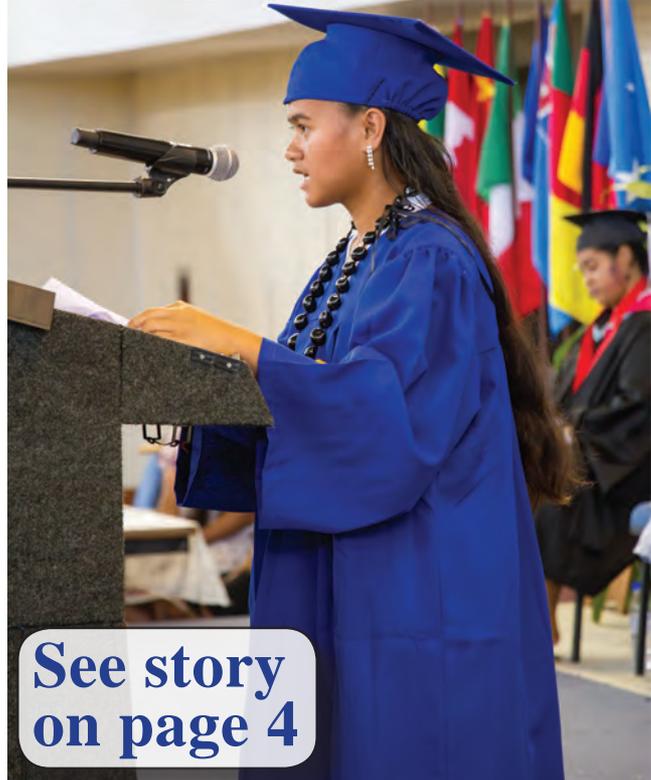


**College of Micronesia FSM holds 65th Commencement Exercises**



See story on page 4

**Near record marlin caught during Pohnpei Fishing Club two day tournament**



By The Pohnpei Fishing Club

May 13, 2017

**Pohnpei**—A two day fishing tournament of the Pohnpei Fishing Club (PFC) finished today. Petsin Abiner very nearly broke the club record for a marlin when he landed his 448.6 pound marlin. The previous record had been 450.6 pounds.

Certainly there are some large boats with big engines that compete in the fishing tournaments but there are also small boats. Abiner's was one of those. His marlin nearly filled his boat and he was only running a 40 horsepower motor. Further, Abiner caught his marlin on a handline, a truly amazing feat. If his fish had only been two pounds heavier he would have walked away with the marlin jackpot that keeps growing and is now at \$2500; missed it by "that much".

See "Fishing" on page 6

**Kolonia Town celebrates its 52nd anniversary with a parade and ceremony**



By Bill Jaynes  
 The Kaselehlie Press

May 17, 2017

**Kolonia, Pohnpei**— Escorted by a full Kolonia Town contingent of police officers, with sirens blaring, people of Kolonia Town paraded from the Pohnpei State government building to the Kolonia Town government building for the 52nd commemoration of their "Charter Day".

"Kitail linganiki atail tepsang wasa tohto ahpw kak ehupene pahh ehu government oh kolokal soaramwahuen atail

See "Kolonia" on page 7

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# Congress committee hears testimony on bill to transfer FSMTC assets

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 18, 2017

**Palikir, Pohnpei**—Chairman Senator Victor Gouland of Chuuk called a public hearing of the Committee on Transportation and Communication for 8:30 this morning. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss proposed amendments that if passed would transfer certain assets of FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) to the newly established "Open Access Entity".

Witnesses at the hearing included representatives of the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure including the Department's Secretary. The Secretary for the Department of Justice was there. FSMTC had representatives there including one board member. No one from the new "Open Access Entity" was there, leaving an attorney who has worked on the project to be the spokesperson, even though he told the committee that he didn't work for the new government corporation.

OAE Board Chairman John Sohl resigned on May 16, 2017 over the proposed bill and because of the "fact that WB (World Bank) wants to create their own untouchable monopoly after having convinced congress in 2014 to liberalize the telecom market."

In 2014, a law was established liberalizing the telecommunications in the FSM in order to allow for competition within the industry. The industry was to be regulated by an "open access entity" that would ensure that government owned fiber optic resources would be available to any potential competing telecom companies. That entity was set up after Congress recently authorized the expenditure of over \$300,000

to set up the FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMT Cable Corp.). Both FSMTC and FSMT Cable Co. are FSM entities and any of their assets are government owned.

The bill being discussed this morning proposes to transfer ownership of several of FSMTC's assets including the HANTRU1 fiber optic spur to Pohnpei over to FSMT Cable Co. FSMTC and any other telecom provider would then pay FSMT Cable Corp. for access to the line. Essentially FSMT Cable Corp. would be a wholesaler of telecommunications services and FSMTC would be a retailer of those services but the asset would no longer be theirs.

The person who ended up having to speak for FSMT Cable Corp. said that the only way that a truly competitive telecommunications industry could be set up would be to strictly divide wholesale and retail operations.

He also said that there are really only two options if the FSM is to receive the largest grant in its history for a single project provided by the World Bank. One would be to transfer the assets and the other would be for FSMTC to provide open access to FSMT Cable Corp. for free. He said that the transfer was a World Bank requirement in order to ensure that access to the HANTRU1 line would be guaranteed since Chuuk would be tying into that line. Kiribati and Nauru would also be tying into that line.

He postulated that transfer of the HANTRU1 line to FSMT Cable Corp. would also guarantee to the World Bank that the lines they are proposing to pay for would be put into use. Without asset transfer, FSMTC, as a de facto monopoly could decide that market conditions are better suited to satellite provision of those services and

simply not use the new line.

The bill would also ensure that there are proper landing facilities in the States.

Senator Esmond Moses said that he and the committee had been over and over the World Bank grant agreement but could not find any World Bank requirement that assets would need to be transferred to the new Open Access Entity. He wanted to know if TC&I had any documentation in writing saying that would be a requirement.

The TC&I representative said that he did have documentation. In a small dig against FSMTC he said that he had tried to print it that morning but that the Internet was not working at the time. He said he would provide the document right after the committee meeting.

Chairman Gouland said that the committee had to move very carefully in regard to FSMTC because "that's our baby".

The TC&I spokesperson said that they had spoken with several telecommunications experts who told them that FSMTC would not be damaged by the transfer of assets and could possibly, in fact do better. He said that the FSMT Cable Corp. would require \$500,000 a year for overhead, an amount that he called relatively small. He said that if a new operator comes in, that cost would be divided between FSMTC and another operator so FSMTC's costs would go down. Additionally, with the addition of new fiber optic lines in each of the other states, FSMTC would be able to provide a better and more attractive package of services to potential customers in states that do not currently have the service. That could potentially attract more customers and boost revenue and profits.

Chairman Gouland said that the committee was also concerned that there had been no consultation with FSMTC before the bill was submitted. During the meeting he several times mentioned that the plan appeared to be in someone's self-interest.

