational meetings, public awareness radio programs, building a monitoring station and using telescopes to observe the MPA. They will purchase a new engine and fuel for 6 months for a patrol boat to help enforce the new Pohnpei State law to protect the natural resources in the Palikir Pass MPA.

traditional songs and chants, record the music and burn CDs and distribute to local chiefs for knowledge sharing. The UFO Conservation Society will use rocks, dirt and cement to raise stream banks about 100m in length, remove debris and bury within the newly elevated stream banks, and educate communities that live upstream about effects of dumping waste into streams. Finally, Waa'gey, a community-based organization in Yap that uses traditional skills to confront the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by the people of Micronesia's most remote outer islands, received funds to support recovery efforts after typhoon Maysak by providing planting materials for immediate food crops, collect more planting materials for distribution, purchasing tools for gardening, and purchasing materials to clean water tanks, catchment roofing and cut/remove trees on top of water catchment system.

The next round of Global Greengrants fund will be available in March 2017 for the Micronesian region, consisting of Palau, FSM, RMI, Guam, CNMI, Kiribati and Nauru. Interested groups should look for announcements when the call for proposals opens in March or reach out to Mr. Willy Kostka at director@ourmicronesia.org for more information.

The Chuuk Women's Council will develop grey water systems, dry litter piggery systems, and composting bins to promote efficient water use and soil fertility during droughts. The Senpehn Connection Sensation, a singing group, will educate people through traditional songs and motivate the older people to share skills of cultivating food crops through collecting and composing



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PNA sees positive outcomes from WCPFC 13

Nadi, Fiji 11 December 2016: As the dust settles from the flurry of final-day actions of the 13th Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission annual meeting in Fiji, it is clear the Parties to the Nauru Agreement made solid gains by achieving the majority of goals they set out to accomplish during the five-day session.

“All PNA members and PNA Office staff worked day and night over the past two weeks to secure numerous positive outcomes for our fishery,” said Ludwig Kumoru reflecting on the outcomes the day after the WCPFC meeting finished Friday. “PNAO members and staff worked closely with other members of the Forum Fisheries Agency and their staff to produce good results. As FFA Deputy Director Wez Norris said Friday night, the meeting produced ‘unspectacular but positive progress.’ Our hard work paid off.”

For all PNA members, adoption of the observer safety measure was the highlight of the long and sometimes tedious grind

of the 5-9 December annual meeting.

The observer safety measure was a victory for all fisheries observers who place their lives on the line every time they go to sea, and an important development in the evolution of WCPFC. “The result demonstrates the power we have as a united force to get policy measures at the WCPFC,” said Mr. Kumoru. “We were not going to walk away from WCPFC 13 without a measure to protect our observers.” Passage of this measure will immediately improve the situation for fisheries observers.

Mr. Kumoru said PNA didn’t get everything it hoped for. “But we accomplished the majority of our pre-WCPFC goals,” he said.

Among the important accomplishments for PNA members from the WCPFC annual meeting:

- PNA positions are well reflected in the WCPFC Chair’s text on the Bridging Tropical Tuna Conservation

and Management Measure (CMM), which will help drive the process in 2017.

- Good progress was made on developing the skipjack tuna Harvest Strategy.
- Action was taken to fix the Japanese CMM on Charters, data provisions in CMM for Rays, and the Emergency Rule standards to include NAF (North Atlantic Fisheries Format for data reporting).
- A positive outcome was achieved for PNA members with the exemption from the high seas FAD closure.
- The Japanese capacity management proposal and the United States proposal for more high seas fishing days were both blocked.
- Clarification was gained that vessel day scheme (VDS) obligations are collective with the PNA region, blocking European Union and United States attempts to have them assessed

as individual Parties Allowed Effort-level obligations.

- A request was registered for next year’s bigeye tuna assessment to take under-reporting into account.
- All of the FAD Intercessional Working Group recommendations were included and WCPFC participation in the FAO FAD meeting was blocked.

On the downside, no penalty for the United States longline fleet’s non-compliance with catch limits was assessed. “Holding WCPFC members to account for violations of fishing limits will continue to be high on PNA’s agenda,” said Mr. Kumoru.

“Many of the developments in PNA’s favor coming out of the WCPFC annual meeting are building blocks for improving conservation and management in-zone and on the high seas,” he said. “These are good outcomes and our members should take pride in a job well done at WCPFC 13.”

Muslims of Micronesia welcome the new year by giving back

The members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, whose motto is “Love for All Hatred for None”, launched various programs this year to help welcome the new year by giving back. One special program this year themed “Beautify Kosrae” was launched in which Muslims volunteered their time and provided materials to paint 6 homes scheduled to be completed before January 1st as a welcome to all those visiting this year on the occasion of the fourth year anniversary program which calls many Kosraean’s back to their homes for this holiday season. Similarly, the Ahmadiyya Muslims of Kosrae received nearly



Before and after



Far Right-Religious Minister Imam Kauser 1

100 outfits of Indian style garments for women which were sent by their Muslim counterparts residing in southern California to bring cheers this year to the Kosraeans belonging to all faiths. They have been sorted and scheduled to be distributed throughout Kosrae. For these programs this year the community focused their effort solely in the municipality of Malem, where the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is currently based. Many of those who were selected were neighbors, widows, and people of all faiths. “We hope to expand this program to help further beautify Kosrae in the coming years”, says the Religious Minister of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of FSM Imam Kauser. “The Ahmadiyya

Community has already been providing food services to the state prison every Friday as a way to support rehabilitation for those in need. We will continue to find ways to help humanity, as our belief is simply to serve God and to serve people of all faiths”.

...Court theft

Continued from front page

Pohnpei “collection points” —the units where revenue is collected. That surprise inspection took place in February of 2014. During that inspection auditors discovered that only \$302 of \$29,614.50 collected in fees by court had been remitted to the Pohnpei Department of Treasury and Administration.

That discovery led to a deeper look during which it was discovered that over the course of nearly five years, nearly \$168,000 in cash had been collected by the court but only just under \$44,000 had been deposited into the Pohnpei Treasury during that time.

In June of 2014, the public auditor sent a copy of a letter to The Kaselehlie Press that his office had sent to Fernando Scaliem who was the speaker of the 8th Legislature at that time. ““It should be noted that 1400 plus copies of cash receipts were missing and could not be found in the Supreme Court’s files”, the letter said. “We could not assess or confirm whether the missing receipts were issued or voided. If in fact they were issued, then it is very likely that the amount of the missing and unaccounted monies may be higher than reported herein.”

Mr. Joseph then said that his office had submitted a “thick stack” of documentary evidence to the Pohnpei Attorney General’s office and recommended prosecutorial action.

“We consider the findings significant and are recommending criminal investigation and prosecution for those found responsible for the missing and unaccounted funds,” his 2014 letter to Speaker Scaliem said.

Until December 2, 2016, the Pohnpei AG’s office never filed charges against anyone. The OPA’s recommendation for criminal investigation and prosecution seemed to have fallen on deaf ears.

In 2014 we asked for an interview with Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez. The Supreme Court’s legal counsel responded on his behalf saying that the Court was conducting an ongoing internal investigation on the cash count inspection. The legal counsel said that since all of the previous interdepartmental correspondences on the matter had been confidential, the court would not be issuing a statement on it until the Public Auditor makes the matter public.

No statement resulting from any internal investigation was ever published to clear the matter which certainly was made public in The Kaselehlie Press after the Public Auditor sent a copy of the letter to Speaker Scaliem to us.

Two months ago, before charges had been filed, the AG’s office sought a warrant of arrest for one of the people accused in the criminal case filed on December 2. Chief Justice Rodriguez denied that warrant of arrest after a hearing that he had called regarding the warrant request.

Again, unless a court finds them to be otherwise, the defendants in this case are considered to be innocent.

Kolonia denies knowledge of “squatters” when it executed Public Market leases with State Civil action asks court to require State to remove trespassers from the zero dollar leased land

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 22, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—In May of this year, the registrar of the State Land Registry recorded a 55 year lease between Pohnpei State and Kolonia Town for three properties commonly known as the “Public Market”. At that time, and for quite some time before that, “squatters” had occupied the land. But Kolonia Town has sworn in a court document that it wasn’t aware that trespassers were occupying the land when it entered into the Commercial Lease Agreements for the three properties.

In August of this year, The Kaselehlie Press attempted to contact the Kolonia Town mayor for comments on what was happening with plans to renovate and re-open the Public Market. Mayor San Nicolas said at that time that he could not comment and instructed us to speak with his Administrative Assistant Jack Jack. Jack said that Mayor San Nicolas instructed him to tell us that Kolonia has a renovation plan for the site and that funding is in place for that plan but that Kolonia has filed suit against the State Government regarding the site.

Mr. Jack could not provide details on the contents of the civil action but said that he would ask an attorney to call us about the details.

The phone call never came and a message to that attorney was not returned at that time or any other.

In fact, it wasn’t until October 26 that Attorney Martin Jano filed a suit against several individuals including “John Does 1 to 20”, the Pohnpei State Department of Land, and the Pohnpei State Government.

According to the Pohnpei response to the complaint, the terms of the “zero dollar” lease required Kolonia Town to begin renovation of the Public Market within 90 days of the signing of the lease.

Kolonia Town’s Civil Action says in essence that Pohnpei State entered into the lease agreement in bad faith when it executed the lease by not telling Kolonia Town that squatters occupied the land even after the State unsuccessfully tried to evict the trespassers from the sites. It says that Kolonia’s right of peaceful

enjoyment of the property was hampered by the State and that it could not enact its business plan to re-establish the Public Market for sale of handicrafts, agricultural, and other products.

The civil action asks for the court to issue an order to defendants that would require the individual defendants to “demolish or remove any and all structures that they may have erected on the premises” and to remove all personal belongings or valuables and vacated the leased premises within that same time period.

It asks for the court to order the Pohnpei State Department of Land to remove from the premises “any and all recalcitrant trespassers or squatters.”

Pohnpei’s answer to Kolonia Town’s complaint says that Kolonia Town was aware that trespassers were occupying portions of the premises before and during negotiations for the Lease. “Article VI of the three Lease Agreements between Pohnpei State and Plaintiff Kolonia Town Government provides that Lessee acknowledges that it has examined the Premises prior to execution of the Lease, knows the condition of the Premises, acknowledges that no representations have been made by Lessor other than contained in the Lease, and the Lessee accepts the Premises in its present condition at the date of the execution of the Lease.”

