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F4 event showcases college student entrepreneurial talent

By Mason Wiley
COM Center for Entrepreneurship

On August 7th, a beautiful Friday night, COM-FSM hosted the Friday Food Fashion Festival (F4) at the Spanish Wall baseball field. The event lasted from 5pm-8pm and hosted around 20 student-operated businesses. From 5pm to 8pm, hundreds of Pohnpeian residents meandered among the tents that hosted over 20 student-operated businesses with a variety of products and services, including hot sauce, handcrafted furniture, bluetooth speakers, premium coffee drinks, local delicacies, and much more. The Yapese Student Organization and Chuuk-Chok (a student organization) also provided spirited traditional dance.

See "F4" on page 5



Yap to send top students to FIRST Global Challenge robotics competition

Micronesia's famously traditional Island of Stone Money is sending top students to a high tech global robotics competition this summer. The team, their teachers, and a network of supporters, are working hard to ensure they arrive on time, properly equipped, and prepared to compete. The FIRST Global Challenge is a worldwide robotics competition scheduled for mid-July in Washington DC. Small student teams design, build, and compete complex robots from simple parts. Featuring over 150 teams from across the planet, it also serves as a forum for students to meet and partner with diverse international peers.

"We are proud to have Micronesia attend FIRST Global -a beautiful country too often overlooked due to distance and size, and yet so eager to participate in our international event," exclaimed former Congressman and retired Admiral Joe Sestak, organizer the event "Famous for having used star navigation throughout the ages to travel across the Pacific, Micronesia is a vivid example that when there is a passion you are willing to feed and a thirst for knowledge you are eager to quench, there is no limit to the amazing things you can achieve."



See "Yap Robots" on page 5

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US Peace Corps, Mahi International, the FSM Government, and Symtech Solar provide power to Pakin

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 18, 2017

Pakin, Pohnpei—Symtech Solar, a renewable company has recently completed phase two of a solar power project on Pakin Atoll in Pohnpei, according to its newsletter.

“Symtech Solar partnered with Peace Corps and Mahi International to install Phase 1 of a group of solar PV systems on the island’s local school to help bring the area out of fossil-fuel dependency,” the newsletter said.

“Since the inception of this project, the local people and government have relied happily on this Off-Grid PV system to provide ice making capabilities, lighting, and computer power for their local school.”

Phase 2 added another 4kW Off-Grid photovoltaic (PV) system including a 24 meter telecom tower that will serve to provide a communications link between Pohnpei and Pakin.

“As there are daily trips aboard small fishing and tourist boats between the islands, the local government hoped to provide both full data and cellular communications coverage between the islands including Ant and Pakin Atoll,” the newsletter said. “This coverage will allow for not only better communication between the islands but provide internet services for the local school and much better emergency communication services for those boats that could experience emergencies during their inter-island voyages.”

“Since Pakin Atoll is often hit with multiple swell and weather formations, it is imperative for the local government to offer better emergency response and communication services to the local islands”, said Congressman Ferny S. Perman. “Adding

this telecommunications outpost will offer the Pakin Atoll school internet access thus providing better educational services and communications capabilities to the local islands.”

The newsletter said that the Phase II project includes 16 roof mounted solar panels and then went into technical details we are not technically equipped to understand. It says that the system will provide more than 18 kilowatt hours per day in usable energy from the roof mounted array while also storing 11 kilowatt hours of “usable energy” in the battery bank.

“This system eliminates the need to rely on power generation from diesel fuel generators and the transportation costs of liquid fuels from the main island,” the online newsletter said.

“We are extremely excited to continue our support for the local communities of Micronesia and try our best to promote both the training and maintenance resources of our products to the local people”, explained Symtech Solar Co-Founder Geoffrey Moser. “We love the idea of offering energy independence and clean energy services to some of the most remote places on earth.”

“Pakin Atoll’s economy is primarily based on its fishing industry, but with stark limitations to electricity access, business development proves to be very difficult,” the newsletter says. “Essential revenue for the people of Pakin Atoll is derived from preserving marketable fish and transporting them to Pohnpei for sales. However, even such basic tasks, such as ice preservation, are inhibited without electricity.

“Clean, reliable energy supply supports businesses in the region, which drastically stimulates the local economy, in addition to



offering ultimate electricity independence and consistency. Such ripple effects in Pakin Atoll demonstrate the significance of solar installation and serve as a hopeful symbol for energy development in the future,” the newsletter concludes.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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New law doubles the distance from FSM shores for commercial exploitation ban

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 18, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—FSM President Peter M. Christian has signed into law an amendment doubling the distance from all FSM shore lines in which commercial marine activities are now banned. It is an idea that he proposed during a speech on the Congress floor when he was a Senator in the 18th Congress. But it wasn't until April 4, during the last special session of the 19th Congress that the formalized bill, introduced by request by Floor Leader Florencio Singkoro Harper, was passed on second reading.

Ever since the FSM became a country, the closed area seaward from FSM shore lines has extended only 12 nautical miles out to sea. The new law doubles that distances to 24 nautical miles.

If an operator is caught exploiting natural resources within the 24 nautical mile zone, he can be fined not more than \$15,000 and not more than \$50,000. The FSM would then have the discretion to exclude the operator from a future license or fishing negotiation. The law allows the FSM to provide discretionary exemption to the closed area to locally owned fishing companies.

It's a significant step but still not quite half the distance of the closures in some other Pacific Islands countries, some with much smaller exclusive economic zones than the FSM which has the second largest EEZ in the Western and Central Pacific.

Conservation organizations are applauding the move.

IFCP conducts food tasting to promote locally made taro and banana flour

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

April 7, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—On April 7, 2017, the Island Food Community of Pohnpei(IFCP) hosted a food tasting of dishes made from locally processed banana and taro flour.

The objective of the food tasting was to determine if locally produced banana and taro flours tasted good and could be recommended for household use, local marketing, and possible export. IFCP invited some representatives from the local government and from the private sector to be the food tasting panel.