Senator Ferny Perman asked who would be paying for the outstanding loan that FSMTC is currently paying for the HANTRU1 fiber line. The spokesperson said that FSMT Cable Corp. would be paying the loan. Perman asked if RUS (US Rural Utilities Service), which holds the loan, had been asked if transferring the loan would be possible, and if not, why not. The spokesperson said that RUS had not been consulted because the government had not yet made a decision. He added that if RUS did not give its approval, the bill, if passed would require FSMTC to hold the asset on behalf of FSMT Cable Corp. and the loan would still be paid by the Open Access Entity.

FSMTC's new CEO and President, Fredy Perman began his statement claiming that if some people in the room were Pinocchio, their noses would be getting longer and longer. "I understand why there is the push. Everyone wants the grant. Everyone wants fiber," he said. But he claimed that all the bill really does is hurt FSM Telecom customers and disrupt FSMTC and its contracts. He said that it would also be almost impossible to implement due to the complexity of the agreements that FSMTC has with its providers.

Perman said that he doesn't want FSMTC to be in the position to file wrongful action suits against their shareholder, the National Government. State governments are also

See "FSMTC Congress" on page 9

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes  
 Managing Editor

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# FSM meets major milestones in the implementation of its telecommunications project

By FSM Department of TC&I

On May 4, 2017, The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Palau jointly hosted a signing ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Guam to commemorate the signing of the supply contracts for the Yap, Palau, and Chuuk cable systems. Executive officials and managers joined together to participate in a commemorative signing ceremony and ribbon cutting to celebrate the roll out of the projects.

During the ceremony, the Government of FSM together with Belau Submarine Cable Corporation (Republic of Palau), NEC Corporation (cable supplier, based in Japan), Globe (Republic of Palau's partner, based in Philippines) and PT. Telekomunikasi Indonesia International aka Telin (FSM's partner for the Yap cable, based in Indonesia), formally announced their collective partnership for the construction of fiber optic cable systems that will connect Yap, Chuuk (Weno) and the Republic of Palau to the rest of the world. NEC, as the cable supplier, announced that it had already begun construction and confirmed that delivery of the cable systems is currently on schedule to be completed by the end of this year.

President Christian lead the program for the ceremony with a rousing speech thanking FSM's partners and reflecting on FSM's need to acknowledge the benefits of its partnership with the World Bank and regional partners in the Pacific to move the country's development forward. President Christian said, "... today is a beginning - it sounds like a graduation speech - a beginning of a new fresh attitude toward this project. We now know it is going forward, it is no longer a speculation, it's no longer an idea, it is indeed a project to be completed. I want to thank Telin and NEC and all the experts and technicians who put together their efforts and have been patient with us who, because of our own lack of better understanding have been slow to accommodate the dictates of certain organizations like World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Organizations that I like but I dislike at the same time. And having said that, there is really nothing else that I can say, as the president of a small nation that stands to benefit from this project."

President Remengesau, Jr. followed with a passionate speech expressing his delight to see this milestone marked, and emphasized

the fundamental necessity of obtaining submarine fiber networks which is not only needed to attract and generate revenue from tourism, but which will be critical to so many aspects of life of residents on the island, from healthcare to education, from social networking to business.

The executive officers from Globe and Telin and NEC also gave speeches expressing their support for the projects stressing that regional collaboration is for the mutual benefit of all parties.

Lukner Weilbacher, FSM Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure signed an agreement with the Chief Technology Officer of Telin, Pak Nanang Hendarno, that would allow a submarine fibre optic cable spur currently under construction from Yap to interconnect with the Southeast Asia-United States (SEA-US) cable for onward transport



*Pictured are some of the key officials and executives who attended the signing ceremony in support of the submarine cable consortium including (back row from left to right) Hon. Tony Ganngiyan, Governor of Yap State (back row, first from left), Hon. Victor Goulund, FSM Congress, Chairman of Communication Committee (back row, 2nd from left), Hon. Johnson Elimo, Governor of Chuuk State, his Excellency Peter Christian, President of FSM, her Excellency Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, his Excellency Tommy Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, Hon. Ray Tenorio, Lieutenant Governor of Guam, and (front row from left to right) Lukner Weilbacher, FSM Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure, Telin Chief Technology Officer Pak Nanang Hendarno, Globe President and CEO Ernest Cu, and George Rechucher, Chairman of the Belau Submarine Cable Company.*

See "Telecommunications" on page 15

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# College of Micronesia FSM holds 65th Commencement Exercises

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 11, 2017

**Pohnpei**—Happy students participated today in the 65th commencement exercises of The College of Micronesia at the China Friendship Gym in Palikir. The theme chosen by the students was “There’s More Beyond the Reef”.

This class’s valedictorian was Anjanet Frederick who gave a stirring valedictory address. Salutatorian Jaymar Dannis Anderson introduced the commencement speaker, Yolanda Joab. Anderson presented a long list of Joab’s achievements that would have been impressive even if she wasn’t a young woman.

“The fastest way to feel old in your twenties is being asked to deliver the keynote speeches at both your high school and college alma maters,” she joked.

“‘There is more beyond the reef’. I couldn’t be a bigger fan of this theme... because of the depth of meaning that it holds and can mean different things to each of us...one’s purpose is where their passion and the world’s needs meet. It’s about this raw truth: forget about force-fitting yourself into the molds that you think society expects you to fit in and spill out of them as messily as you can till it breaks because the journey from here to crossing that reef is a messy one. So ask yourself right now, where does the reef lie for you? What is your comfort zone? How many of the decisions that you make are made to accommodate that comfort zone? How many opportunities are you holding yourself back from because of it? You might realize that you’ve spent most of your time stuck inside of it. And so it’s time you start to get uncomfortable,” she said.

“...My observation is that the current status quo that seems to be plaguing our nation is our uncanny ability to just accept things for the way they are. To never question. To never seek more. To never rock the boat,” she said and challenged the students to raise their standards and to demand more from themselves and their countrymen and to never forget the virtue of kindness. “We are a small community inheriting big challenges and we need all the champions we can get. A win for



anyone of us is a win for all of us. So let’s uplift one another. Empower each other. Celebrate each other for we are all on the same team. And let’s see just how unstoppable we can be if we just stop being our own biggest enemy and actually allow ourselves to rise.”

“So be fierce in your hustle. We are all descendants from long-lines of the most heroic navigators and warriors the world has ever seen, greatness is in your blood. Do not apologize for the fire in your belly or the ocean in your chest. Let it guide you. So the next time you start to doubt yourself or think you are less than in any way, remember how we got here.

“So yes, class of 2017, indeed there is more beyond the reef. Now let’s go get it,” she concluded.

President Joseph Daisy conferred the academic honors, beginning with the President’s List. The President’s List is for full-time graduating students on honor roll who took only college-level course, and who have achieved a semester grade point average of 4.0. Those students were Jaymar Dannis Anderson, Kenneth Edmund, Anjanette Fredrick, Gaylord Gallen, Jr., Altrickson Likor, and Keana Segal.

The Dean’s List is for full-time graduating students on honor roll who took only college-level courses, and who have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99. Those students were Marson Barnabas, Ryan Celestine, Solastica Damarlane, Rex Edmund, Maridell Edwin, Trisden Elias, Jeanie Gabriel, Richynne Gallen, Con-roy Johnny, Marisha Jones, Cristal H. Lamberto, Jaysleen Lainos, Mary-ann Lekka, Serlyn Manuel, Sahn Samuel, and John Taman, Jr. Atrina J. Andon was listed as being on the honor roll.