But Kolonia Town still swears on court documents that it did not know that trespassers were occupying the land when it entered into the leases despite having signed off on the terms including Article VI which was included in each lease.

Just the same, Pohnpei offered a settlement offer that would have allowed for a phased relocation of people currently living on the questioned government land and relocation back to the land under a lease agreement. According to an email this evening from the Pohnpei AG, the Kolonia Town Government rejected the offer.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, it appears that there is now no further recourse but to allow the court to decide who will be the proper party to handle the eviction of trespassers, Kolonia Town, the lessee, or Pohnpei, the lessor.

Young Sun wants Sea Cucumber TRO set aside since Mwoalen Wahu no longer exists

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 23, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—On December 6, Young Sun International Trading Company attorney, Joseph Phillip filed a reply to opposition to dissolve the TRO against a sea cucumber harvest in Pohnpei. In it, he claimed that the Mwoalen Wahu Ileiele en Pohnpei, a sort of council of Pohnpei’s traditional paramount leaders no longer exists as a group and should not have legal standing to file a legal action against the harvest plan.

In September of this year, the FSM Supreme Court ruled that the Mwoalen Wahu (the group of Pohnpei’s highest traditional leaders) has legal standing to file a civil action against Pohnpei’s planned sea cucumber harvest. A temporary restraining order has been in place since the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and the Mwoalen Wahu Ileiele en Pohnpei filed suit at the FSM Supreme Court. In its September ruling the court decided that CSP did not have legal standing to file a civil action against the harvest but that the Mwoalen Wahu did.

But Phillip says that the Mwoalen Wahu is a fictitious group that, if it ever did exist was disbanded by its chairman, the paramount chief of the Kingdom of Sokehs, Herculano Kohler before the law suit requesting a TRO against the planned sea cucumber harvest was filed. He further argues that even if the Mwoalen Wahu existed, Nett’s Iso Nahnken Salvador Iriarte would not have the traditional standing to represent the entire group of Pohnpei’s paramount chiefs with

the exception of perhaps the paramount chief of Nett.

He argues that though the court ruled that the Mwoalen Wahu had legal standing to bring suit against the sea cucumber harvest, it did so with the absence of evidentiary matters that tended to dispute the Mwoalen Wahu’s legitimacy as a plaintiff.

While admitting that the Pohnpei Constitution does uphold, respect, and protect the customs of the traditional kingdoms of Pohnpei, but that there is nothing the Constitution concerning the customs and traditions of the Mwoalen Wahu that would require respect and protection. “...since plaintiff does not exist, and enjoys not protection under the Constitution,” the TRO should be dissolved, Young Sun’s argument says.

Young Sun’s attorney claims that a letter dated April 8 written by Sokehs Paramount Chief Herculano Kohler to Pohnpei Governor Marcelo Peterson informed the Governor that the Mwoalen Wahu had been dissolved. Phillip claimed that “The communique dissolving the de facto organization represented five out of the 7 traditional kingdoms in Pohnpei.”

“On or about October 2016, the paramount traditional chief of the Kingdom of Sokehs confirmed by affidavit the dissolution of the de facto organization. Both the letter and affidavit have been submitted by Young Sun as exhibits and are made part of the record of the matter,” the filing said.

We were not privy to that letter.

FSMTC updates announcement on fiber optic repair to begin on December 27

This is an updated announcement regarding the proposed outage of the submarine fiber optic cable originally transmitted to the public in October, 2016.

The FSMTC has received confirmation from the submarine cable operator that the proposed outage and repair of the submarine fiber optic cable is now scheduled for December 27, 2016 to January 04, 2017.

Although there will be significant reduction in bandwidth that will be felt by all, the FSMTC has put measures in place to mitigate the effects as much as possible under the circumstances. Nevertheless, the FSMTC requests the public’s assistance in limiting bandwidth usage to the bare minimum to avail more bandwidth to the more critical establishments such as the banks, airlines, Embassies and gov’t agencies.

Updated announcements will be publicized if there are changes or additions to the schedule and durations.

Ambassador Chigiyal Speaks on Behalf of PIF on Oceans

FSM Information Services

December 08, 2016

New York, 7 December 2016 (FSMUN): Today, as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) opened its annual debate on its agenda item on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, Federated States of Micronesia Permanent Representative Ambassador Jane J. Chigiyal, speaking as Chair of the 18 member Pacific Island Forum, told the world body that “Given the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, we have always seen ourselves as custodians in protecting and sustainably using our Ocean.”

Of the world’s 510 square kilometers total surface area, some 70% of the Earth’s surface is covered by oceans. The largest ocean on Earth is the Pacific Ocean; it covers around 30% of the Earth’s surface.

In her statement to the General Assembly, Ambassador Chigiyal referenced the Pohnpei Oceans Statement: A course to Sustainability adopted by Forum Leaders at the Forty-seventh Pacific Island Forum held this year in the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The Ambassador said, “It (Pohnpei Ocean Statement) reinforces the inseparable link between our ocean, seas and Pacific island peoples: their values, traditional practices and spiritual connections.” Ambassador Chigiyal continued to emphasize that “the Pacific will continue to advocate for a healthy, productive and resilient Ocean here at the United Nations.”

This year, the Ambassador emphasized the universal and unified character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which she said “[...] remains of vital importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and it should continue to be reflected in the Oceans omnibus resolution.”

The Ambassador especially focused on a number of important events that have occurred during the year which she highlighted with their inter-linkages to UNCLOS.

She spoke of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee established by UNGA resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond

national jurisdiction (BBNJ). While the Ambassador said discussions on the BBNJ were productive and acknowledged the progress made, she however, spoke of her Group’s dismay “[...] that we could not welcome the progress achieved so far in the context of the Oceans Omnibus resolution which could have been a factual statement.” She held out hope that the next March meeting of the preparatory process will continue to make good progress.

In her statement, Ambassador Chigiyal also referred to a 2 May event celebrated at the United Nations by the Pacific as World Tuna Day, noting that tuna is an important part of life in the Pacific and elsewhere, she encouraged members of the United Nations to support a draft resolution advocated by the Pacific to designate 2 May of every year as World Tuna Day. At the latest count just before the draft resolution is actioned by the UNGA later in the day, already over 90 countries have sponsored the Pacific initiated draft resolution.

On the Informal Consultative Process (ICP) held in June and which examined Marine debris, plastics, and microplastics, the Ambassador said the “[...] discussion was both timely and comprehensive, looking at the scale of the problem but also at a comprehensive set of solutions from prevention to removal.” While her Group welcomes the report of the Co-Chairs, she also expressed her group is welcoming the renewed mandate of the ICP and its focus in the coming year on the interaction of Oceans and Climate Change and further elaborated that “(It) is essential that science underpins policy decision making on oceans and fisheries issues.”

As implementation of Sustainable Goal 14 is high on the Pacific agenda, Ambassador Chigiyal welcomed the appointment of the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and Singapore to facilitate the preparatory work of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14, which will be co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden in New York next year.

“All stakeholders – states, IGOs, private sector and civil society are called to contribute to this success and to further the agenda by committing themselves fully implementing SDG 14”, she said and “A healthy, productive and resilient Ocean is key to the future of our blue planet.”

From Paris to Marrakech to the Pacific, an overview of the UN Climate COP22 outcomes

Mr Kosi Latu, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

“While the Twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP23) may be over, it was straight from one monumental environment event to another with the start of the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP13) that followed in Cancun, as well as the eighth Green Climate Fund Board Meeting hosted by Samoa.

Finding a moment of calm in this hectic international schedule, there is always a good time to reflect on the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP23 hosted in Marrakech this year from 7 – 18 November, and to understand how some of these outcomes may impact us here in the Pacific region.

We won’t paint a story of how climate change is impacting us in the Pacific islands as this is a story that we all know so well. We will, however have a look at what 190+ country parties have agreed to at the international level, which will eventually affect us all in our homes at the national and community level.

History was made yet again, with the Paris Agreement legally coming into force just days before the actual COP22 started in Marrakech, Morocco, and for this we must congratulate our Pacific island members who played a pivotal role in helping to make this happen by ensuring they had all ratified the agreement within a one year period. Congratulations also to another of our members from the Pacific, Australia, who announced their ratification of the Paris Agreement during the COP.

There were other milestone moments for our Pacific island region, with Fiji announced as the new President of the UNFCCC COP23, the first time for a Small Islands Developing State to take up such a role. This means Fiji will organize the event which will be hosted at the headquarters of the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany from 6 – 17 November next year. Fiji will also facilitate dialogues and workshops over the coming year to help bring about resolutions that will serve all parties to the UNFCCC. Congratulations Fiji and SPREP is ready, willing and available to provide support and assistance for the year ahead.

The Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development was adopted calling for the highest political commitment to combat climate change, as a matter of urgent priority. It also called for further climate change action and support, well in advance of 2020, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, the least developed countries and those particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

It was in Marrakech that it was agreed for the

Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement pending decisions on governance and other issues. The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol and has since provided funding to five Pacific island countries totaling over USD 14 million. This now means the Adaptation Fund continues and will remain available for Pacific island countries to help them undertake projects to adapt to climate change.

The discussions on Loss and Damage saw Parties conduct the first review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. This mechanism was established at COP19 and is also working under the Paris Agreement. Its’ role is to develop approaches to help vulnerable countries cope with unavoidable climate impacts such as slow-onset events like sea level rise. Pepetua Latasi of Tuvalu is the co-Chair of the WIM Executive Committee. The next review will take place in 2019 with ongoing reviews to happen every five years which may align with the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, as before this there was only a two-year work programme. Also to note for the Pacific islands, the 2019 review will look at financial support made available to support loss and damage work, including the modalities for accessing such support.

Adaptation Communications, a country report to be submitted on a regular basis that communicates adaptation priorities, needs and efforts on a regular basis was an outcome of the Paris Agreement. It was decided that how the report was to be submitted is flexible, and it could be part of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), or National Communications (Nat Comms) country party reports that are already underway, or it could be a separate report. Since Marrakech there were further discussions on this, in particular the purpose of this adaptation communication, the elements it would include, possible linkages to other issues, vehicle and timing for communicating them and other flexibilities required. There has also been a call for countries for submissions to input into this, which must be provided to the UNFCCC by 12 January, 2017.