The event was part of the ongoing research being spearheaded at IFCP by Mr. Konrad Englberger to produce flour from banana, giant swamp taro, breadfruit, coconut and pumpkin with skin and without skin at different maturity stages, peeled and unpeeled for food security, local marketing and possible export.

Among the 24 food tasters were Governor Mr. Peterson and Director of the Department of Health, Mr. Kapilly Capelle.

There were twelve dishes with different

types of flour. There were two giant swamp taro soups, eight banana cakes, two taro cakes, and two banana breads. The result showed that there was no significant difference between flour prepared from bananas and taro with skin on or with skin removed. 24 people participated as panelists. The average results of scoring were that 48 percent "liked the dishes very much". 38 percent scored them as "good". 12 percent said they were "acceptable", and two percent ranked them as "unacceptable".

These activities will continue until the end of the year and other crops like breadfruit with skin and core will be compared with breadfruit with skin removed.

Some of the flour will be sent to a food laboratory in New Zealand to analyze the nutritional content. It is expected that the local types of flour are higher in Beta-Carotene than imported, processed flour and also that they are gluten-free.

There will be one or two more food tastings with some of the new products in the near future. There are a limited number of free samples at IFCP which can be obtained for tasting.

We would like to express our appreciation and thanks to the FSM National Govt, the Department of Health and Social Affairs, the State Dept of Health and Social Affairs, the family and friends of Late Dr. Lois Englberger, and the Bill Raynor Estate for funding support.

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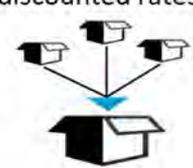
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Alumni Hertin Gabriel Graduates From UOG

Palikir, Pohnpei (April 16, 2017) – Alumni Hertin Gabriel completed his Bachelors degree in Tropical Agriculture with applied sciences at the University of Guam (UOG) last Fall 2016. Gabriel took up Agriculture while attending COM-FSM.

Mr. Gabriel was the first student at COM-FSM

supported by a scholarship by the Resident Instruction in the Insular Area (RIIA), then called Caribbean Pacific (CariPac). Additionally before enrolling at UOG, Mr. Gariel traveled to Puerto Rico as part of an experience learning opportunity in his chosen field.

Mr. Gabriel says he will

be pursuing a Masters Degree Program in the near future. He began at UOG in January 2012 and completed all of his courses in June of 2016.

Mr. Gabriel is now employed as a Research Associate by one of his professors at UOG.



Mr. Gabriel holding his diploma at UOG's Fall 2016 commencement.

...F4

Continued from front page

The event has grown significantly over the years from a handful of students trying their hand at a business for the day at tables on National Campus to a night festival that invites the entire community to participate. The COM-FSM Business Division began the F4 as a way to assess business students' understanding of business fundamentals, but it has since found support within the College's Career and Technical Education divisions on Pohnpei Campus and the Center for Entrepreneurship. Although the primary purpose of the event is to provide a real world setting to practice and evaluate students' business acumen, students and residents of Pohnpei are beginning to see the event as a chance to showcase Micronesian innovation.



The success of the F4 will certainly lead to bigger and better F4s in future semesters. There are also plans to include more local entrepreneurs in order to capture a snapshot of the FSM's full entrepreneurial potential. Perhaps with enough support it could even lead to regular public markets to encourage some of our islands' enterprisers to take a shot at the small business they've been dreaming about.

...Yap Robots

Continued from front page

The hard work of the Micronesian students in their technical preparations is matched only by the simultaneous efforts to raise money needed for their trip. For the competition the team must switch to an entirely new type of robot. Mastering the bots will take enormous commitment from students and teachers at Yap Catholic High School, winners of the 2016 Yap Robo Day competition. It also requires four round trip airplane tickets from Yap to Washington DC.

"Our students' innovation and creativity has blossomed so quickly through our STEM and Robotics Program in large part due to our limited resources, said Michael Wiencek, Principal of Yap Catholic High School. "My favorite part of every year is when new students are following the step-by-step guide to build a basic prototype and they ask 'Mr. Wiencek, we don't have these parts. What do we do?' To see their faces go from frustration, to contemplation, to excitement when I simply respond, 'Get creative with what we have,' will never get old."

The sense of pride, accomplishment and ownership, is spreading from student and community members, to those who are helping to

raise money and awareness. "We should be proud of these kids, who've been at it since 2011," wrote Lee Weber, former president and publisher of the Pacific Daily News on Guam. "And also proud of the league and their only current private non-government supporter, Matson, and its monetary and equipment donations.

"This is a great opportunity for these young Micronesian students," continued Weber. "Let's not allow students to shoulder this opportunity alone," stressed Weber in his PDN editorial column, urging readers to pitch in. You can learn more about the team, the competition, and the fundraising to support them online at

<https://www.gofundme.com/YapRobo>



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UN Joint Mission Visits the Federated States of Micronesia

21 April 2017

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Osnat Lubrani is visiting the Federated States of Micronesia on April 20-25 after visiting Republic of the Marshall Islands and before visiting Palau. Ms. Lubrani is accompanied by Mr. Bruce Campbell-UNFPA Representative; Ms. Aleta Miller-UNWOMEN Representative; Mr. Sheldon Yett-UNICEF Representative; Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov-UNDP Country Director; Mr. Sune Gudnitz-Head-UNOCHA Pacific; and Ms. Fiasili Lam-FAO Policy Officer.

During this visit the UN delegation will be undertaking presentation of credentials to government for the UNFPA and UNICEF Representatives; meeting with civil society representatives and development partners; and meeting with government leaders and representatives to validate the UN Pacific Strategy for 2018-2022.

The Joint UN mission seeks to strengthen partnership between the government of Federated States of Micronesia and the UN, also in continued support to localizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The mission seeks to reaffirm the commitment of the UN to the North Pacific, including the Federated States of Micronesia.