Karen Simion, Vice President for Instructional Affairs presented the candidates for graduation with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Guam to Dr. John Sanchez, Dean of the School of Education at the University of Guam. She presented the candidates for graduation with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Tulensru Waguk, PhD, Chair of the COM-FSM Board of regents.

Dr. Daisy then presented certificates of achievement to students in Accounting, General Business, Public Health, Teacher Preparation-Elementary. He presented diplomas for Associate of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, Computer Information Systems, Public Health, and Marine Science. He presented diplomas for Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts, Health Career Opportunity Program, Pre-Teacher Preparation, and Micronesian Studies.

For the College of Micronesia-FSM Career and Technical Education Center-Pohnpei, diplomas were presented for Associate of Applied Science in Electronics Technology, and Telecommunication. Certificates of Achievement were awarded for Cabinet Making/Furniture Making, Agriculture and Food Technology, Bookkeeping, Carpentry, Construction Electricity, and Secretarial Science.

For the College of Micronesia-FSM Chuuk Campus Associate of Arts degrees were awarded for Pre-Teacher Preparation. Certificates of Achievement were awarded for Bookkeeping, Nursing Assistant and Secretarial Science.

For the College of Micronesia-FSM Kosrae Campus an Associate of Arts degree was awarded for Pre-Teacher Preparation, and Certificates of Achievement were awarded for Agriculture and Food Technology.



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**Registration for Summer 2017 begins Thursday  
May 25, 2017. Summer Session begins May 29, 2017.**

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

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## National Campus Holds Incentive Awards Ceremony 2017

(Palikir, Pohnpei) – The National Campus held its annual Incentive Awards Day ceremony on May 5, 2017. The event was to honor faculty and staff of the college for their hard work and dedication.

The event was attended by the National Campus Community. Certificates of Recognition and cash awards were given to full-time staff and faculty members. The other college campuses held their own awards to recognize outstanding faculty and staff.

The recipients of the awards are as follows:

**Students Choice Award - Dana Lee Ling;** Presented to staff or faculty who support, assist, encourage, advise, and serve as a role model for the students. The recipient received a certificate and a monetary award of \$50.00.

**Award of Recognition – Dr. Michael Muller;** To recognize an employee who goes above and beyond the call of duty for the good of the college. The recipient received a certificate and monetary award of \$250.00.

**Innovative Idea Award - Christopher Gilimete;** To encourage and reward staff members for outstanding ideas that have been implemented and have resulted in cost savings or improved performance in any area. The recipient received a certificate and a monetary award of \$100.00.

**Professional Recognition – Dr. Frankie Harriss and Karleen Samuel;** Professional recognition in the form of a news release (President’s Update) and a public recognition at the awards ceremony to be given to individuals attaining degrees, writing books, articles or publications, being appointed to leadership positions in professional associations or being promoted in the local campus. The recipient received a certificate.

**Good Health Award – Amerihter Thozes, Constantino Jack, Edward Primo, Jim Alexander, Dr. Joseph M. Daisy, Julius Cecilio, Lihno Panuelo, Loatis Seneres, Mason Wiley, Silverina Pretrick, Tomasi Mawi, Yuuki Omura;** To recognize non-faculty staff who have not taken a single sick day in a calendar year. The recipient received a certificate and a coupon for an extra vacation day.

**Community Service Award – Delihna Manuel Ehmes;** This award is presented to an individual who has promoted the college in the community, or has performed outstanding community service. Recipient will be presented with a certificate and a gift.

**Staff of the Year – Krystilyn Atkinson;** Given to one non-teaching staff member per year who shows the following qualities or criteria for selection: outstanding work performance; active participation on committees and

teams; contribution of time and effort to extra-curricular activities, special projects etc.; demonstrated dedication to the College; and recognized for outstanding service to students and others. The recipient was given a certificate and monetary award of \$250.00.

**Faculty of the Year – Timothy Mamangon;** Given to one full-time faculty member per year for outstanding teaching. The recipient received a certificate and monetary award of \$250.00.

**Service Awards for Years of Service -** To recognize continuous years of service to the College. Recipients were presented with a certificate.

- 42 Years: **Marion Luke**
- 41 Years: **Norma Edwin**
- 38 Years: **Alipherta Benjamin**
- 36 Years: **Arinda Halbert**
- 33 Years: **Susan Moses**
- 32 Years: **Qulida Alex, Jackson Phillip**
- 30 Years: **Arleen Yamaguchi**
- 25 Years: **Paulino David, John Haglegam**
- 20 Years: **Jennifer Heliisar, Sylvia Henry, Julie Nimea, Lihno Panuelo, Kiyoshi Phillip**
- 10 Years: **Joseph Habuchmai**
- 5 Years: **Rudelyn Dacanay, Dr. Joseph M. Daisy, Ikoli Ilongo, Tomasi Mawi.**

## Summer 2017 Registration

**May 25-26, 2017  
from 9am to 4pm  
at all COM-FSM  
campuses.**

**Yap Campus will  
hold its registration  
on June 5-6, 2017.**

**A special registration  
on May 30-31 for  
National & CTEC  
campuses is scheduled  
for High School  
seniors graduating or  
incoming freshmen.**

## ...Fishing

*Continued from front page*

The tournament started on FSM Constitution Day, a national holiday, and concluded on Saturday May 13.

Anglers competed for thousands of dollars in prizes. The top two anglers also won trips to the 25th Annual All Mike Tournament in Majuro. Those two prizes and others were sponsored by Ambros, Inc.

Prizes were awarded for the ten biggest fish, the top two fish of each species, top two fish caught by lady anglers, and the top two fish caught by junior anglers. Anglers could win only one prize per fish.

Petsin Abner's fish was the largest, earning him the trip to Majuro for the All Mike Tournament, \$100 and an FSMTC cell phone. Johnny Duffy also caught a marlin of a nice size. His 195.6 pound marlin earned him the second trip to the All Mike and an FSMTC cell phone. Mary Tretstoff brought in a 91.9 pound yellowfin for the third prize, earning her \$500 from the Bank of the FSM and an FSMTC Cell Phone. Fourth place was Johnny Hedson for his 88.2 pound yellowfin. He won \$400. Fifth place was Santriko Ioanis for his 87.5 pound yellowfin, winning him \$350. Sixth place was Mark Johnny for a 79.4 pound yellowfin for \$300. Mark Figueras pulled in a seventh place 73.9 pound yellowfin and won \$250. Mary Tretstoff had another good sized yellowfin at 67.2 pounds that earned her another \$200 for 8th biggest fish. Welber David's 64.6 pound yellowfin was 9th biggest for \$150. In 10th place was Nihk Gilmete with a \$58.6 pound yellowfin.

Fourth through 10th place winners also each received a \$50 and a \$25 gift certificate.

The first place winners for each species of fish in the "biggest of each species" category each won two \$50 gift certificates. Second place took home two \$25 gift certificates.