The Global Environment Facility also established the Trust Fund for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to help parties meet their reporting requirements under the UNFCCC, in particular for mitigation. More than USD 50 million was pledged for the new Trust which was declared ‘open for business’ at COP22.

Aside from outcomes from the COP22, other major milestone achievements were made on the sidelines. SPREP signed an agreement with

Tuna Commission confirms: Observer safety to improve, VDS works

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement

Denarau, Fiji 9 December 2016: The best news coming out of this year's Western and Central Fisheries Commission annual meeting for the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) is the Commission's adoption on its last day of meetings today in Fiji of a measure to improve the safety of fisheries observers.

Other good news from the annual meeting for the PNA is confirmation that the multi-billion dollar skipjack tuna industry is being effectively managed on its target reference point for stock sustainability. "This shows that PNA's vessel day scheme works," said PNA CEO Ludwig Kumoru. "The VDS limits fishing effort to sustainable levels."

Mr. Kumoru also said there was some useful progress on work to develop harvest control strategies and management measures that are expected to lead to improved long-term management of the tuna fishery.

"Beyond this, progress at this year's WCPFC annual meeting was limited," he said.

The outpouring of anger and call for a vote by island nations when initially the WCPFC was unable to get consensus to adopt a fisheries observer safety measure Friday afternoon demonstrates the determination of the islands to raise the bar for protecting its fisheries observers, said Mr. Kumoru. Not long before the meeting wrapped up Friday, consensus on the observer measure was reached, cancelling the need for a vote.

"Observer safety is a huge concern for PNA nations, so we are happy this measure has gone through to protect the men and women who are at the front line of our fishery," said Mr. Kumoru.

PNA also expressed disappointment that recommendations for an urgently needed stock rebuilding strategy for northern Pacific bluefin tuna were not offered by the relevant committee to the WCPFC during

its annual meeting.

"The observer safety measure was the biggest development at this year's annual meeting. And some progress was made for developing harvest control strategies and management measures that will lead to improved management of our tuna fishery," he said. "These measures take time to develop and the PNA group is looking forward to seeing substantial progress on these, as well as development of the tropical tuna 'bridging' measure, over the coming year."

While seeing modest progress on management issues, PNA's CEO said bluntly that "distant water fishing nations are using the WCPFC as vehicle to promote and protect their interests in the fishery. We see this in several big nations' attempts to get extra fishing days, prevent expansion of our domestic fleets and get access to trade information on the VDS.

"The challenge we face is continuous

attempts by distant water fishing nations to undermine the vessel day scheme that manages fishing effort in our zones, and to obstruct our attempts to expand our fishing fleets," said Mr. Kumoru. "Solomon Islands head of delegation Ferral Lasi made this clear during the plenary Friday when he objected on behalf of PNA and all Forum Fisheries Agency members to a proposal by Japan to limit vessel capacity, which is simply a move to protect existing distant water fishing fleets."

PNA has proven that the VDS is successful in controlling fishing effort by setting fishing day limits, resulting in "excess fishing capacity" being removed from the fishery by market forces, he said.

The lack of an effective strategy to rebuild northern Pacific bluefin stocks emphasizes the entrenched interests that want to maintain the status quo despite the urgency of the stock level, said Mr. Kumoru. "This lack of action on northern Pacific bluefin tuna — a high seas fishery controlled by distant water fishing nations — shows clearly where the roadblocks to rebuilding and conserving stocks are coming from," he said.

PNA members see that a "bottom up approach" has been the most effective for managing the tuna fishery, said Mr. Kumoru. "PNA has effectively used the vessel day scheme (VDS) and licensing conditions for in-zone fishing to control the purse seine skipjack fishery," he said. "We are implementing a VDS for the longline industry as a first step to improving management of this fishery, and are focused on registration, tracking and study of fish aggregating devices (FADs). We are also expanding use of electronic reporting by fisheries observers that is improving access to catch data for stock assessment and management purposes. All of these initiatives contribute to sustainable use of the fishery. What we want to see is all distant water fishing nations supporting effective management of our high seas fishery — management that is not evident at the present time."

Transshipment ban co-sponsored by Cook Islands and China is adopted at the Tuna Commission

WCPFC13, Denarau, FIJI ISLANDS - A regulation sponsored by Cook Islands and China to ban transshipment in the Eastern High Seas Pocket was formally adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Tuna Commission.

The Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), or Tuna Commission as it is commonly known, is a fisheries management organisation established by the United Nations under the UN Law of the Sea and is responsible for the management of the 2,687,840 tonnes (2015) of tuna caught in the Western Central Pacific Ocean.

The transshipment ban will become effective as of 2019.

The Eastern High Seas Pocket is an area of international waters surrounded by the

Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Kiribati and is located within the main longline fishing grounds for albacore tuna.

In 2010 the Cook Islands led efforts at the Tuna Commission to designate the Eastern High Seas Pocket to be declared a special management area. To enforce this regulation the Cook Islands has an active program of joint maritime patrols in and around these waters with France, US and New Zealand and more recently bilateral operations with Kiribati and trilateral operations with Samoa and Tonga.

However the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) has remained concerned that inspections during sea patrols indicate that fishing boat are not adhering to proper reporting and that Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and transshipment continues to take place.

This led to the initiative by the Cook Islands to seek a total ban of transshipment in the pocket.

Approximately 500 participants are participating in the WCPFC meeting held in Nadi, Fiji from 5-9th December.

The Cook Islands delegation to the WCPFC session is comprised of MMR secretary Ben Ponia, Director Tim Costelloe and Fisheries Officer Latisha Maui.

This is the first time that a Pacific Island nation and China have cooperated in sponsoring a regulation at the Tuna Commission.



During its final adoption a number of powerful fishing nations made interventions to register their support including Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).

In his address to the floor the MMR secretary Ben Ponia acknowledged the assistance of Commission members and noted the significance of this decision as being two-fold; firstly in improving the management of the high seas albacore longline fishery and secondly through strengthening the spirit of international cooperation.



Pohnpei Basketball team defeats Majuro Baptist



Giff Johnson

Visiting basketball team Pohnpei won the first of its three games Tuesday following a close game against Majuro Baptist Christian Academy at the Staff Sergeant Solomon Sam Basketball Sport Center in Uliga.

Photos by Hilary Hosia/Marshall Islands Journal



Pohnpei maintained a four-point lead throughout the game to defeat MBCA, 43-39.

Councilman Billy Edward from Kolonia, Pohnpei said the boys in the team represent various middle schools and that majority of them reside in Kolonia.

Pohnpei swept its 3 game series in Majuro, defeating Majuro Baptist Christian Academy 43-39, Laura Public Elementary School 49-35, and in the final against Majuro's top middle school, Majuro Middle School, PNI won in overtime, 77-75, to complete the sweep.

Promoting better governance, accountability and transparency for Pohnpei State

PASAI Secretariat

The Pohnpei State Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) in partnership with the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) hosted a five day workshop in Pohnpei from 21 – 25 November 2016 for Members of the Legislature, Audit Entities, Public Auditors of Federated State of Micronesia, Chief Executives of Local Government, and other stakeholders including media and civil society organizations, in Pohnpei. The workshop is in line with one of PASAI's strategic priorities, "to advocate on behalf of its members to strengthen governance, transparency and accountability."

Legislative committees play an important role in the scrutiny of audit reports and providing oversight over the use and management of public resources. The workshop was opened by the Vice Speaker of the Pohnpei State, the Honorable Nixom Soram, "who extended a warm welcome to members of the legislature, the Pohnpei State Public Auditor, Iso Ihlen Joseph, his staff, and the PASAI delegation for holding such a valuable workshop for its members". Vice Speaker, Hon Nixom Soram in

expanded, we must ensure they are accurately accounted for, if not, we turn to the auditors. That is why we need the help of auditors". Members of Legislative Committees who attended the first two days also commented, "the workshop was informative and extremely useful for their roles as oversight committees, and as members of the legislature"

The first two days of the workshop was the programme for members of the Legislature and was attended by 17 members. The topics covered included an overview about the role of PASAI, the status of accountability and transparency in the Pacific, the value and benefits of Supreme Audit Institutions or Offices of Public Auditors, public accountability framework of the Pohnpei State, its budget process, fraud awareness and the audit findings of OPA.

The final three days were for the second group comprising of Cabinet Members, staff of audit entities including finance and administration staff, the Public Auditor of Kosrae State and his staff, which started their session on Wednesday and attended by 27 participants. The Governor of Pohnpei State, the Honorable Marcelo K Peterson, welcomed the second group, and in his opening remarks, extended his gratitude to the Chair of PASAI, also the Public Auditor of Pohnpei, for selecting Pohnpei to host this workshop. He ended

his opening remarks with a wise old saying, "in order to establish trust, it is first important that you be trustworthy. This means you should be forthright with all your dealings".

This workshop is the fourth Public Accounts Committee workshop PASAI has held in the Pacific, and it is the first time it has extended to a five day programme to include audit entities, government officers, local government and other stakeholders.

The workshop was facilitated from PASAI by Mr Eroni Vatuloka, PASAI Advocate, and Ms Aolele Su'a Aloese, Director of Advocacy, Engagement and Financing, and from the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor, by Mrs Sophia H Pretrick, Investigative Advisor, Mrs Analin Co Estur, Audit Manager and Ms



Christina Elnei, Budget Officer, Pohnpei State Governor's Office.

PASAI would like to acknowledge the support of the Pohnpei State Office of the Public Auditor, for making this workshop a great success. We would also like to acknowledge the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

NOTICE OF LAND SALE IN YAP STATE

FSM Development Bank offers for sale fee simple title to the following parcels:

Parcel no. 019-H-12, locally called Fitmeyan, situated in Yinuf Village, Rull Municipality, consisting of 2,361 square meters, more or less, shown on Cadastral plat no. 019-H-00;

and

Parcel no. 082-H-01, locally called Fitemachey, situated in Dachngar, Rull Municipality, consisting of 2,916 square meters, more or less, shown on Cadastral plat no. 082-H-00;

and

Parcel no. 082-H-03, locally called Muut Nu Fitemachey, situated in Dachngar, Rull Municipality, consisting of approximately 1,274 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral plat no. 082-H-00;

and

Parcel no. 083-H-07, locally called Muut, situated in Dachngar, Rull Municipality, consisting of 135 square meters, more or less, shown on Cadastral plat no. 083-H-00.