The United Nations agencies active in 14 Pacific Countries and Territories have been working to draft a new UN Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 shaped to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in alignment with each country's

national priorities. On July 26, 2016, the UN held multi-stakeholder consultations in Pohnpei on the new UNPS. Led by the Government, the consultations involved government, civil society and the private sector. From these consultations, five priority areas emerged where UN support would be relevant under FSM's National Development Plan: Social Development; Environment; Climate Change and Resiliency; Infrastructure Development; Sustainable Economic Development and; Good Governance.

Having completed all 14 national consultations followed by a comprehensive formulation and prioritization process, the new UNPS is now being finalized. The UN delegation will meet with Government of the Federated States of Micronesia today in Palikir to validate the UN Pacific Strategy 2018 -2022.

"The Pacific Strategy is a high-level guiding document for UN initiatives in the region until 2022, so we want to make sure it responds to the needs of our partners and helps to achieve sustainable development outcomes that really make a difference to communities", said Ms Lubrani.

UN agencies are currently funding programmes with a focus on climate change, environmental protection, health systems strengthening, capacity building, gender equality, governance and inclusive economic growth.

The UN delegation will also visit Chuuk to brief Government leaders and other stakeholders about the UNPS. The delegation will have an opportunity to engage with community representatives in Chuuk, as well as Pohnpei, and hear their voices and views on development issues and challenges affecting peoples' lives, as well as hear their feedback on the areas of focus under the UNPS.



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 18, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—Jenna Panuelo of Pohnpei is a contestant in the Miss Earth Guam pageant 2017 that will be held in June in Guam. She says that she is the first Pohnpeian contestant in the pageant's history which began in 2008 and has been held annually since then.

The winner of the Miss Earth Guam pageant in June will represent Guam at the international Miss Earth pageant in October. The venue for that pageant has not yet been announced but there are currently rumors that it will be held in Cancun, Mexico.

According to the official rules for the pageant, a contestant must be between the ages of 17 and 26. She must either be currently attending High School or a graduate from High School. She must be single and never have been pregnant. She must be at least 5'4" tall and be able to represent the pageant not just as a beauty, which is also required, but as a person of good moral character who understands the environmental issues that affect the islands. They must also have been a resident of Guam for at least six months.

Jenna graduated High School from Calvary Christian Academy in Pohnpei after transferring from Pohnpei Seventh Day Adventist School. She is currently in her second semester at Guam Community College.

Jenna's mom, Janet Semes-Panuelo said that neither she nor her father, FSM's Senator David Panuelo knew that she was going to enter and that some of what they've seen so far has been "shocking" by Pohnpeian standards. "She's very adventurous and ambitious," said Janet Semes-Panuelo, Jenna's mom. "She seems to like the exposure, so we're supporting her...As you said when you worked with her last year. She's a natural."



"The theme of the pageant is perfect for me since I am from Pohnpei, I understand the many environmental challenges that we are facing today," she wrote. "So for me, I am glad that I can be a part of this program to help our Mother Earth. I really feel nervous, but I try not to show it. As I am getting further into this journey, I am feeling more and more confident. The people I am surrounded with in this competition are very positive and they give me good vibes!"

"I felt very nervous when I heard we were doing a bikini (photo) shoot because other than the little kids, no one wears bikinis or swim suits back home," Jenna wrote.

Pohnpeian resident of Guam participating in Miss Earth Guam pageant



From the unofficial photos, she seemed to carry the photo session off quite well despite her nervousness.

To be sure, the Miss Earth Guam is about beauty but the idea of the pageant is to use beauty as a tool to promote international environmental awareness.

"It was created out of the focus and determination to empower local youth and adults to take on environmental issues and projects," Jenna wrote from Guam. "So far we have been doing cleanups around the island, planting trees for our earth, and attending conferences about Energy Efficiency."

She said that though the rules for the pageant are stringent and require that all contestants attend and participate in all events unless previously approved, the contestants have not yet had a full group photo due to the absence of some of the contestants who Jenna said were busy. "Our supervisor, Josh Leon Guerrero, wants us to understand that school comes first, then family, and then the pageant. He is very understanding, as long as we communicate. He is helping us to build our character. Josh and John Cortez have been great helps for us girls. They help us completely on their own time. It's just something they love to do."

Though there was no entry fee for the pageant, contestants who drop out of the contest will be required to pay an unspecified fee. Jenna has no intention of dropping out, even though the event has so far stretched her in ways she hadn't expected.

The annual Miss Earth Guam pageant will be held in June. Jenna says that the preliminary pageant will be on June 13. The winner of that pageant will represent Guam at the international competition in October.



British coach in Pohnpei helping to reignite a passion for soccer

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 20, 2017

Pohnpei—Football (Soccer) coach Chris Smith is from Nottingham, England, the land of the character of medieval folklore, “Robin Hood”, who supposedly stole from the rich and gave to the poor. But Smith is neither an archer nor a swordsman. He doesn’t have a band of “Merry Men” but he does hope to foster a band of soccer players in Pohnpei. He is on his own, using his own money and the money of interested donors in order to continue the work of those who have gone before him to rekindle a love of soccer in Pohnpei, and to help provide a route for the sport to be followed for those who are interested in doing so.

He arrived in the wee hours of Monday morning, April 17, not having any clue what time it was or what day it was after having spent three and a half days traveling from the other side of the world. A few hours later, he was at the PICS field, face to face with 25 eager young soccer players.

“If there were a bunch of guys with this determination in England, they’d be going places,” he said. “First thing I noticed

was, they are not pulling out of tackles. Yeah, the commitment can’t be questioned. I’m scared to play with those guys as someone who is managing an injury.” It was an ACL injury and several surgeries that took him out of game play. After several years of recovery and no injuries, just three weeks before he came to Pohnpei, he injured his knee again.

“But as far as these guys, they’re not scared of that. Half of them are in bare feet and half of them are in boots, but it doesn’t matter,” he said. “But it’s that commitment though. They have no boots and the pitch is ‘that’ deep in water, they still do it. They still come out.”