For yellowfin, the top two fish were caught by Junior Spencer and Keoni Musrasrik. Spencer's fish was 57.3 pounds and Musrasrik's was 46.1 pounds.

Maria Spegal landed a 23.8 pound wahoo for first place, followed by Konrad Englberger with a 22.9 pound wahoo.

The largest skip jack at 19.0 pounds was caught by Rosey Marquez followed by Maria Spegal's, which was 16.5 pounds.



Johnny Hedson's Grand Trevally was 17.6 pounds, edging out Sean Iron's 16.1 pound GT.

Konrad Englberger's barracuda skills showed with his winning 16.5 pound fish. Welber David's was just behind at 14.3 pounds.

Junior Spencer's second winning fish was a bit smaller than his other fish but still a respectable 32.6 pound yellowfin, winning the prize for junior angler. For that he won \$50 cash, a rod and reel from Ace Hardware, a \$50 gift certificate for a pizza from Ocean View West Wing. Spencer Mikel was the second place junior angler with a 30.9 pound yellowfin. He won \$25 cash and a rod and reel from Ace Hardware.

The top two lady anglers were Mary Tretstoff for a 45 pound yellowfin and Denise Etscheit for a 41.2 pound yellowfin. Tretstoff received \$50 cash, a \$50 gift certificate, and an overnight stay at Ocean View West Wing. Etscheit received \$25 cash and overnight stay at Ocean View cottages.

All 23 boats that registered and took part received a case of Budweiser from Ambros, Incorporated, a \$20 fuel voucher from Vital, and free t-shirts from Ambros, Inc. Grilled hot dogs were also free for all anglers.

During the last day's weigh in the club raffled some prizes from several sponsors and spectacularly including a trip to Mwokil or Sapuafik on Caroline Island Air, and a trip to Andt sponsored by LP Gas.



We can't perform this type of tournament without our sponsors. We want to thank all of them:

Ambros, Inc. (Budweiser), Bank of the FSM, NFC, Vital, MRAG, Ace Hardware, LP Gas, Etscheit Enterprise, Cupids, Blue Nile, Moylan's Insurance, Pohnpei Port Authority, Bank of Guam, LP Gas, Pohnpei Surf Club, Ocean View Hotel and Restaurant, Panuelo Enterprises, Arnold's, Mangrove Bay, Kumer Panuelo Gas Station, Pohnpei True Value, FSM Telecom, CTSI, Caroline Island Airways, and Charles (Chuck) Handy.

The weigh in was also a success, thanks to everyone who helped, Andy, Paul, Tina, Serlynn, Uta and Lucas on the hot dogs, and all of Kumer's guys. We also want to thank Mangrove Bay for allowing us to use their facility, and their staff did a great job.

A good time was had by all and it turned



into an all evening affair.

Thanks to everyone for making this tourney a great success.





### ...Kolonia

Continued from front page

wasahn kouson oh en kak mwahueng en dih en mwuhr akan,” was printed in the program. Roughly translated, the sentence means “We shine from our different cultural backgrounds but unite under one government and uphold the true heritage of our origins for the sake of the next generation.”



The parade started later than planned, as did the formal ceremony at the Kolonia Town government building. The ceremony began with an opening prayer, and welcoming remarks were provided by the Speaker of the 9th Kolonia Town Council, followed by the laying of a wreath for former leaders of the Kolonia Town government.

The Honorable Tadasu Yamaguchi gave a brief history of Kolonia Town. The ceremony closed with remarks by Kolonia Mayor Jose San Nicolas.



## Yap Homecoming Summer Festival 2017 Coming Up

Two-day summer festival set for June 16 - 17, 2017

### Yap Visitors Bureau

COLONIA, Yap FSM – In its seventh year, Yap’s Homecoming Summer Festival 2017 will feature local food, canoe rides, craft demonstrations and the traditional dances that Yap is known for around the world.

“This year we are honoring 30 Years of the Pacific Asia Travel Association in Micronesia,” notes Don Evans, General Manager of the Yap Visitors Bureau. “We are proud to be members of PATA Micronesia, a catalyst for sustainable tourism development, and are excited to welcome the organization’s members to Yap during this fun event for their second tri-annual meeting.”

Taking place annually on the third Saturday of June, pre-festival activities on Friday, June 16th will

begin at noon at the Yap Living History Museum in Colonia. A marketplace, canoe building and carving demonstrations and a traditional dance will entertain residents and visitors alike.

On Saturday, June 17th from 8:00am to 5:00pm, more fun and entertainment will include excursions in a hand-carved sailing canoe, a Stone Money ceremony, more traditional dances, as well as the opportunity to sample local food, buy locally-made handicrafts, and observe demonstrations by the island’s artisans.

“Come celebrate Yap’s kick-off-the-summer festival when families and friends, new and old, reunite at the Yap Living History Museum in Colonia. And don’t forget to bring your camera!” Evans adds.

For more information, contact the Yap Visitors Bureau at [yvb@mail.fm](mailto:yvb@mail.fm).



# Young Pohnpeian advocate pushes for passage of family safety bill

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 17, 2017

**Pohnpei**—On Sunday, May 21, 26 year old Sylvia Elias of Madolenihmw will march across a platform in Guam to receive a Master's degree in Social Work through the University of Hawaii Distance Learning program. Elias is a strong advocate and powerful voice for the elimination of family violence, a young voice made bolder and stronger by international backing.

In late April she met with several leaders including Chairman Peter Lohn of the Pohnpei State Legislature. Senator Lohn is the Chairman of the Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee. On the agenda was the newest version of a bill to criminalize and set penalties for Family Violence. The bill was first introduced approximately 9 years ago, but every time there is a new legislature, bills that have not been passed disappear and have to be re-introduced if they are to be considered. The latest complicated bill is 29 pages long. Reading through the bill it is striking to see how many times the words "if available" are used in reference to mandatory counseling, shelters, and other services that simply aren't available.

Elias said that Senator told her at that time that he wants her to testify in front of the committee possibly sometime this month either in person after graduation when she returns to Pohnpei or by Skype if before that time. It's been a month since that conversation and she says she hasn't heard anything since then. "Not a word, and, if they don't act on it until I return, I will definitely push for it as soon as I arrive," she wrote.

The culture of Pohnpei essentially dictates that young people are not truly adults until they are in their 30's. "Without the external supports and global supports, I wouldn't be doing this, she said, "I would get tired and lose the interest and energy to move forward. My age and my gender are my main weaknesses in these efforts, because the cultural perspective of people I deal with is limited to how they define culture and tradition."

"Women are very important in society. I believe that Culture is evolving and we need to incorporate our traditions with reality," she said.

"I see a little progress now, better than before. More people are hearing us out," she said.

She said that her passion for advocating on behalf of victims of family violence

began when she was young when she saw friends and even some family members who were ill-treated either physically, psychologically, or both. She said it was sad to watch but she didn't feel like there was much she could do about it other than just to be there to listen. It was when she was an undergraduate pursuing a degree in Social Work and she did an internship in Pohnpei with the Pohnpei Women's Council that the seeds of her future advocacy began. She was also selected to facilitate focus groups of girls with the topic of family violence and domestic violence with the F.S.M Dept. of Health and UNFPA.