- Offerors may submit written offers for any or all parcels.
- Deadline to submit offers is Tuesday, January 31, 2017.
- Offers shall be submitted in writing by personal delivery to any FSM Development Bank office. Offers may also be submitted by email to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel at: noras@fsmdb.fm
- All offers must state the full name, address, phone number, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the offer.
- All offers must clearly state in writing the amount offered for each parcel.
- The Offeror whose offer the FSM Development Bank accepts in writing must then pay the full amount of the offer within ten (10) calendar days to the Bank.
- FSM Development Bank will then convey fee simple land title through deeds of conveyance. Persons must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- FSM Development Bank offers the parcels "as-is" and neither guarantees nor warrants their condition whatsoever.
- There is no minimum offer amount
- FSM Development Bank reserves its right to reject any and all offers.

Questions concerning this sale may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, website: www.fsmdb.fm

NOTICE OF LAND SALE IN KOSRAE STATE

The FSM Development Bank offers for sale fee simple title to the following land parcels:

Parcel no. 033-M-12, locally called Mutunsroa, situated and located in Malem Municipality, Kosrae State, consisting of 1,918 square meters, more or less, as shown on cadastral plat no. 033M00.

and

Parcel no. 082-M-08, locally called Futa, in Malem Municipality, Kosrae State, consisting of 9,004 square meters more or less, as shown on cadastral plat no. 082M00.

and

Parcel no. 021-U-10, locally called Maal, situated and located in Utwa Municipality, Kosrae State, consisting of 6,928 square meters, more or less, as shown on cadastral plat no. 021U01.

- There is no minimum offer amount. Offerors may submit written offers for one, two or all three parcels.
- Deadline to submit offers is 4:00 pm on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.
- Offerors shall submit offers by personal delivery to any FSM Development Bank office. Offers may also be emailed to: noras@fsmdb.fm
- Offers must state the full name, address, phone number, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person who submits the offer.
- All offers must clearly state in writing the amount offered for each parcel.
- The Offeror whose offer the FSM Development Bank accepts in writing must then pay the full amount of the offer within ten (10) calendar days to the FSM Development Bank.
- FSM Development Bank will then convey fee simple land title by executing deeds of conveyance. Offerors must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- FSM Development Bank offers the parcels "as-is" and neither guarantees nor warrants their condition whatsoever.
- FSM Development Bank reserves its right to reject any and all offers.

Questions concerning this sale may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, website: www.fsmdb.fm

Grant Aid of 80 Million RMB to the FSM

FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei (Department of Foreign Affairs): An Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed between Secretary Lorin S. Robert and Ambassador Li Jie, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on behalf their respective governments on December 13, 2016 at the President's Conference Room. The grant aid of RMB 80 million is by far the biggest of its kind to the FSM. Pursuant to the agreement, the grant aid shall be used for transport sector project(s) and other project(s) to be agreed upon between the two Governments.

In a short remark after the signing, Ambassador Li conveyed that the grant aid was timely given the spirit of the holiday season as a gift from the Chinese Government to the FSM. He further touched on the special relations between FSM and China and further stated that the grant is part of his ongoing efforts to push Beijing to increase its assistance to the FSM. He further stated that he will continue to push his Government to make sure that the next assistance to the FSM

will be no less that 80 million RMB.

Secretary Robert responded by thanking Ambassador Li and expressed his appreciation for the generous assistance to the FSM on behalf of both of President Christian and Vice President George who were witnessing the signing of the agreement ceremony. He continued by assuring Ambassador Li that the grant assistance will not only assisted FSM in its ongoing nation building efforts but will certainly enhance the good working relations between FSM and China.

For further information on this release, please contact the Department of Foreign Affairs, APAMA Division at 320-2613.



China donates \$800,000 for Air Niugini subsidy

FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei (Department of Foreign Affairs): On December 9, 2016, a signing of a handover certificate took place at the President's conference room between Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the FSM, T.H. Lorin Robert and H.E. Li Jie of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. The monetary assistance of \$800,000 will be used to subsidize the newly launched Air Niugini that provides service between Papua New Guinea and FSM.

In a short remark, Ambassador Li Jie stated that the Chinese Government is happy to assist the FSM in its transportation development efforts. He further stated that the assistance will not only improve FSM's transportation development but will certainly contribute to the FSM's economy and nation building effort.

Secretary Lorin Robert reciprocated the remark by

thanking Ambassador Li and the Chinese Government on behalf of President Christian and Vice President George for the generous assistance. He concluded by assuring Ambassador Li that the assistance will be put to its intended purposes and that it will certainly enhance the good working relations between FSM and China.

For further information on this release, please contact the Department of Foreign Affairs, APAMA Division at 320-2613.



Auto Renewal of Mobile Plans Will Be Discontinued

FSM Telecom would like to inform its valued customers that effective December 1st, 2016, auto renewal of mobile plans will be discontinued. If you have subscribed to any of the 3G mobile plans below, please note that your plan will no longer renew automatically upon expiration. If you wish to continue using the plan, you have to re-subscribe to it. Pay-as-you-go rates will apply if you are not subscribed to any plan. Please call your local FSM Telecom office if you have any questions regarding this announcement.

PLAN	DAILY 5	MONTHLY 30	MONTHLY 50	DATA ONLY UNLIMITED 2	DATA ONLY UNLIMITED 9
PRICE	\$5	\$30	\$50	\$2	\$9
TALK	30 MINS	60 MINS	120 MINS	N/A	N/A
DATA	100MB	2GB	5GB	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
TEXT	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	N/A	N/A

Pay as you go rates: \$0.15/min for voice, \$0.10/Mb for data and \$0.10 for each SMS.



Yapese tattoo artist gaining fame and keeping the cultural tradition alive

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 22, 2016

Yap, FSM—Though Leo Pugram is very humble about his skills, he is one of the most famous of Yap's tattoo artists, preserving a tradition of skin and ink that is all but disappearing.

Pugram, who is 33 and lives in Colonia was recently invited by the world famous Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois to be a guest speaker and also to display his tattoos during a tattoo exhibition. Despite his own misgivings, the experience was successful enough that the Museum has invited him back again for a repeat performance next year.

"Looking at my plane ticket and seeing that the whole flight was going to be more than 26 plus hours, I almost gave up on flying before even getting on the plane," Pugram wrote.

But he had opportunity to make a few stops along the way. His first stop was in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he was hosted by Reed and Amy Perkins. They showed him around New Mexico including a visit to the Petroglyphs near the famous Route 66. "The Petroglyphs were like tattoos that were permanently put on Rocks, and Route 66 was like my own Journey, a long tattoo journey that I have taken and I knew that it was just the beginning. So I decided to get a tattoo of the Kokopelli and a Route 66 sign on my leg as a memory," he said.

He also was able to make a stop in Killeen, Texas to meet his sister, Gloria Goomtam who is stationed there with the U.S. Army. He also met nieces and nephews that he had never seen before he headed to Chicago.

There he was welcomed by friends and clients of well-known tattoo artist Leo Zulueta whose shop, "Spiral Tattoos" is in Michigan. They drove to Michigan to meet that man that other tattoo artists call "the Godfather of Tribal Tattoos."



tattoos and some of his flash art which he has signed, but the best one was one of his very own tattoo machine. I felt so honored and speechless when I was given those gifts," Pugram exclaimed.

Parting ways he left Michigan to attend the Tattoo exhibition.

"At the Museum, they showed me tattoos from all around the world, but the most popular one was a "silicon" that was tattooed by Leo

Pugram said that he first heard of Zulueta several years ago when he started tattooing and was looking for tribal tattoo information online. "So I started following his work online and learning more about him. While looking at his pictures, I saw a tattoo that really caught my eye, it was his full back tattoo. As soon as I saw it, I wanted to have a tattoo like that, but at the same time I didn't want to have a tattoo that someone already has," Pugram wrote.

"I showed my employer, Donald Evans the picture of Leo Zulueta's back and told him that I wanted it as a tattoo, but at the same time didn't want to have it as it was not my design. That is when Donald (who has lived on Yap since before I was born) told me that the back piece was actually a Yapese Traditional Tattoo Design. After he told me, I immediately knew that I just had to have it," Pugram wrote. "In 2012 my friend, Dean Schubert from Visual Tattoos flew from Eureka California all the way to Yap to do my back piece. We did it all in eight days."

He said that when he met Zulueta his palms were sweaty and he was very

nervous. "He has been a person that I have looked up to as one of the greatest tattoo artists of all time.

When we met, I was surprised to find out that he was even more nervous to me, but he was kind and very funny. I was surprised at how down to earth and normal he was, as if he did not know how popular and good he is," Pugram wrote.

The same could be said of Pugram himself.

"I had a good time at his shop, meeting with his wife and some of his fellow tattoo artists. It felt like home. Everyone was so friendly and it felt like we have known each other for years. Leo's wife, who is a photographer, took pictures of Leo Zulueta and I, and also pictures of his clients that he has done the back piece on as well. I was lucky enough to be a guest tattoo artist there, and I got a chance to tattoo some clients that wanted Yapese designs as tattoos," he wrote.

"Leo and I spent a lot of time talking about tattoos, traditions, and our love for tattooing. Leo gave me some gifts, old pictures of Yapese with the back piece

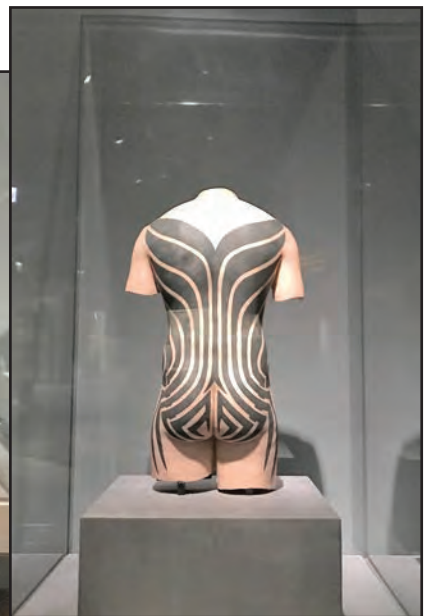
Zulueta, the Yap Back Piece," he wrote. "I had to explain the tattoo to the crowd there, which was not an easy thing for me as I do not do well with crowds. Not a single person in that room knew where Micronesia or Yap was, so I spent a lot of time explaining to them where Yap was."