Smith hasn’t been sitting still. He hit the ground running and that’s what he intends to keep doing for the three months he will be in Pohnpei. He’s already arranged to conduct 10 soccer seminars next week at elementary schools around the island.

When asked if the three soccer “pitches” in Pohnpei are enough, Smith said that soccer can be



played anywhere and can be scaled down depending on how many people are on a side. “When I talk to people, they talk about the challenges, but I’ve kind of not seen any of them yet. I don’t feel like there’s a lack of facilities. I mean, you can play football on a basketball court, a tennis court or volleyball court, or anywhere, really. And then just throw a couple of shoes down as a goal and you have a competition. You don’t even really need to keep score.” he said.

“I was talking with a principal in Kitti and he said, ‘Yeah, there’s a pitch down here, but people really need to know how to play. They want to know how to play.’” And that is what Smith is here to do.

Smith said that before he came to Pohnpei he really had no idea what to expect but now that he’s here, he is full of ideas of how to further the game of soccer in Pohnpei.

He’s an accredited coach and has coached teams in Nottingham, Vietnam and Bangalore, India. He said that in Bangalore, the traffic was so bad that though there were many teams throughout the huge city, no one would agree to travel to matches. “I mean, in Bangalore, going five miles would take an hour,” he said. “So we’d try to set up matches but the other team would say, ‘Okay, you come here’, and the team I was coaching was saying, ‘No, you come here,’ and it just never happened really, so we just ended up doing a lot of training with no particular match to plan for. So it was sort of easy for team members to kind of lose their motivation.”

He said that currently, the only goal the players in Pohnpei have is preparing for the 2018 Micro Games but those games are a long way off. It’s hard to stay motivated when all the players are doing is constantly drilling for matches that are over a year away.

He hopes to establish “five a side” type matches in smaller spaces on Pohnpei so that there will be more opportunities and matches and so that players will have

something to work toward. As to how he came to be here, he said that he responded to a Tweet from Paul Watson, the British coach who came to Pohnpei several years ago and coached what was to be the National Team. Watson wrote the book “Up Pohnpei” based on his experiences here and a video of his experiences is in production. Smith said that more than anything, Watson wanted to see the football seed he planted to be nurtured.

Smith said that he and Watson had a Skype chat a few months ago while Smith was in Bangalore and that Watson spent more than half the time apologizing to him for asking him to coach in Pohnpei. Watson told him that he’d spend a lot of money doing it. As the conversation progressed Smith ended up trying to sell himself as the right guy to do it.

So far he has been doing a bit of coaching every evening at the PICS field with whoever shows up. The weather hasn’t been particularly cooperative so far but it hasn’t kept the soccer players from turning up whenever they can.

A newspaper article in Nottingham about Smith’s upcoming venture repeated the tired label regarding FSM soccer, ‘the world’s worst international football team’. We asked him what he thought of that label. “The thing is, they don’t believe it, and to be honest, if they are, that’s not their failure. It’s a failure on organizations like FIFA or the Football Federation but kind of leaving them behind. I mean you’ve got organizations like FIFA saying things like, ‘football’s for everyone. We’re here to develop football’. Then they’ve got to prove they are. It’s no one here’s failure. I mean anywhere else in the world if I had a bunch of guys with this determination, they’d be going places. I mean it’s not their failure,” he said.

“I joke around with some people saying that the only thing worse than being the worst team in the world is being the second worst because no one talks about them,” he laughed.

The FSM has had a pending application with FIFA for several years now. Perhaps just getting their attention will be all that is needed.



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OPENING DATE: April 18, 2017

CLOSING DATE: Extended May 2, 2017

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On December 7, 2016, the United Nations adopted a resolution establishing **WORLD TUNA DAY** as an internationally-recognized event. This confirmation by the global community of the value of tuna has resonated among Pacific Islands, particularly Parties to the Nauru Agreement, who control the world's largest sustainable Skipjack Fishery and depend on tuna for food security and nutrition, government revenue, economic development, employment and livelihoods.

To coincide with the first internationally-recognized **WORLD TUNA DAY**, President Peter M. Christian has issued a proclamation designating May 2nd as *National Tuna Day*. To commemorate the day, the FSM will be having a **PUBLIC FAIR** at the Spanish Wall Park in Kolonia, Pohnpei on May 2nd from 10am to 5pm. As part of the festivities, a series of events and contests are concurrently being organized.



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WORLD TUNA DAY 2017 NFC FISHING TOURNAMENT APRIL 29, 2017

Biggest Fish Category:

1st to 5th prizes \$1,000, \$800, \$600, \$400, \$300!!

2 Engine categories (40hp & under and Over 40hp)

Fish	1st prize	2nd prize
Skipjack	\$200	\$100
Yellowfin	\$200	\$100
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Mahi	\$200	\$100
Barracuda	\$200	\$100
Lady Angler	\$200	\$100
Junior Angler	\$200	\$100

**\$10,000
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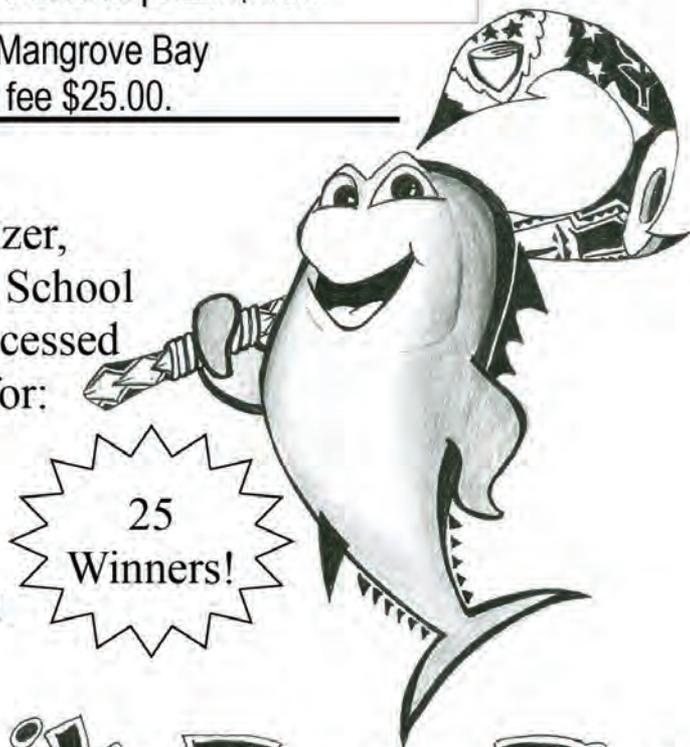
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Registration on Friday, April 28th at Mangrove Bay from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Registration fee \$25.00.