"In the focus groups, girls started to open up and shared their personal stories that happened and was still happening to them in their households. It was so sad, they cried and shared their deepest secrets," she said. "So when I shared this experience with my instructors for social work at the University of Guam, they told me that in the social work field, when consumers open up to social workers, we must provide the treatment and intervention needed. But nothing could be done because there is no law. I felt really bad. I could not refer those individuals anywhere. I just left with a saddened heart," she said.

"So after that summer, I decided to take the bill with me to Guam to use it in my Policy and Advocacy courses during my senior year in the Bachelors of Social Work Program at UOG." She said that students in the Social Work program studied the bill in 2014 and 2015. They prepared written testimonies and post cards and sent them to the Pohnpei Legislature. She also came to Pohnpei in 2016 with a group of students who gave oral testimony to the Legislature.

Members of the Pohnpei Student Organization also filed a petition with the Legislature urging to pass the "Family Violence bill". "Some of the Pohnpeian boys did not sign. They said it is our culture to beat the wife," she said. "They think its ok to beat their wives. That's what they learned from what they saw growing up."

In October 2014 a report on Family Health and Safety quantified the prevalence of family violence in the FSM. The report was a diligent and sincere effort to provide real and helpful statistics. That was part of the project that Elias was working on when she was in Pohnpei during the summer of 2014. The numbers showed a prevalence of domestic violence against women in particular that was in line with global statistics. The difficulty is that it is such a personal tragedy that many cases of domestic violence go unreported. Some say that is true in the vast majority of cases.

"In May 2016, through my social work mentors on Guam, I was accepted and attended the Global Indigenous Women's Leadership School in New York. I brought my advocacy project on Family Violence and presented it during the two week long school for indigenous women leaders around the world. At the end of 2016, they awarded me a grant to fund the implementation and monitoring stage of my advocacy project. This is where my grant came from. I had from January to April," she said. It was what paid for her most recent trip where she met with leaders and also spoke at a Town Hall meeting on the problem of Domestic Violence.



"I recently went to Rome for the Global Indigenous Youths Conference and I shared the family violence issue in another setting and organization to gain more support," she said. She and two delegates from Australia represented the Pacific as "focal points" (a term used to describe the spokespeople of each region) at the conference. "We are advocates for indigenous youths all around the world so my strongest points and inputs were on the issue of family violence and gender equality. This was a meeting in Rome with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters," she said.

After her graduation on Sunday she will return to Pohnpei for the summer where she intends to continue her advocacy efforts with dogged determination. She said that since she received a full scholarship from Guam she is obligated to return to Guam for at least two years. She said that she will use those two years to look for a best fit PhD program. She wants to pursue a PhD in Human Rights or a related field.

Meanwhile, she will continue her advocacy in Pohnpei from a distance as she has done.

During our online chat we asked her that if she had one quote that might appear in a box to accompany this article, what it would be. It was a tough question and we knew it. She thought long and hard about it and finally responded. "Change is scary but with a collective and respective community, we can preserve our culture, provide a safer environment, and protect our people."

Pohnpei has another young female champion for its people and she's a barnstormer!



# INVITATION TO BID

- The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) has received a grant from the Electric Programs of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) an agency of the USDA-Rural Development. It is intended that the proceeds of this grant be applied to eligible payment under the contract for procurement and of **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 2 NEW 545 kW DIESEL GENERATING SETS AT NANPOHNMAL POWER PLANT (NPP1)** (hereinafter referred to as the "Good"). The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation is referred to in the document as "the Purchaser".
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain one (1) complete set of the bidding documents from PUC Finance (located at former Bernard's Gas Station) during working hours or by emailing [pucagmpower@mail.fm](mailto:pucagmpower@mail.fm) or [kgilimete@yahoo.com](mailto:kgilimete@yahoo.com). The RFP Packages will be available for pickup starting May 15, 2017. The documents may be emailed to the eligible bidder upon request to the email address below:  
  

Mr. Nixon Anson  
Pohnpei Utilities Corporation  
PUC Building  
P.O. Box C  
Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Telephone: (691) 320-2374  
Emailing: [pucagmpower@mail.fm](mailto:pucagmpower@mail.fm) or [kgilimete@yahoo.com](mailto:kgilimete@yahoo.com)
- In the case of submission by international courier, you are asked to take special note of the remoteness of the Federated States of Micronesia, the frequency of airline transportation services, and the effects which these factors have on mail and courier services.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of two percent (2%) of total bid price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before **4:00 p.m. Tuesday June 13, 2017 Pohnpei time** and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter. All bidders are responsible for the time difference.
- The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of those bidders who choose to attend in the Conference Room, Pohnpei Utilities Corporation, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941.
- The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of PUC. All proposals shall become the property of PUC

## US Department of the Interior freezes FSM infrastructure funds

By Bill Jaynes  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

May 18, 2017

**FSM**—The US Department of the Interior has notified the FSM that it has suspended further infrastructure grant assistance to the FSM. The letter was dated April 27 and was transmitted under diplomatic cover to Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert in a letter dated April 28.

"The DOI has taken this step because the GFSM has not established a management system that meets the standards set forth in the "FSM Infrastructure Development Plan 2016-2025" (IDP)," the letter, signed by James E. Cason, Delegated Authority of the Deputy Secretary said.

It continues to say that the Compact of Free Association requires that "The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia shall develop and submit a nationwide infrastructure development plan (IDP) to the Government of the United States for review. Projects may be phased over two or more years. The annual implementation plan for the infrastructure

sector referred to ... above, shall include a list of integrated state and national priorities for new and reconstructed capital infrastructure to be financed by Compact funds, cost requirements, and implementation schedule. This project list and any revision thereto shall be submitted to the Government of the United States. Insofar as Grant funds are involved, the IDP shall be subject to the concurrence of the Committee."

FSM Secretary for Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, Lukner Weilbacher said this morning that the FSM does have an IDP that was approved by JEMCO (Joint Economic Management Committee). He said that the FSM feels that the issues the letter raised weren't clear and has asked for a meeting with its US partners to discuss the matter further. "We already have an approved IDP," he said.

Until after possible resolution of the issues of that pending meeting, US provided infrastructure funds under the Compact of Freely Associated States as amended have been frozen for future projects in the FSM.

## ....FSMTC Congress

*Continued from page 2*

shareholders and FSMTC has agreements with those governments for land use for facilities. He wondered what would happen if satellite providers didn't want to work with the open access entity? Would FSMTC's contracts with them just go away?

He called the bill a "bad bill" and the move, "a hostile takeover".

FSM TC&I and the Secretary for Finance told the committee that if Congress didn't act to approve the bill during this session, FSM would be in default of its contract with the companies with which it signed a contract and may not proceed at all. Additional liabilities also would likely incur. Further, the board of the World Bank has before it a \$16 million dollar grant for a

cable to Kosrae.

Chuuk and Kosrae's cable would both need access to the HANTRU1 cable.

Senator Joseph Urusemal said that FSM TC&I should go back and work together with FSMTC to come up with a plan that would be mutually beneficially for all of the stakeholders and the people of the FSM.