He said that he had to talk about the traditional tattoos of Yap and why the art is not practiced anymore.

He was asked to show his back piece while people took photos of him next to Zulueta's tattoo that was displayed and also next to his own client who had the traditional three dolphins.

"We spent a half day at the tattoo exhibition looking at tattoo designs and people who have made their mark in the tattoo world," he said.

"I was very fortunate to be invited back to actually do tattoos at the Field Museum in April of 2017," he wrote. "So in April I will be back in Chicago to tattoo using the traditional tattoo tools and also the modern tattoo machine."



“Service with a Heart”

Ahi tungol rahnmwahu en peren oh limpoak en Krismas ohng peneinei koaros. Popohl en Kauno en ketiket rehn koaruhsie lela nan pahr kapw en 2017!

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year to All!!

Greetings From: **DR. MERLYNN ABELLO-ALFONSO**

Muslims for Peace

Islam is a religion of Peace, Love and Tolerance. For more than 100 years the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the leading Islamic organization to categorically reject terrorism in any form. A community that stands for education, integration and interfaith peace, we welcome all to visit our mosques, mission centers and events that bring people together to understand more about the true peaceful teachings of Islam. We are committed to helping others, engaging local communities and working for the common good. In essence “Love for All, Hatred for None” is the unique banner upheld by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and a message that we believe is the basis for lasting peace.

Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
Promised Messiah and Mahdi & Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

“Whosoever killed a person... It shall be as if he had killed all mankind; and whoso gave life to one, it shall be as if he had given life to all mankind.”
The Holy Quran (5:33)

TERRORISM

Holiday Greetings

My fellow citizens and friends of the Federated States of Micronesia, during this special holiday season, Vice President George and I, along with our families, extend our warmest Christmas greetings and sincere wishes for a prosperous New Year.

Peter M. Christian
President



AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY
Federated States of Micronesia

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.MuslimsforPeace.org
Ph: 691-370-6900 / 970-8800
P.O.Box 726 Kosrae, FM 96944
AhmadiyyaMicronesia@gmail.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT
Exciting Together for the People of the PacificPACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
40th Anniversary 1971-2011

COORDINATOR – PACIFIC ISLANDS TRADE & INVEST NETWORK

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat:

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

About the Opportunities:

An exciting opportunity exists for a Coordinator, Pacific Islands Trade & Invest Network to join the Secretariat. This job exists to coordinate the PT&I network, and Investment Policy advice to the Forum Island Countries, assist in developing and executing trade and investment promotion strategies, and deliver private sector development strategies to FICs.

Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Lead, in close consultation with the Trade Commissioners, a process of continuous improvement and strategy development for PT&I;
- Provide timely and high quality briefings correspondence, reports and analysis as required;
- Lead in investment policy advice coordination to FICs i.e. assist with emerging requirements from investors; regulatory reforms; harmonisation of national investment policies;
- Establish and implement trade and investment plans for the PT&I network.

A review of the governance arrangement of the PT&I network is in progress, the outcome of which may change the duties of this position.

Applicants should have an appropriate

degree (e.g Business studies, Business Administration, Management, International Trade, Marketing, Pacific Studies) and minimum 5 years demonstrated experience. Candidates should demonstrate experience and success at practitioner level in project management, strategic planning, financial management, marketing and promotion, international trade, enterprise development for growth, sustainable development. 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 and private sector.

About the Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary will be in the range of SDR39,868 to SDR44,851 per annum. At the 1 November 2016 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD113,649 to FJD127,853. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free.

To be eligible for these positions, the applicant must be a national of one of the following Forum member countries*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

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

**Deadline for applications is
at 5pm (Fiji time),
10 February 2017.**

* 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.

VP-elect Pence taps American Samoa congresswoman to join transition executive body

22 Dec 2016

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Office of the American Samoa Congressional Delegate) — On Saturday, Vice President-elect Mike Pence appointed U.S. Congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen to the Presidential Transition Team Executive Committee.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence with U.S. Congresswoman Aumua Amata at the Capitol last month.

“Amata is a great friend and colleague, and I am delighted she will be joining our team,” said vice chair Marsha Blackburn, a senior member of Congress from Tennessee, who also serves as vice chair of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee. “This decision advances a commitment President-elect Trump made last spring to not forget the territories once elected.”

Radewagen can be expected to be looked to as a key advisor on issues concerning the U.S. territories and Asian Pacific American or APA communities.

As the highest ranking elected Republican federal official of APA heritage and as a Trump delegate to the Republican National Convention last summer, Amata is ideally suited to serve in this powerful role within this prominent group of decision-makers.

Having served on President George W. Bush's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and as the current vice chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Native Alaskan Affairs, the congresswoman is very familiar with

leadership in both the Caribbean and Pacific territories and stateside APA communities.

The Presidential Transition Team Executive Committee is a body composed of national business, government and political leaders who are guiding the work of teams that have been dispatched to the White House and various government departments and agencies to coordinate with current administration officials the smooth handover of the reins of government on Jan. 20. In addition to Rep. Marsha Blackburn, the committee includes a number of other members of Congress, incoming White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, and first daughter Ivanka Trump.

“Governor Pence and I discussed this possibility when we met recently, and I'm pleased and honored to be selected by him to join the team,” said Amata. “Following my conversation with the VP-elect, I spoke with my good friend Marsha Blackburn who saw the value for the territories and APA communities to have a voice on the committee.”

Last month, Radewagen was re-elected for a second term to her House seat, having received the most votes for a candidate of any territory-wide office in the history of American Samoa.

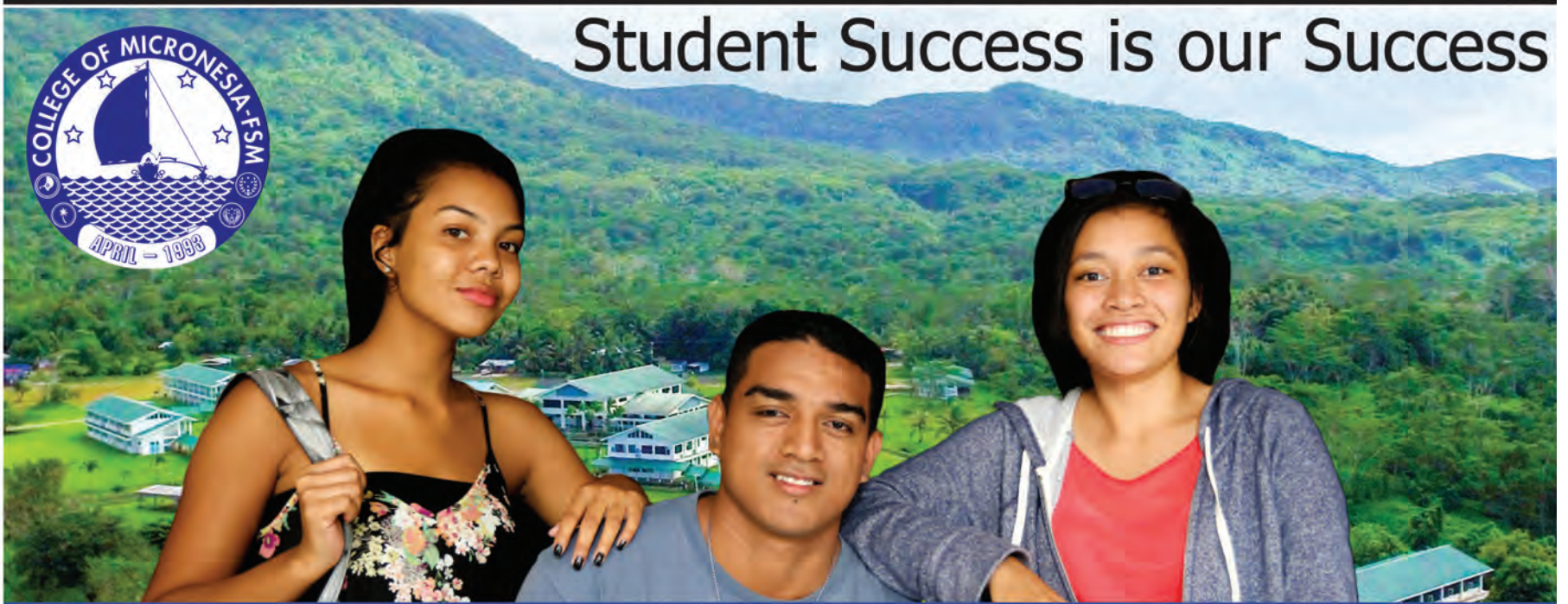
Amata first came into office by defeating a 22-year Democrat incumbent, in what has historically been a very “blue” territory. Her selection to the committee may be the first time a Pacific Islander has been part of the inner circle of a presidential transition.



**VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MIKE PENCE WITH U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN
AUMUA AMATA AT THE CAPITOL LAST MONTH**



Student Success is our Success



National Campus
 P.O. Box 159
 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Phone: (691)320-2480
 Fax: (691)320-2479
 E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
 P.O. Box 879
 Chuuk, FM 96942
 Phone: (691)330-2689
 Fax: (691)330-2740
 E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

FSM-FMI
 P.O. Box 1056
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 Phone: (691)350-5244
 Fax: (691)350-5245
 E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm

Kosrae Campus
 P.O. Box 37
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Pohnpei Campus
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 Fax: (691)320-3799
 E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm

Yap Campus
 P.O. Box 286
 Colonia Yap, FM 96943
 Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
 Fax: (691)350-5150
 E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm

Registration for Spring 2017 Begins Wednesday 01/04/2017.
 Classes Start Monday 01/09/2017.

Follow us online:



College of Micronesia-FSM is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

President's Message To The Community

December 9, 2016

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Members of the COM-FSM Community,

Season's Greetings! During this special time of the year let us be reminded of the many things for which we are grateful. We should be especially grateful to the FSM Congress for demonstrating continued support for the college.