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PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

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 Opportunity

An exciting opportunity exists for a Project Accountant to join the Secretariat. This job exists to provide responsibility for the management of finances for specific projects undertaken within the various Programmes of the Forum Secretariat. Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Project financial services;
- Oversight of Project Finances; and
- Financial and activity reporting.

Applicants should have a first degree in Finance or Accounting and also a full membership of a recognised professional accounting association or institute or working towards attaining a membership with a recognised professional accounting association or institute and with experience in accounting for donor funded projects. Candidates should also have in depth knowledge and understanding in procurement systems and procedures with sound knowledge of donor financial and procurement policies, procedures and standards. 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.

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 SDR22,721 to SDR25,560 per annum. At the 1 March 2017 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD63,662 to FJD71,617. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free.

To be eligible for this position, 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), 19 May 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.

National auditor releases result of NORMA review

FSM National Public Auditor

April 19, 2017

Palikir, Pohnpei--The ONPA announces the release of the Agreed Upon Procedure Engagement Report Number 2017-02A on NORMA Fisheries Access Agreement.

This engagement was conducted based on a request from the Chairman of FSM Congressional Committee on Resources and Development solely to provide assistance in obtaining information specific to fishing revenues, fishing days and non fishing days, traded fishing days, and donated goods and services from foreign fishing partners. The procedures were agreed to by the Chairman and the Executive Director of NORMA.

The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified parties in the report. We made no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures either for the purpose of which the report has been requested or for any other purpose. Our responsibility is to perform the agreed upon procedures and report the results.

We developed two versions of the engagement report (full and redacted copy) based on our evaluation on the concerns raised by the specified parties on the sensitivity and confidentiality of subject matters regarding the vessel day scheme. The full copy was distributed to selected officials while the redacted copy was released to the public.

The summary results of the procedures are as follows: Fishing Revenue:

- Approximately \$9.8 million out of \$173 million fishing rights fees collected could not be traced to fisheries access agreements or the supporting documents did not provide proper basis in determining the nature and amount that should be collected for fishing fees; and some amounts could not be traced to any fishing association/company;
- Approximately \$9.6 million identified as under collection for fisheries access agreements; (Approximately \$158 million should be collected for fisheries access agreements; however, only \$149

million was identified as collected for fisheries access agreements);

- We could not determine whether the collections for fisheries access agreements were delayed;
- NORMA's monitoring mechanism only started in calendar year 2015; however, there has been no regular reconciliation between the Department of Finance and Administration and NORMA to establish uncollected amounts and to identify and resolve discrepancies between their records.

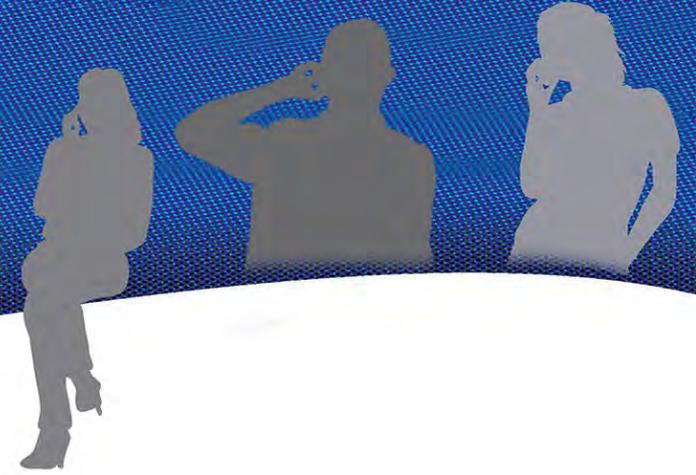
Donated Goods and Services:

- There was no written policy or procedure in place to govern the receiving of donated goods and services by the recipients;
- Only Japan and Korea provided donated goods to FSM in which they were not reflected in the fisheries access agreements; however, the practice has been to execute a memorandum of understanding in case of Japan and no written agreement in case of Korea;
- The received donated goods from Korea in 2013 and 2014 and Japan in 2014 were not in compliance with Title 24 FSMC 114 as well as received donated goods from Japan for 2013 and 2015;
- Either only few or none at all of the donated fixed assets received were recorded in each respective FSM government's fixed assets register. Based on our inspection of the donated assets, we could not locate or inspect some of the assets due to absence of proper documentation for redistributed assets.

This agreed-upon procedure engagement was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, which incorporates related attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

The redacted copy of the report can be accessed online at www.fsmopa.fm.

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FSM Wrestling Team participates in 2017 Oceania Wrestling Championship

Yap Sports Council // March 17, 2017

ABAY, Yap — On March 10 – 12, 2017, an FSM Wrestling Team participated in the 2017 Cadet, Junior, and Senior Oceania Wrestling Championship held in Tahiti, French Polynesia. The team consisted of Wrestling Coach Lawrence Uwelur, Yapese athletes Paul Gibay and Thomas Wichilbuch Jr., Chuukese athletes JK Kaminanga and Joshua Aizawa, and NF Official Clark Graham.

Thomas Wichilbuch Jr. have earned medals. Paul Gibay, who competed in the 60kg junior category, won a silver medal in the Greco-Roman Style and a bronze medal in the Free Style.