"Talk to each other, and don't be a child," Chairman Gouland said. "Really, these are government entities and it's too important." He concluded that the committee could not currently recommend passage of the bill.

The first full session of the FSM Congress has several days before it adjourns. It is still possible that an agreement could be reached.

Senator Perman said that it felt as if Congress had a gun in its face.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF  
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS  
WILL BE RELEASED ON:  
June 5, 2017**

**Deadline for submission of articles or  
advertisements for this issue is the end  
of working hours on:  
Wednesday May 31, 2017**

## Bank of Guam® awards 7 graduating high school seniors with Ifit Scholarships and paid internships

May 11, 2017

**Hagatna, Guam**-The Board of Directors Management and Staff of Bank of Guam are proud to announce the seven winners of the 2017 Bank of Guam Ifit Scholarship, which consists of a \$2,000 grant and a paid summer internship. They are:

Julianne C. Ballon, Okkodo High School (Guam), University of Guam  
 Arron Cushing, Mt. Carmel High School (Saipan), Gonzaga University  
 Byung Woon Ko, Xavier High School (Chuuk), University of Massachusetts  
 Bo Yung "Allen" Kong, Harvest Christian Academy (Guam), Princeton University  
 Natasha Loochaz, Yap Catholic High School (Yap), Canisius College  
 Nathaniel Snodgrass, Mt. Carmel High School (Saipan), Northern Marianas College  
 Francis Yarofalyango, Yap Catholic High School (Yap), St. Martin's University.

**2017 IFIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

|                                   |                                 |                            |                             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <br>Nathaniel Snodgrass<br>Saipan | <br>Francis Yarofalyango<br>Yap | <br>Byung Ko<br>Chuuk, FSM | <br>Arron Cushing<br>Saipan |
| <br>Allen Bo Kong<br>Guam         | <br>Julianne Ballon<br>Guam     | <br>Natasha Loochaz<br>Yap |                             |

Member FDIC

## Money does grow on trees!

On Saturday, April 22, 2017, Willy Kostka and Betty Sigrah of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), and Ricky Carl of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Micronesia Program, met with the 10 Heirs of Alik Kufus to hand \$21,000 (\$2,100 per family) over to the owners of the Yela Ka Forest Reserve in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. This is an event that takes place every April with the funds coming from the proceeds/earnings of the Yela Conservation Easement Endowment Fund, managed by MCT. The endowment, which was established to support this conservation easement agreement with funds from a US Forest Service Forest Legacy Grant and with matching funds from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, has a current total value of approximately \$520,000.

As a Micronesia Challenge ([www.micronesiachallenge.org](http://www.micronesiachallenge.org)) site for the FSM, the Yela Ka Forest in Kosrae is a special place that holds the world's last remaining stand of the Ka tree (a species of Terminalia found only in Pohnpei and Kosrae). Because this forest area is privately owned, and because it is a unique and special place that provides pertinent ecosystem services to the people of Kosrae, as well as serves as a very critical habitat/nursery for the creatures/animals in the area, Yela qualified under the Forest Legacy Program. Conservation easements are comprehensive plans that involve different components and partners.

While the families have relinquished some of their development rights (e.g. road building, large infrastructure development, tree cutting/harvesting, etc.) to Kosrae State (KIRMA), who now retains the lease on the property, the families continue to own the property and can still enter and carry out sustainable and cultural activities (e.g. ecotourism, hunting, gathering of medicinal plants) within the area. According to the Executive Director of the Yela Landowners Authority, Dr. Tholman Alik, YELA receives about 25 visitors per month and charges an entry fee of \$20 to visitors and \$10 to locals. These funds, along with other grants from FSM Congress and international donors, are used to pay for the three permanent staff of YEKA, who manage the area on a regular basis and carry out activities, such as feral pig and other invasive species control and eradication. They also serve as guides for the tours to Yela.

This year's is the fourth disbursement to the families since this first conservation easement in Micronesia went into effect with the signing of an agreement between the Kosrae State Government represented by the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Micronesia Conservation Trust, Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization (KCSO) and the Yela Landowners Authority (YELA). Established as part of Bill Clinton's Forest Legacy Program, conservation easements are a resources management tool which has been used all over the USA and in some other countries around the world. TNC has been a partner/broker in numerous conservation easements in the USA and abroad, and along with the US Forest Service, provided the technical assistance that led to the establishment of the Conservation Easement in Yela.

MCT, the US Forest Service, TNC and other partners hope that other conservation easements can be established in Micronesia to help manage some of our special places and to provide long term income for the families who own those lands.

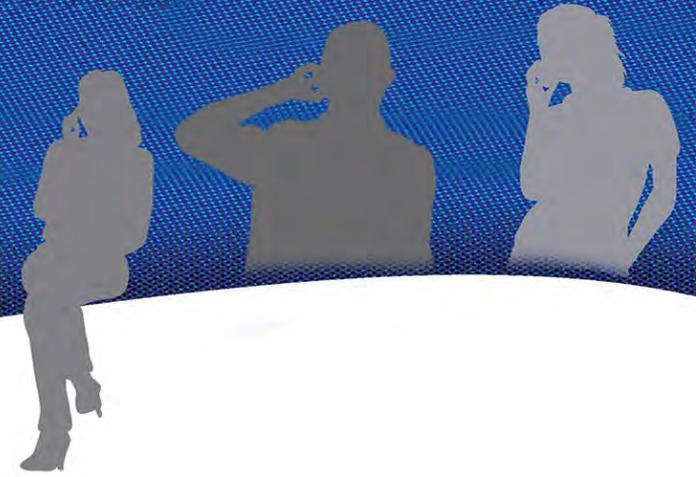
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**PARADISE RADIO**

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## Enimwahn community receives Global Greengrants Fund for Coconut Rehabilitation



The importance of having healthy and productive coconut trees is the focus of a new grant that the Enimwahn

Community received from the Global Greengrants Fund. Their NGO, Enimwahn Development Association

Incorporated or EDA Inc., received \$5,000 to purchase equipment and 2000 coconut seedlings and plan to cut senile trees and replant with a more productive species of coconut tree. President of the EDA Inc., Mr. Stuard Penias, noted that “the use of coconut in our community really went up due to the rise in cost of raising pigs and other community usage of coconut. As of today, the number of coconut trees in our community has decreased compare to ten years ago. Most of these coconut trees have died due to the typhoon we encountered (in 2015) and some are just too old to give fruits and too tall for people to climb. The need and demand for new coconut trees within the Enimwahn community is increasing rapidly. Therefore, the Enimwahn Community is seeking assistance from any donor agency who can assist with the replenishment and replanting of new coconut trees.”

During the implementation of this project, young and old people of Enimwahn will be educated on the seriousness of climate change, the rise of NCDs in Pohnpei, and many other

important topics that will be associated with this project. By the end of this project, people of Enimwahn will be able to optimistically talk about the importance of keeping our environment clean, and be well informed on climate change to take necessary actions and ensure that they don’t contribute to the problems that we are facing nowadays. They will become ambassadors for change in our community and society by taking responsible steps in ensuring that the young generation also takes care of the environment.