Our community has made much progress during the past year. While we have much work to do, I am optimistic that we will be successful. In the remaining days of 2016 and as we prepare to enter a new year, let us renew our commitment to the mission and values of COM-FSM and to each other as valued and respected members of this higher learning community.

At the recent Board of Regents meeting in Yap, the FY2018 budget was approved. The budget reflects the needs, goals and objectives articulated in the integrated educational master plan and supports ongoing fulfillment of the college's mission.



Joseph M. Daisy, EdD, President

Continued financial support for the FY2018 budget by the FSM Congress, especially the provision of \$2.8 million decremented by JEMCO will be critical to our ability to achieve the integrated educational master plan and to continue to meet ACCJC Standards, and USDE requirements. Such financial support from our nation's leaders will support our accreditation related commitment to continuous quality improvement and to student success.

We prepare for the college's 64th Commencement on Thursday, December 15th at 9:00AM. As an institution of higher education, no event in the college is as important as commencement. For our students it is a time to recognize and celebrate their academic accomplishments.

For the families of our students, commencement provides yet another point of pride. For all of us and for our faculty most especially, commencement is an opportunity to acknowledge our work and success in educating the young men and women who represent the future hopes, dreams and aspirations of the FSM. I am proud of the faculty, staff and administration of COM-FSM and look forward to being among you at this important ceremony on this important day.

Thank you for all of your work, effort and dedication this year in service to the students we serve. Each of us plays an important role in the fulfillment of the mission of COM-FSM. Together, let us look forward to the challenges and opportunities we will surely face in 2017.

It is a privilege for me to serve you as president.

Please accept my wishes for a holiday season filled with joy, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Warm regards,

Joseph M. Daisy, EdD, President

Important Dates

- 12/26/16** - Christmas Holiday
Observed. College closed.
- 12/27/16** - College open for business.
- 12/30/16** - Administrative leave.
College closed.
- 01/02/17** - New Year's Holiday
Observed. College closed.
- 01/03/17** - College open for business.
- 01/04/17** - Spring 2017 Registration begins.
- 01/06/17** - Spring 2017 Registration ends.
- 01/09/17** - First day of instruction.
- 01/11/17** - Last day to Add/Drop classes.

College of Micronesia FSM holds 64th Commencement Exercises

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 15, 2016

Palikir, Pohnpei—The College of Micronesia FSM held its 64th Commencement Exercises for graduates this morning at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center at COM-FSM.

The Summer and Fall graduating classes adopted the theme “A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor”.

For this graduating class, Stewart Johnny was the valedictorian and Regina Moya was the salutatorian.

Patty Mario, Belinda David, and Ray Joseph made the President’s list for taking only college-level courses and achieving a semester grade point average of 4.00. 21 students made the Dean’s list for their GPA’s of 3.50 to 3.99.

27 year old graduate of COM-FSM, Jasmine Mendiola gave a commencement address based on the class theme that, based on the applause she received, likely resonated with a majority of the graduates. She began her speech by asking what the audience seemed to think was a rhetorical question. She wanted to know which student had made the greater accomplishment—the student who had all of the benefits of financial affluence who didn’t have to work while going to school, or the student who accomplished, despite being financially or otherwise hampered in their efforts. When she received no answer she asserted that it was the second student.

She spoke of her own challenges of attending COM after having a baby at a young age and being in an unhealthy relationship. She spent every penny she had on babysitters and tuition but did finally make it through and she did so with outstanding grades. She is now the Assistant Director of the Marine and Environment Research Institute of the Pacific.

USDA Invites Applications for Rural Business Development Grant Program

HILO, Hawaii, December 15, 2016 – USDA Rural Development State Director for Hawaii and the Western Pacific Chris Kanazawa announced today the agency is seeking applications for the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Program. RBDG grants are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribal groups to finance and facilitate various business opportunity or business enterprise projects that serve rural areas.

“Access to capital is a critical component to helping our rural businesses create jobs and build stronger, more vibrant rural communities,” said Kanazawa. “This grant program is an important tool to help provide those financial resources many businesses wouldn’t otherwise have access to.”

The RBDG program can assist with targeted technical assistance such as marketing and feasibility studies and business plans, purchasing equipment for small and emerging businesses, creating

a revolving loan fund, and supporting rural distance learning programs for educational or job-training. Applications are due by close of business on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

Last year, USDA Rural Development assisted five organizations with RBDG awards in Hawaii and the Western Pacific for a total of \$165,000 in grant funds. For example, the University of Hawaii utilized a \$24,555 RBDG award to provide technical assistance which included a business plan and feasibility study that will assist four new aquaculture farmers.

For more information on the RBDG program, or to request application materials please contact a Business Programs Specialist serving your area:

- Hawaii County and Maui County: Lori M. Nekoba, lori.nekoba@hi.usda.gov or 808-933-8312
- Oahu, Kauai, and American Samoa: Shirley M. U. Heatherly, shirely.heatherly@hi.usda.gov or 808-541-2600 ext 139

- Western Pacific: Anthony Barcinas, anthony.barcinas@pb.usda.gov or 671-300-8567

Since 2009, USDA Rural Development has helped more than 1.2 million rural residents buy homes; funded nearly 9,200 community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; and invested more than \$14 billion to start or expand nearly 122,000 rural businesses. USDA also invested \$38.6 billion in 1,057 electric projects that have financed

more than 198,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines serving 4.6 million rural residents; and helped bring high-speed Internet access to nearly 6 million rural residents and businesses. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.



The KASELEHLIE PRESS

This bi-weekly publication is only \$1.00

Happy New Year!

Wishing you and your family
a very happy and safe new year!

IOM hosts Human Rights Day Festival and Poetry Slam

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 10, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The International Organization for Migration sponsored a Human Rights Day Festival this evening at the Spanish Wall ball park. The event was to raise awareness of inalienable human rights.

Marstella Jack was the keynote speaker for the event. During her speech she listed and explained 31 basic human rights that all human beings no matter social status, gender, or location should have that cannot be taken away.

Kester James served as the Master of Ceremonies.

A highlight of the evening was what IOM called a Poetry Slam competition with divisions for Poems and stories for High School students and for College students.

The poems had to be 30 lines or fewer and had to relate to the topic of Human Rights or Human Trafficking. They had to be submitted in hard copy by December 7 and the writers also had to commit to reading them aloud during the Human Rights Festival. Entries were judged on the content of poem, its relevance to Human Rights/Human trafficking theme, evocativeness, colourfulness; the delivery of the poem, the physical presence of the reader including eye contact and body language; the persuasion of the poem, the voice, articulation, volume and pace of

the presentation of the poem.

Some of the presentations were so well done that they moved audience members to tears.

The winners for the Poetry and Storytelling competition are below:

High School Poetry

1. Josh A. Pangelinan from SDA: A Road Less Traveled
2. Tulaulelei Overhoff from OLMCHS: Stolen
3. Yuchie Leopold from CCA: A Silent Belief: Human Rights

COM Poetry

Darla Raymond: My Rights

Storytelling

1. Tulaulelei Overhoff from OLMCHS: The Bonsai Tree
2. Nicole Faye S. Liao from CCA, FREED

“A Road Less Traveled”

Josh A. Pangelinan
First Prize winner High School division

As life goes on, we all take a breath,
Praying each day there won't be a threat
Innocent lifestyle is all we're pursuing,
Till you wake up the next morning in the court-house suing.
Are we not in a free country, in which we claim?
Or did we strive for that, and end up the same?
Cases and laws are amended for the benefit of the people,
So that we may never see a human-trafficking sequel.
Victims of this act share their stories of bravery,
So that none would have to experience slavery.

Silent thoughts were expressed through speech,
Though many aren't confident enough to go out and preach.
Great numbers are vulnerable of receiving important information,
But aren't fortunate enough to exercise the right to education.
We display the right to equality with the laws of our nation,
But still struggle to change the mindset of daily discrimination.
We build up upon the legacy of a stable community,
While attempting to keep our promise of a right to security.
We all run into similar issues on the island of Pohnpei,
The difference is we learn from our mistakes throughout each day.

Micronesia as a whole endures this stormy path of fear,
Searching for a navigator who will eventually take the steer.
Four islands uniting for the better outcome,
Lightning strikes the ship with a shocking loud drum.
Everyone starts to furl the sails,
For the incidents have left a trail.
The sun starts to set on the horizon,
As the night sky shows the belt of Orion.
The country lays in confusion, greatly baffled,
For this here, is a road less traveled.

“Stolen”

Tulaulelei Overhoff
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School
Second prize winning poem High School Division

I was a simple girl from Micronesia with a simple dream;
That someday, my family's future will beam.
A distinguished man came into the village one day;
And offered us work with promise of a better pay.
Accepting the job meant leaving the island though;
But my family needed the money so I was eager to go.
When the day finally came, from the island I departed;
With the burning hope that my new life's getting started.

Living with strangers in another place all on my own?
I felt confused and lost; this was nothing like home.
I did housework and extra chores day by day;
Wondering when I'd even get my pay.
When they began to mistreat me, it already seemed clear;
Not all people are as what they appear.

They forced me into a small room cramped so tight,
It was filthy, sweltering, and devoid of light.
I continued with my daily duties without any defiance;
Though failure to complete them was met with extreme violence
As I stared at the belt and bruises, which have grown very swollen
I realize that I didn't just leave my island that day; I was stolen
One night, wailing cars of black and white filled the street lanes
Bringing men who took my captors in handcuffs and chains
A figure in dark uniform came to comfort me and say
“Don't worry ma'am, you're going to be okay”
Silently I broke down into a sea of tears,
For the first time, I was able to relieve all fears.
After all the emotional pain, abuse and toughness,
I was given what had been denied me so long ago: Justice



Employment Opportunities

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement

The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic, career and technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.