Thomas Wichilbuch Jr., who was in the 70kg senior category, brought in a silver medal in the Free Style and a Gold medal in the Greco-Roman style.

“Congratulations to all members of the FSM Team and many appreciation for representing your state and country!”

From the turnout, both Paul Gibay and

Tokyo Exhibit Features Photographs of Chuuk, Xavier High School



Floyd K. Takeuchi

“Tropical Light,” a photography exhibit featuring images of Chuuk Lagoon and Xavier High School, will open in Tokyo, Japan on May 12.

The exhibit by photographer-writer Floyd K. Takeuchi will be on display at Sophia University, the Jesuit university. The Tokyo-based Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) is sponsoring the exhibit, which runs through June 9.

“APIC’s mission is to nurture strong relations between Japan and the nations of the Pacific and Caribbean,” said Peter Y. Sato, APIC’s president. “Floyd’s photographs show in dramatic fashion the natural beauty and human potential of the Micronesia region. It’s also a part of the Pacific with long historic and family ties to Japan.”

“Tropical Light” features 15 large

photographs, the largest being 98-inches wide by 56-inches tall. The photos of Chuuk Lagoon were originally made for a commission from the L5 Hotel on Weno. They are among the photographs that are displayed throughout the hotel. The photographs of Xavier High School were made for Takeuchi’s book, “School on the Hill.”

The exhibit will open with a lecture by Takeuchi on his cross-cultural photography over the past 15 years in the Pacific, Hawaii and Japan. There will be an opening program, followed by a reception.

Takeuchi is a writer-photographer who has spent most of his 40-year career working in the Pacific. An American based in Hawaii, Takeuchi was born and raised in the Marshall Islands. He’s had 14 photography exhibits in Hawaii.

Information on APIC can be found at http://www.apic.or.jp/index_eng.html. More of Takeuchi’s work can be found at his website, www.floydtakeuchi.com.



Global Green-grants Fund meets

Micronesia Conservation Trust Press Release

April 17, 2017

The Global Green-grants Fund (GGF) Pacific Islands Advisory Board met in Pohnpei from March 27-29, 2017 to discuss GGF funding priorities, meet with GGF grant recipients from Pohnpei and visit some of the project sites, and to review and approve (or reject) new project proposals from Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia. The GGF Pacific Islands Advisory Board members who attended the meeting included Cedric Schuster of Samoa, John Ericho of Papua New Guinea, Willie Atu of the Solomon Islands, Leah Nimoho of Vanuatu, and Willy Kostka of Micronesia. Also, attending the workshop were GGF Secretariat representatives Allison Davis and Margaret Rimoni. GGF is a US based foundation that supports communities to protect, restore, and transform their environments for a sustainable future. Since 1993, GGF has made more than \$63 million in grants to local groups in 167 countries. Last year the Kousapw Poahloang Organization become GGF’s 10,000th grant recipient.

The Advisory Board met with several grant recipients from Pohnpei including the U Organization of Women (UOW), the Micronesia Marine and Environmental Club (MMEC) of the College of Micronesia – FSM, the Pohnuh Women’s Organization (PWO), the Seniapein Womens Association (SWA) of Paies, Kousapw Poahloang Organization (KPO), the Pulinsokon Likin Kapin of Sapwuaifik, and the Senpehn Sensation Connection (SSC). Each of these organizations, who had received around \$5,000 from GGF, provided information on their projects.

Project activities included improving traditional agro-forestry systems, enhancing community water systems, climate change adaptation activities such as shoreline restoration, protected areas management, and green/alternative livelihoods development. The Advisory Board also visited the Paies Community to look at their community water system funded by GGF and Poahloang Community to see their dry-litter piggery and community cleanup project. The GGF Pacific Islands Advisory Board members were quite impressed with the delivery of these locally led projects.

The Board also reviewed 15 proposals from across the Pacific. Those project proposals from Micronesia approved by the Board include the following: 1) Menin Katengesed – to open a sustainable seafood market in Pohnpei; 2) Island Research & Education Initiative – to educate children and their families on the positive roles that various marine creatures play in Micronesia; 3) Hydroponics of the Pacific (HOP)– to carry out several workshops for the communities in Micronesia to learn the basics of a hydroponic project - with a tested design proven to be effective by HOP; 4) Enimwahn Development Association Inc. – to plant at least 2000 new coconut trees to support traditional uses, food security and fuel, re-use coconut byproducts, cut senile trees for lumber in Pohnpei; and 5) Awak Farmer’s Association - to expand a revolving fund to help farmers convert piggpens near streams to dry-litter system to reduce contamination of the main stream.



Opinion Editorial

Webber: Help Yap go to robotics competition

Lee P. Webber, for PDN
reprinted with permission

When was the last time you heard about the Yap Robotics team? The Yap Robotics team you say? The only thing we know about Yap is stone money, manta rays and grass skirts!

Au contraire.

The Habel Outer Island Education Fund is a U.S.-based 501(c)3 nonprofit, started by former Peace Corps Volunteers, that works across the freely associated states of Micronesia. It sponsored the first Robotics League on Yap, and the island has been invited to attend a global robotics competition in Washington, D.C., this summer.

The first Robotics Day on Yap was held in 2012, in Kolonia. It was a heavily advertised, open-air public event. Local residents described the event as unprecedented. Students and schools were highly enthusiastic.

In 2013, students from Chaminade High School in California provided used parts to refresh and expand the Yap teams' kits. Habel paid for, and coordinated, delivery. Additional new parts were purchased and provided by Habel. Interest in the teams

among schools doubled.

Then in 2014, the third annual Yap Robo Day saw two private schools field two teams each in elimination-style competition. More than half of Habel Tuition Scholarship recipients at Yap Catholic and Yap SDA are now robotics team participants.

In March of this year, former admiral and congressman Joe Sestak contacted Habel a week before the registration deadline for the First Global, an ambitious 150-nation high school robotics competition in D.C. this coming July.

According to Neil Mellen, "This is something of a dog-has-caught-the-bus scenario for us, as the cost of equipping and sending the team is close to the entire annual budget of Habel."