By the end of this project there will be at least 2,000 new coconut trees planted in Enimwahn Community which will support the people of Enimwahn for decades in terms of money, traditional uses, and food security. With the clearing of the senile trees that are no longer producing fruit, EDA Inc. will find a way to use the wood and leaves and put the old trees to use so nothing goes to waste.

Enimwahn Development Association Inc. would like to express its utmost thanksgiving to the Pacific Advisory Council, the Global Greengrants Fund, and Mr. Willy Kostka, Executive Director of the Micronesian Conservation Trust.

## Canoe Reassembly in South Carolina highlights interwoven FSM-US ties

### Habele Foundation

Micronesian citizens living in Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, gathered in South Carolina in mid-May to reassemble a traditional paddling canoe. The boat was crafted in Yap and serves as a symbol of the interwoven history of the American and Micronesian Peoples.

Gift of this one-of-a-kind craft was prompted by support from private citizens across the United States –and in particular South Carolina– following Super Typhoon Maysak, a record-setting storm that ravaged the Micronesian States of Yap and Chuuk in 2015.

Canoe delivery was organized by “Habele,” a South Carolina headquartered charity serving students across Micronesia. Habele had solicited, coordinated, and delivered relief supplies to pupils and educators in the wake of the storm. “Waa’gey,” a Yap-based community preservation organization, crafted the canoe, also working with Habele to identify Micronesians in the United States who could reassemble the craft once it reached Edisto Island, south of Charleston.

“The canoe is the central object of Pacific Island cultures, and preserving the knowledge of its construction and use is essential to cultural preservation in the region,” explained Douglas Herman, Senior Geographer, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. “It is exciting to see this knowledge being shared and perpetuated.”

The westernmost state in Micronesia, the tiny islands of Yap are scattered across 500 miles of ocean, just south of the US Territory of Guam. An American protectorate following liberation in World War Two, Micronesia is now a sovereign nation in a special “Compact” with the US. Through that status, many Micronesians come to study, work, and live, in the United States. Reassembly of

the canoe offered some of these Islanders a chance to reconnect, and preserve their distinctive cultural skills.

“The practice of building and sailing canoes is an essential component of Micronesian culture,” says Barbara Wavell, an anthropologist and author of “Arts & Crafts of Micronesia.” “Canoe building requires many important skills including woodworking, lashing. These skills can also be applied to other cultural activities such as house construction and the making of bowls and tools. The Habele canoe project is a significant step in the promotion and preservation of this important cultural knowledge.”

Among the Micronesians who gathered to reassemble the canoe using distinctive and complex lashing techniques were Camilius Epoulipiy, John Salmal, Marino Yarogimal, Ralph Tawerilig, Richard Yangitelmes, and Troy Hasugulut. American born relatives of Island descent joined as well as American volunteers.

The canoe’s point of origin and its new berth share historical ties with the Spanish



Empire. In 1686, the Islands of Yap were sighted and first claimed as Spanish colony. That same year -over 7,000 miles away- Point of Pines Plantation on Edisto was burned by Spanish raiders from Florida hoping to expel English colonists from present day South Carolina.

“This canoe is authentic enough for museum display, and functional enough to take shrimping in South Carolina’s tidal creeks,” explained Larry Raigetel of Waa’gey. “It’s made from local materials, with traditional tools, and we are excited about our friends at Point of Pines putting it to good use.”

“I join our elders and young men of Waa’gey in

extending our heart felt appreciation and congratulations to our partner, Habele and those who have helped to assemble the canoe,” continued Raigetel, the “Senap,” or master carver. He was supervised by his late father and master canoe carver Peter Pakemai “This is a proud moment for us and we are humbled with the opportunity to play a small part of this achievement.” Organizers hope to formally commission the canoe in mid-June.

“I was grateful to be a part of this,” said Cam Epoulipiy, who drove more than seven hours to attend. “To reconnect with other Islanders, to practice and preserve important skills, and to see that others outside our Islands also value these things of such importance to us.”



# Simina maintains Speaker seat in new Congress

**PALIKIR, POHNPEI – May 12, 2017.** The First Regular Session of the new Twentieth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia has convened and reorganized its leadership and maintained Senator Wesley W. Simina as the Speaker for the new body.

The leadership of Congress is comprised of the Presiding Officers and the Chairmen of the seven congressional committees. As organized, the leadership of the new body is as follows, for the Presiding Officers:

1. Senator Wesley W. Simina from the State of Chuuk maintained his role as Speaker;
2. Senator Esmond B. Moses of the State of Pohnpei is elected as the new Vice Speaker; and
3. Senator Florencio Singkoro Harper of the State of Chuuk is once again the Floor Leader

of the body.

For the chairmen of the seven congressional committees:

1. Senator Joseph J. Urusemal of Yap again heads the Committee on Education;
2. Senator Paliknoa K. Welly of Kosrae maintains his chairmanship on the Committee on External Affairs;
3. Senator Ferny S. Perman of Pohnpei is the new Chairman of the Committee on Health and Social Affairs;
4. Senator Robson Romolow of Chuuk takes over the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations;
5. Senator David W. Panuelo of Pohnpei maintains his chairmanship of the Committee on Resources and Development;
6. Senator Victor Gouland of

Chuuk also maintains his chairmanship of the Committee on Transportation and Communication; and

7. Senator Isaac V. Figir of Yap too maintained his role as the head of the

Committee on Ways and Means.

Unless agreed upon for earlier adjournment, the First Regular Session of the 20th Congress is scheduled to adjourn on May 30, 2017. The interested general public is always welcome to observe the Congress in session.

# USDA Rural Development donates police vehicles to Pohnpei



During a handover ceremony on Monday, May 8th Charges de affaires Joanne Cummings presented the keys to three new police vehicles to Benito Cantero, Director of the Department of Public safety.

The donation represented a USDA Rural Development Communities Facilities Grants funding under the Economic Impact Initiative (EII for \$25,000) and

the Regular CF Grant (RCF for \$8,495) Programs for a Total Grant Amount of \$33,495 (55% of Total Project Cost). PSG provided \$27,405 in Matching Funding (45% of TPC) for a Total Project Cost of \$60,990 for the Three Vehicles for Procurement, Detailing, Sirens and Lights.

Grant Awards were obligated on March 03, 2011.

One vehicle will be stationed at the Kitti Substation for PSG DPS and the other two will be stationed at the Main Police Station in Kolonia Town for Patrol Division usage in Sokehs and Kolonia and Nett.

# Yap Small Business Week honors financial institutions

Yap Chamber of Commerce

Colonia, Yap FSM-The Yap Chamber of Commerce and Yap Small Business Development Center worked in partnership to sponsor the first annual Yap Small Business Week April 30 – May 6 by recognizing The Bank of Guam, Bank of the FSM, FSM Development Bank and Pacific Island Development Bank for their support of small business development. This new event honors the many small businesses throughout Yap and the businesses and organizations that support them.



On behalf of Bank of the FSM, Mark Loochaz, Jr. (left), accepted an award on May 5 for the bank's support of Yap's s April 30 to May 6, 2017. The award was presented by Yap's Acting Governor Maria La'aw (center) and Marie Laamar, Managing Director, Yap Chamber of Commerce (right).