The College of Micronesia-FSM is searching for qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

Position	Location	Annual Salary
1. Instructional Coordinator (2 positions)	National	\$17, 643.00- \$19, 880.00
2. Instructional Coordinator	Pohnpei	\$17, 643.00- \$19, 880.00
3. Instructional Coordinator	Yap	\$17, 643.00- \$19, 880.00
4. Business Instructor	National	\$16, 131.00- \$17, 819.00
5. Social Science Instructor	Chuuk	\$16, 131.00- \$17, 819.00
6. English Instructor	Chuuk	\$16, 131.00- \$17, 819.00
7. Science Instructor	National	\$16, 131.00- \$17, 819.00
8. Natural Science Instructor	Kosrae	\$16, 131.00- \$17, 819.00
9. Mathematics & Computer Instructor	Yap	\$16, 131.00- \$17, 819.00
10. Administrative Assistant I	Yap	\$ 6, 631.00
11. Student Services Specialist II	Yap	\$8, 501.00- \$9, 579.00
12. Computer Lab Monitor	National	\$ 6, 136.00
13. Information Systems Specialist I	Pohnpei	\$8, 846.00- \$9, 968.00
14. Youth Extension Agent I	Chuuk	\$8, 586.00- \$9, 675.00
15. Student Services Assistant I	National	\$5, 955.00

Detailed information is available at: <http://www.comfsm.fm/?q=hr-jobs> . Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 130, 131, 192 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm.

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Christmas Word Search Puzzle

D M J S C P S Y O T R A T S O
 M A V I X E N L R A J P F R M
 O H N T R E E L Q R E G N A M
 P Y N C O D D O S M C A X Q E
 T R X Z E O F H I A M A V W R
 B Q A J N R Y S R E H S B C U
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ANGELS PRESENTS
 BLITZEN RUDOLPH
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 COMET STAR
 CUPID STOCKINGS
 DANCER TINSEL
 DASHER TOYS
 DONNER TREE
 FROSTY VIXEN
 HOLLY WREATH
 LIGHTS
 MANGER
 MISTLETOE
 ORNAMENTS
 PRANCER



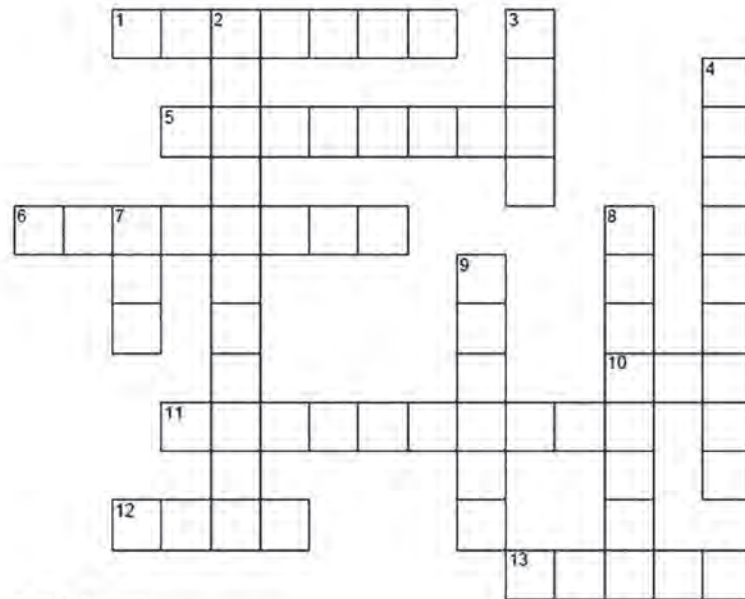
Christmas
Word Search

HOLLY
 REINDEER
 SANTA
 GIFTS
 STOCKING
 MISTLETOE
 FAMILY

G	H	O	H	T	K	O	W	F	O
D	X	O	H	E	B	F	W	A	Z
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A	K	X	Q	B	A	F	R	U	G

New Year's Day

January 1st



www.elevics.com

ACROSS

- 1 month New Year's is in
- 5 12:00 A.M.
- 6 small pieces of colored paper dropped on people at New Year's parties
- 10 the night before January 1st is called New Year's _____
- 11 a promise you make to yourself
- 12 couples do this at exactly midnight
- 13 day of the month New Year's is on

DOWN

- 2 blow these special whistles to make noise on New Year's
- 3 children bang these to make noise at midnight on New Year's
- 4 light these sticks to celebrate the new year
- 7 3-letter abbreviation for the city that has a famous New Year's celebration in Times Square
- 8 item that often hangs on a wall and is used to tell the date
- 9 there are twelve of these in a year





REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for an Electronic-Reporting/Electronic-Monitoring (ER/EM) Coordinator based in Pohnpei, FSM. The ER/EM Coordinator services include:

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK

- Oversee and coordinate vessel and onboard electronic reporting of data and information for NORMA.
- Coordinate all work on video electronic monitoring activities of NORMA.
- Establish and implement e-reporting and e-monitoring procedures including implementation of standards in equipment, data collection and storage.
- Install and provide trainings or tutorials in use of hardware and software to observers and fishing companies in e-reporting and e-monitoring.
- Assist in implementation of e-reporting and e-monitoring trials and/or transitioning of NORMA to full programs when appropriate.
- Ensuring secure storage and accessibility of e-reporting and e-monitoring data from collection to data analysis/utilization.
- Work closely with NORMA staff and partners in the FSM, the Pacific region and internationally in areas related to e-reporting and e-monitoring and represent FSM interest in meetings as may be assigned.
- Assist with other duties as may be assigned by the Chief of Research Division.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SHORT-LISTING CRITERIA

- Bachelors Degree in computer science or related field. An Associates degree could be considered if extensive relevant professional experience is proven.
- 2 years relevant professional experience.
- Relevant IT skills/experience with android based devices, operating database systems, Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Internet Browsers.
- Demonstrated experience in supervising staff and in delivery training and providing necessary guidance.
- Good written and oral communication skills, especially report writing.
- Proven ability to work independently and under limited supervision.
- Project management experience and/or skills.

ADDITIONAL DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- A general understanding of the technical aspects of E-Reporting and E-Monitoring
- Experience working in Tuna fisheries sector and with Pacific Islands.

REMUNERATION

- Salary will be based on the Local Labor Market Payscale and/or depending on qualifications.
- This will be a 2-year full-time position under contract with FSM NORMA subject to renewal based on performance.

APPLICATION

The FSM NORMA invites consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of a) Letter of Interest, b) CV or resumé, c) support Degrees/Certificates and d) three 3 reference letters to NORMA no later than January 20, 2017. Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition). Full Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from:

NORMA, FSM National Government
Attn: O'Kean Ehmes, PROP Coordinator
P.O Box PS-122, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181
Email: moria.joseph@norma.fm. Copy to okean.ehmes@norma.fm

POHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY SPACE(S) TO LEASE



Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting to all interested Individual or Companies interested to lease the following business concessions within the PPA terminal and outside of the terminal.

1. Concessionary space inside the departure secured area currently use by Neime Company. Size is 223.93 square feet.
2. Concessionary space across the United Airline check in counter currently use by Neime Company. Size is 155.66 square feet.
3. One unit building east of PPA terminal size is 20' X 90' for 1,800 square feet.
4. Concessionary within the PPA restaurant also known as Restaurant (B). The size is 370 square feet.

Interested Individual/Companies may submit their interest proposals to the attention of the Pohnpei Port Authority's General Manager Mr. Nelperson Etse email address netse@mail.fm or to PPA Marketing division to the attention of Mr. Luciano Abraham email address 1485sano1957@gmail.com. All proposals shall be accepted starting December 26, 2016 to January 13, 2017.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any proposal received in connection with the above soliciting advertisement.

For more information please contact the Pohnpei Port Authority Marketing Division telephone number 320-2793 extension No: 110 or refer to our website www.ppa.fm by clicking the contact us button.

Nelperson Etse
General Manager
Pohnpei Port Authority

JICA Alumni Association of FSM 10th Annual General Meeting

JICA

Members of the JICA Alumni Association of FSM (JAA-FSM) from all four states celebrated the 10th Annual General meeting in Kosrae on Saturday November 05th, 2016. This will be the second time after Yap, the JAA-FSM had its AGM in the states with the hope to have the next one in the state of Chuuk. JAA-FSM was established in 2006 in Pohnpei as a non-profit corporation with the purpose to (1) gather and create friendship among all JICA Alumni and those who studied in Japan and JICA volunteers within and outside of the FSM, (2) develop relationships between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the alumni with the frames of the Official Development Assistance Program of Japan; and, (3) support economic, culture, scientific and technical cooperation between the FSM and Japan.

During the opening remarks, Master of Ceremony Mr. Charlie Sakios (Secretary JAA-FSM) welcomed all the JAA members, JICA volunteers, guests and families from Kosrae. Mr. Simpson Abraham, President of JAA-FSM, also delivered a brief outline of the history and purpose of JAA-FSM and the activities the Association had undertaken since its inception to date. Also attending the 10th JAA-FSM, though Mr. Shinji SHIBATA JICA-FSM, Resident Representative was not able to attend, Mr. Sakios delivered his remarks. Also in attendance to witness the JAA-FSM 10th AGM, Hon. His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to

the FSM, Mr. Horie, Lt. Governor of Kosrae, Carson Sigrah, Senator Dahker Daniel from Pohnpei State, JICA/JOCV volunteers working in Kosrae, and members of KSA JAA.

Representatives from the respective JAA-FSM Chapters attending the meeting, Kosrae President, Mr. Clain William, Vice, Mr. Remos Livaia. Pohnpei, President Yamase, V-President Patti, & JAA-Yap President Faimaw, V-President Limar and Yap state Government representative Mr. Tony Torwan on behalf of the state of Yap.

Members of the JAA-FSM Chapters proceed its AGM with the report from each state JAA Chapters on their progress reports in the prior year and proposed activities for 2017. Mr. Ambassador also outlined the importance of the JAA presence between Japan Government and FSM Government and he extended his invitation to JAA-FSM to participate in the upcoming Japan Festival.

The meeting concluded with remarks by Mr. Clain William, President, JAA-Kosrae who reiterated the importance of the establishment of the JAA FSM Chapter and outlined the important roles that reflects the establishments of the States Chapters to keep its members together and strengthen the relationship between FSM and Japan, especially through collaborate and partnership with JICA volunteers, and communities in FSM to help achieve the purpose of JAA's formation at the community and grass roots level.

Announcement: Employment Opportunity Coordinator, Health Systems (HS)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking a qualified individual to serve as the Coordinator, Health Systems (HS). The duration of the contract for this position is one year.

The Coordinator, HS will be based at the WHO/Country Liaison Office (CLO) for Northern Micronesia in Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, and will serve the three jurisdictions under this office: Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau. The position will be supporting the activities of WHO Fellowships, Pacific Open Learning Health Net (POLHN), WHO programs on health systems, and general administration in the office of WHO/CLO for Northern Micronesia.