Mellen wrote to me asking for advice.

The cost to send three young Micronesians to the competition is about \$16,000, half of which is airfare. Details of the team and event can be found at <http://habel.blogspot.com/2017/03/from-stone-money-to-stem-olympians.html>. Their online fund drive is at <https://www.gofundme.com/YapRobo>.

We should be proud of these kids, who've been at it since 2011, and also proud of the league and their only current private non-government supporter, Matson, and its monetary and equipment donations. According to Mellen, "The Pacific is virtually unrepresented in the competition because of the lack of high school robotics in the western and central Pacific (regions)."

Though switching to an entirely new type of robot and mastering the bots will take enormous commitment from Yap Catholic High School, winners of the 2016 Yap Robo Day, they agreed to field a three-student team.

Last month, according to Mellen, "Habel and Yap Catholic developed a bare-bones \$16,000 budget plan to equip, train and send the team and a single mentor, with half of those costs comprised in airline tickets. Initial fundraising consists of selling cold coconuts at public events on Yap, as well as sale of T-shirts with Robo League logos. Total projected budget of \$16,000 is three-fourths of Habel's annual 2016 budget for all its programs, which include scholarships and literacy efforts."



This is a great opportunity for these young Micronesian students. Let's not allow Habel and the students to shoulder this opportunity alone.

Show your support by contributing to their GoFundMe campaign. Better yet, convince someone to cover their tickets!

Esta.

Lee P. Webber is a former president and publisher of the Pacific Daily News, and has been a resident of Guam since 1968.

Letter to the Editor

Who judges the judges?

Judges are among our most powerful public officials. They are invested with unparalleled cases, lifetime tender to insulate them from influence and pressure. But what happens to them when they wield their power irresponsibly and twist the law they are sworn to uphold?

judges who are reluctant to penalize one of their own. Of course, most judges deserve the respect paid to them. But, as our investigation reveals, a disturbing number do not.

Proper investigation can show all.

Joseph Edward

Usually, not that much. Judges are monitored in most cases, by fellow

Adding to the education experience

In all our work we ask, "What can we add to the education experience." It is in the soft options associated with building such as teacher training. This is where we are adding value. We want quality education that enables students to develop skills. That means they can make a meaningful contribution to their community and society once they have left school. We ensure that they are as employable as possible. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

exposure to technology skills. For many, it is going to play a critical role in their lives.

The key to having the ability to learn and make meaningful contributions is having a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Children go to school to learn, but modern day education wants to focus on increasing the sense of self-confidence that will enable them to use what they learned effectively.

Joseph Edward

Our students are yet to do the hands-on



**PERSONAL SERVICES
CONTRACTOR
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

OPENING DATE: April 12, 2017

CLOSING DATE: April 26, 2017

<p>OPEN TO:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL PUBLIC</p> <p>POSITION:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Language and Cross Culture Facilitator for Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae</u></p> <p>Short-Term Personal Service Contractor (PSC)</p> <p>SALARY RANGE: Min. Start—Hourly Rate \$5.05 per hour or Daily Rate of \$40.40 (8 hours/day) Estimated contract total for Contract Dates \$3,878.40 (starting)</p> <p>WORK HOURS: 40 hours/week Contract Date: May 5 to June 9, 2017, Language Training of Trainers & PST Preparation June 12 to August 25, Pre-Service Training Sept. 7 to 13, Mid-Service Training (MST)</p>	<p>A copy of the complete position description listing all duties and responsibilities is available online at</p> <p>https://www.peacecorps.gov/micronesia/contracts/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">via e-mail request to Jermis Noket</p> <p style="text-align: center;">applicants@fm.peacecorps.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The United States Peace Corps is an Equal Opportunity Employer.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VA No. 401-17-011</p>
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K Press Perspective

False Facebook pages appearing for FSM Government elected leaders and appointed officials

Someone has been creating false Facebook pages for FSM government elected leaders and top appointed government officials. It doesn't seem to be an innocuous, "I had nothing to do, so I created a Facebook page" type of thing. Rather, it seems to be an effort to gain the confidence of unwary Facebook users so that they can draw them into some sort of a financial scam.

The Internet has changed everything. It's come to the point that some people can't do much of anything without first consulting sources on the Internet or posting on social media that their feet just hit the ground as they got out of bed, and providing a photo of their feet hitting the ground to prove it.

But be warned, sites on the Internet can be wrong, whether intentionally so, or from malice. They can be disingenuous in the extreme. When some of those fake content sites are called to task, they will often say that their malice is entertainment, as we just saw with the Alex Jones (Info Wars) Custody battle in U.S. news this week.

Blogs and fake news sites on the Internet can take you in if you aren't careful and vigilant. Some internet sites will prey on your preconceived notions and tell you what you want to hear with the end

goal that you will do what they hope you will do. If you aren't careful, sites on the Internet can steal your identity, your money. If you aren't very careful, they can even steal the hearts of members of your family.

The Internet was never intended to be a vehicle for that type of activity but, user, beware! Not everything on the Internet is what it seems to be, and certainly, not everyone on the Internet is who they claim to be. That is certainly the case with several Facebook pages set up to mimic FSM government leaders.

A few weeks ago, I accepted a "friend request" on Facebook from someone claiming to be FSM Vice President Yosiwo George, who I consider to be a friend. Several weeks went by after that friend request before I received my first message from him. That message was what is called an "emoji" and was a silly graphic of someone dancing. I couldn't imagine the Vice President sending me such a message and I didn't respond.

On March 30, I received another Instant Message from the person claiming to be Vice President George. He asked how my family was doing. In return, I asked how he and his lovely wife were doing. We went back and forth with pleasantries that anyone could have exchanged with me without any specific details.

I knew what was coming before the person purporting to be our Vice President wrote that he had a "mutually beneficial financial arrangement that I might be interested in". "Ah hah," I wrote, "and here it comes." The person asked what I meant. I told him that I had received other similar messages from people who I later learned had no Facebook

page. "I tell you what," I wrote "I'll give you a call you at your office right now. If I am wrong then I apologize."