Description of duties

- Serve as the focal person on health systems activities
 - o Collect, analyze, and provide reports on health systems work areas
 - o Dialogue and collaborate with DOH on relevant issues and challenges
 - o Provide technical assistance in development/review and implementation of the national strategic plans
- Manage health systems programs
 - o Provide assistance towards the implementation of the joint DOH and WHO country planned activities
 - o Coordinate all health systems training provided by WHO, including but not limited to the Pacific Open Learning Health Net (POLHN)
 - o Coordinate implementation of the Fellowship program
 - o Monitor efficient utilization of budget & resources; preform relevant contractual agreements & DFCs in WHO Global Management System (GSM)
 - o Provide general administrative support to the WHO/CLO-N. Micronesia
- Perform other related duties as required or assigned

Required Qualifications

Education: Degree in public health, preferably master's degree.

Skills:

- Strong communication skills combined with the ability to write in a clear and concise manner;
- Effective collaboration with teams in an international, multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary environment;
- Ability to coordinate with outside partners;

- Good analytical skills;
- Knowledge of public health, health systems, and training fundamentals; and
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite.

Required Competencies:

1. Communicating in a credible and effective way
2. Ensuring the effective use of resources
3. Fostering integration and teamwork
4. Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences

Experience: At least 2 years of experience in public health related work, preferably with UN or other international organizations.

Languages: Expert knowledge of English.

Annual Salary: Special Service Agreement (SSA) contracts salary based on experience/qualifications.

Applications will be accepted through 9 January 2017. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume/CV in-person, by mail, or via email by 9 January 2017 to the following address:

In-person:

Capitol Suites and Offices Department of Health and Social Affairs Suite 201 Palikir

Mail:

Dr. Eunyong Ko
PO BOX PS70
Department of Health and Social Affairs Mogethin Building, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Email:
To wpfsmclo@who.int and cc koe@who.int



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FAD management is major initiative of PNA

Parties to the Nauru Agreement

Nadi, Fiji 11 December, 2016: As many as 50,000 fish aggregating devices (FADs) are likely in use in the western and central Pacific tuna fishery, many of which are equipped with increasingly sophisticated sonar and satellite technology linking FADs to fishing vessels.

FADs have long been a key part of the tuna fishery, but new technology and a surge in numbers in recent years underscores why the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) is focusing on FAD tracking and management, said Ludwig Kumoru, PNA CEO, following last week's Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission annual meeting in Fiji.

Sonar equipment that identifies the size of a school in the vicinity of the FAD is a transformative new technology for the tuna fishery. Despite the apparent increase in FAD use and technology improvements, fisheries managers lack data and information about FADs, said Mr. Kumoru.

"We've been trying to learn more about FADs as we know very little," PNA Commercial Manager Maurice Brownjohn told media from around the Pacific who were covering the WCPFC annual meeting.

A FAD is anything fish associate with — ranging from such things as logs or living or dead whales to a man-made raft. "Why they work, no one knows," said Mr. Brownjohn. "Some work while others don't, but we know that fish associate with them."

Over the past five years, PNA has annually

...COP22

Continued from page 7

Climate Analytics and Charles and Associates to implement the IMPACT project. This will continue on from the Survive Project and the High Level Support Mechanism which aimed to enhance the participation of SIDS negotiators at the international climate negotiations through building capacity of Pacific negotiators with SPREP.

Another component of IMPACT will strengthen the linkages between the climate science impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to help enable access to finance and help implement concrete projects. The very first workshop of this will take place in the first quarter of 2017, and this project is currently seeking a Senior

invited industry to declare how many FADs they were going to deploy as part of registering their each vessel. Based on industry and other sources of information, PNA estimated that approximately 30,000 FADs were in use in the region, about 100 FADs per purse seine fishing vessel in the region. But in the past year, a new survey of FADs showed a big jump in the numbers, with some fleets declaring hundreds of FADs per vessel. "We've revised upward to 50,000 our estimate of FADs in use in the fishery," Mr. Brownjohn said.

But the high numbers are only one part of the FAD story and their impact in the PNA fishery. New technology associated with FADs is greatly increasing efficiency of purse seiners. "With the sonar technology on FADs linked with satellite communications, fishing fleet managers can sit in an office, look at a screen and see how much fish is under their many FADs," said Mr. Brownjohn. "The sonar provides an estimate of the biomass under the FAD."

With this information, purse seiners no longer need to check multiple FADs for fish. Instead, they can target the highly productive FADs where most tuna congregate based on data provided by sonar equipment, said Mr. Brownjohn. "This increases the efficiency of the operation," he said. "So it's gone from a fishing operation which is hunting to a farming operation where it is like cherry picking."

"Sophistication of FADs is causing a dramatic shift in the fishery that will clearly impact management of the fishery going forward," said Mr. Kumoru. "Right now, we're monitoring FADs and FAD use."

Research Associate: Climate Change Strategies to be based at SPREP to help contribute to the IMPACT Project.

Much was achieved and compromises made over the course of the two weeks of negotiations at the UN Climate COP, what we have shared here today are just a few of what may be key outcomes for the Pacific islands, there were so many more which may be relevant to your island nation. To read the outcomes of the COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco this year, please visit: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php#auv>

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2017, and look forward to working with you all in the New Year ahead."

*Tofa soifua,
Kosi Latu
Director General, SPREP*

Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

Our beginning teacher Navarro Navarro began teaching just at the end of Trust Territory Times and found there was really no Micronesian History textbook for his 5th graders. His class had only U S history texts. We saw that Navarro told his 5th graders to cross out “Columbus discovers America” and replace it in ink with “One of the first Europeans to come to the New World”. Because writing in ink in textbooks was against the school rules our critical thinking questions centered around—should Navarro have done this? Most case study readers agree that saying Columbus was the discoverer of the “Americas” is really not too appropriate. We noted that we would never say something like Magellan discovered Guam. So when students or teachers say No--Navarro should not have had students change the text in ink---there is always a No... But! A Yes or No that must be explained is the critical thinking part of the case study. In this instance usually education students want the change but somehow they feel Navarro should have gone to the Mt. St. Mary’s Principal and received permission. We ended last E C saying that Navarro was pretty good with what he was to teach (the curriculum) but was now concerned with how to make

the subjects interesting (methods and strategies).

Continuing the Navarro Case Study Mr. Davis, an American, and Navarro’s 6th grade science teacher, always made science interesting with his curiosity blanket. Mr. Davis always had something hidden beneath an old green blanket before science class. When students paid attention to the lesson it was possible to guess the hidden object. He recalled a hidden kitten when the lesson was mammals and a long snake-lizard for the reptile lesson. Once for the health lesson on junk food he had hidden two packages of cookies. When the students guessed correctly the whole class ate the cookies. He recalled Mr. Davis’s favorite expression about moderation. “Nothing wrong with cookies—in moderation,” Mr. Davis had said. Besides his curiosity blanket, Mr. Davis made things interesting with experiments. Sixth-graders were always doing experiments ... proving things right and proving things wrong. He remembered too that every 6th grader had to enter the school science fair. His own project “Monsters” had won a blue ribbon (1st prize) at the school fair and a red ribbon at the county fair. Mr. Davis had shown Navarro about planarian worms. Students could barely make out these little creatures with the naked eye. But under a microscope you could split the head and grow two heads and split the two heads and grow four. You could do the same with the tails. Navarro remembered his favorite monster worm. It had four heads and four tails. Mr. Davis had made him add the word regeneration to his project title so it read “Monsters—Experimenting with Regeneration.” The entire 6th grade thought it was the coolest of the cool and everyone thought it deserved a first or blue ribbon at the county science fair. Navarro had always thought that the first prize had been wasted on some plants that grew at different rates using different fertilizers. It was titled “Plants—Growth Rate Using Different Fertilizers.” The science fair was always about the scientific method and the Blue Ribbon Girl had her dependent and

independent variables and variables must have impressed the judges. But even 10 years later the young teacher still believed his monsters were better than plants growing in chicken or cow waste. And there again he had received a red ribbon and perhaps was another reason why he associated the color red with something bad. And even though he did not get the first prize, Navarro knew he would show his students planarian worms before he fooled around with plant growing. He had to do both plants and animals in 5th grade science so perhaps he would have his 5th graders do both experiments. And while he did not know if there was still a county science fair, he would organize a Mt. St. Mary’s science fair and be sure all of his 5th (and also 8th) graders entered. He would make this part of the science grade although he was not sure about grades and grading. Navarro worried a little on this. “How does one grade a science experiment?” he thought to himself?

Navarro thought about holidays and then once again about Micronesian History. His American teachers always had special lessons and often with treats on days like Thanksgiving, George Washington’s and Abraham Lincoln’s birthdays. Students dressed up and did things like plays about the holiday. These were American holidays and perhaps would no longer be celebrated. He smiled as he thought about the 4th of July. Independence Day will have to be celebrated on a different day once independence came. Navarro was sure that Liberation Day would remain. After all, that was truly a Micronesian event although the day varied from island to island depending on when the Japanese actually gave up by disarming and leaving each particular island in September of 1945. But whatever holidays that came up Navarro would do a good lesson. After all, if the date was important enough for a day off, the day deserved a special lesson and he could have some treats even if he had to buy the treats himself.

Finally what Navarro realized was the idea of student involvement or students being part of the lessons. As a student Navarro liked lessons where he was doing something—hands on. He saw that discovering why something occurred or why something was true was important. Questions as why it rains so much in Kolonia was important. That was far more useful learning than a student knowing the average rainfall in Kolonia was about 180 inches per year. He knew that observing cells in a microscope and learning how and why cells work was both important and interesting. This was far more important than memorizing the definition of a cell—the cell is the smallest whole part of a living thing. It was not too difficult for Navarro to memorize a definition or pick out the correct answer on a multiple choice test. For many of his classmates it was difficult and they received low grades in science and history. It was difficult and boring and many just said—“I am just not good at science” or “I am just not good at history” and finally “I don’t like science and history because they are so boring.

Our critical thinking questions begin with: Do you think students learn better when they are actively involved in activities as science fairs? And of course—Why? More on this in the next E C.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday season to all-womackandassociates765@gmail.com

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