The person was bold enough to at least answer, "Okay".

I picked up the phone and called the good Vice President who assured me that he has no Facebook page and he hadn't been contacting me. I was already pretty certain of that fact, but by the time I got back to my chat with the NOT Vice President person, not only was the chat gone but so was the Facebook page "created in his image".

Now there is another Facebook page for the Vice President in its place and several people have already accepted his friend requests. Many of them are still there despite my warnings that the person they "friended" is not the Vice President.

The first posting on that page is a link to a video by Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc., a company in Guam with a somewhat unusual method for selling their product. They assured me that they had nothing to do with the creation of the fake Facebook pages and didn't know why their link appeared on Vice President George's fake page.

President Peter Christian also has a Facebook page that is not him. He has confirmed several times that he doesn't use Facebook.

This development is especially disturbing because so many people rely on social media for their news, and many of them have no clue about how to decide whether what they are reading is faithful reporting, or maliciously wrong.

During a media roundtable at the College of Micronesia's Center for

Entrepreneurship this afternoon, I was enlightened to learn that most of the 20 or so students get their news from social media sites—specifically Facebook. Facebook itself has admitted that it has had a problem with "fake news sites", and that doesn't seem to have changed. Fake news sites influence people's decisions when they don't know that they are "fake".

Facebook itself isn't an evil entity. I have personally connected with people from my past I never thought I'd hear from again. I keep in contact with my scattered family members on Facebook and sometimes I have made contacts for the newspaper through Facebook that I can't seem to make in any other way, but I've now learned that it isn't a reliable way without confirmation.

I've never been a victim to any of the financial scams that fake users want to perpetrate. I figure that if it's too good to be true, it usually is. But I did fall victim to a fake Facebook page when I tried to contact Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert during President Christian's recent State visit to China. I first tried to contact him via email, but the email came back as undeliverable because his mailbox was full. I assumed it was because he was in a country that didn't allow him access to his email account.

When the email was returned, I did what I figured was the next best thing. I searched for him on Facebook. There was an account there and so I wrote a detailed message on IM about my questions on the trip to China and tried to organize an interview with President Christian. That message was immediately read and so I waited for confirmation. It never came. So I wrote another lengthy message which was also immediately read, but there was no response.

On the day that I called the honorable Vice President asking him if he had a Facebook page, the possibility finally got through my thick skull that my message to Foreign Affairs Secretary Robert may have gone to yet another fake Facebook profile, but by that time I was on deadline for the newspaper that published on April 10.

Fortunately, President Christian consented to a last minute interview in his office. That article appeared on the front page of the last Kaselehlie Press despite the fake profile.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor



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Letter to the Editor

2023 looms large Pohnpei's biggest challenge

Dear Editor,

I would like to share excerpts from remarks I delivered at the Western Conference of Attorney Generals Summit in Honolulu, Hawaii in mid-March. I was asked to address what major legal issues are faced by Pohnpei State Government.

Revenue sharing and the imminent fiscal collapse of State Government are major issues facing our future. Currently, the Budget Office projects a running budget deficit of \$3 to \$4 million per year to operate Pohnpei State Government. In 2023, when financial payments under the Compact of Free Association with the United States terminate, the budget deficit will have a catastrophic impact on the level of services Pohnpei Government can provide its citizens. Income from Trust Funds established under the Compact of Free Association will not be adequate to maintain the current level of government services.

The FSM National Government has experienced increased income from licensing foreign fishing vessels which exploit the exclusive economic resource zone and from its corporate captive insurance tax scheme. In the short term, revenue sharing between the National Government and Pohnpei State may stem the tide of rising deficits but the flow of red ink following termination of financial assistance by the US after the second 20 year term of Compact grant funding raises the following challenges for Micronesian leaders:

1. The imminent fiscal crisis demonstrates the need for immediate future financial status talks with our American partners. Some have argued that we can pivot our national focus away from the United States and search for sustaining financial assistance to run our schools, hospitals, public safety system and other government operations from other sources including international organizations, NGOs and other countries. Because the strategic military basis of our treaty with the US never ends (only America's financial commitment terminates) it is unrealistic to believe that China will fund the FSM social system.

2. The fast approaching fiscal crisis raises existential questions about the validity of having a National Government and

increases local pressures for State secession from the FSM National Government. Financial pressures require the National Government to immediately share revenue with the States and to address the issue of future fiscal status with the US by more action than just retaining a law firm to lobby for our cause with the US Congress.

3. Finally, the fiscal collapse, with resulting diminution of public services to each of the FSM States, may result in increased out migration as citizens from the Freely Associated States search for employment, schools for their children, medical care, improved standards of living, or social services from our neighbors in Guam, Hawaii, and other US States which already have large populations of immigrants from the Western Pacific.

Guam reports the cost of hosting regional migrants on the Island has topped \$1 Billion over the past 13 years. In 2016, Guam spent \$142 Million providing public services for regional immigrants including courts, public safety, prisons, public education and public health care. It is reported that 25% of the student population in Guam are immigrants with a cost to Guam Government of \$62.5 Million in 2016.

The \$30 Million per year Federal Impact payments split between Hawaii and Guam pales in comparison to the direct cost of out migration from the Freely Associated States. For example, one sick Pohnpeian citizen who cannot receive adequate treatment in Kolonia may fly to Guam or Hawaii and enter an Emergency Room of a hospital and end up costing Guam or Hawaii hundreds of thousands of dollar in medical costs.

When Compact funding ends in 2023, citizens in the Freely Associated States with no jobs, closed schools, limited medical services, and no hope for improvement of social conditions will move from Micronesia to the United States in search of better opportunities. It is not too soon for responsible Government officials to consider the consequences of inaction. The United States must consider whether the cost of supporting social services for FSM citizens in the country is cheaper than the financial impact of out migration.

Dana W. Smith

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