On behalf of FSM Development Bank, Katherine Gisog (left), Yap Branch Manager, accepted an award on May 5 for the bank's support of Yap's small businesses at a reception celebrating the first annual Yap Small Business Week April 30 – May 6, 2017. The award was presented by Yap's Acting Governor Maria La'aw (center) and Marie Laamar, Managing Director, Yap Chamber of Commerce (right).



On behalf of Bank of Guam, Joan Pinerof (left), Yap Branch Manager, accepted an award on May 5 for the bank's support of Yap's small businesses at a reception celebrating the first annual Yap Small Business Week April 30 – May 6, 2017. The award was presented by Yap's Acting Governor Maria La'aw (center) and Marie Laamar, Managing Director, Yap Chamber of Commerce (right).

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development Project**  
**(RFP17/035)**

The Pacific Community (SPC) would like to invite interested enterprises to submit a proposal for the Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development Project.

The Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) of the Pacific Community (SPC) has launched the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZMFAT) funded Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development project (PacAqua). In order to increase and improve economic and nutritional gain from aquaculture in the Pacific, aquaculture be developed on a business-like footing, be it private sector or community led.

The Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development project aims to increase adoption of and enhance business acumen among aquaculture operations, and increase uptake and adoption of improved aquaculture practices. Under this project, the FAME Division will provide business mentoring and training, capacity development and technology transfer in feed, seed and broodstock management to selected enterprises and partners.

The Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development project will work with existing enterprises including farmer, grower, processor, exporter associations and NGOs that are interested in developing and expanding their business capacity and operation.

The 17 Pacific Island Countries whose members are eligible to apply include: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Copies of the 'Request for Proposals' (RFP) can be downloaded from the SPC website: [www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int). For any additional information or clarification on the RFPs, send an e-mail request to [procurement@spc.int](mailto:procurement@spc.int) quoting RFP17/035 in the subject line.  
*Completed proposals should be emailed to [procurement@spc.int](mailto:procurement@spc.int) with the heading*

“RFP 17/035 – Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development Project”  
Or by courier to:  
Pacific Community (SPC)  
Procurement Unit – RFP 17/035  
Private Mail Bag  
Suva – Fiji

**All proposals should reach SPC before 4pm Fiji Time, 2nd June, 2017**

**No submission shall be made or communication undertaken directly with SPC staff on this procurement.**

**OLYMPIC DAY**  
**5K WALK/RUN**  
**Saturday, June 17, 2017**  
**7:00a.m., Saturday**

Pohnpei - start and finish at Palm Terrace Shopping Center.  
\$5.00 registration fee, with t-shirts to all finishers  
Walk / Run will be held on all 4 FSM States

**OLYMPIC DAY**

# Akillino Harris Susaia presents credentials at the White House as the FSM Ambassador to the U.S.A.

Another page in the history of the diplomatic relations between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States was turned on 24 April 2017 when President Donald J. Trump accepted the credentials of Mr. Akillino H. Susaia as Ambassador of the FSM to the United States in a ceremony held at the Oval Office of the White House. The two men exchanged pleasantries, after which Ambassador Susaia presented his formal statement, a copy of which is provided hereunder at length:

## REMARKS

by

Ambassador Akillino Harris Susaia Federated States of Micronesia  
at the Ceremony for the  
Presentation of Credentials to President  
Donald J. Trump

The White House Washington DC 24 April  
2017

Mr. President,

It is with high sense of duty that I convey at the outset President Peter M. Christian's warm greetings and best wishes of fine health and continued prosperity to you, your family and the American people. The rest of the leadership of the Federated States of Micronesia joins him in expressing our collective sincere appreciation for the continued friendship and assistance that the American people and leaders have extended to the people of Micronesia over the years through the instruments of the Compact of Free Association. It is our collective desire

to deepen the affinities between the peoples of our two countries and to continue our existing cooperative efforts in promoting the rewards of Democracy around the globe.

I would like to express my own gratitude to you for accepting my credentials as the highest diplomatic representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United States of America. To me personally, this is a rare honor and distinct privilege – apart from being a tall challenge that must be pursued to my utmost energy. I wish to seize the opportunity of the presentation of my credentials to assure you of my commitment to do everything in my power to further strengthen our mutually beneficial partnership under the Compact of Free Association treaty.

While I have given my assurances that I will do my best, I am equally certain that I will need help to succeed in carrying out my mission. Your counsel and the cooperation of your representatives would be most welcome.

Mr. President,

Our two countries have been enjoying a mutually beneficial partnership. The Compact of Free Association, as amended, which is due for review over certain provisions in about seven years from now, has been the main framework for cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally. For instance, the Compact of Free Association enables the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States to work closely on a number of key issues in the international arena. In this connection, I am proud to say that our cooperation at the United Nations remains solid, as has been since we became a Member State of that World Organization.

We in the Federated States of Micronesia are not only proud of but also grateful for the opportunities granted to our citizens to serve in the United States Armed Forces. Around the globe, including in various zones of high-voltage danger, Micronesian young men and women stand side by side with their American comrades in combatting terrorism and helping to safeguard the institutions of democracy. Our desire to contribute to world peace and our shared bilateral defense and security cooperation are manifested in the number of our able-bodied citizens signing up and serving in the United States military.

From the destruction and wretchedness of the Second World War, it was almost inevitable that the United States became our prime tutor in the arts of modern governance and the promises and practices of democratic life. We are grateful to the United States for

graduating us from the tutorship into a unique partnership that continues, in a new setting or context, to facilitate maximum cooperation in handful areas of joint ventures.

Indeed, the United States has an indelible legacy in our islands. We have come to admire the American know-how and bold drive for excellence. Although we were slow to embracing it, we are now fully committed to the proposition that self-government and the development of the private sector must go hand in hand – and be scrupulously and jealously maintained if Democracy must be kept alive for the cross-sections of our society to enjoy.

Mr. President,

While we have accepted the self-evident principle that the private sector shall be the primary engine of development for our society, we should periodically run the reality check in our Compact partnership as the premier framework for my country's development. Just as important, we must be honest to ourselves – in admitting that the basic infrastructures in the Federated States of Micronesia need upgrading. It is our hope that we are not mistaken in looking to the American ingenuity and proven record of entrepreneurship for guidance and support in the development and advancement of our public infrastructures upon which we pin high hopes.

Prior to leaving the Federated States of Micronesia to come to America to take up my assignment, the leaders of my country missed not a beat to remind me about the historic affinities that we have with the American people and to seek help in improving our mutually beneficial relationship. Inevitably, in the course of our exchanges as friends, there will be, as there have been, discrepancies in views and understandings.

But we have been friends. For its part, the Federated States of Micronesia has stood with the United States, even when others preferred taking leave. We must not lose sight of this fact as we summon the courage and foresight to rise to the challenges that may stand from time to time in our relationship. It is not in the American spirit, nor in the Micronesian blood, to retreat when there is a great moral task to be done.

Thank you again for the confidence you have expressed through your acceptance of my credentials. I am prepared to do my part in advancing the shared goals and values of our two countries. With the help and generosity of the United States, I know I cannot fail but succeed.

Consistent with diplomatic practice, President Trump responded to the statement by the newly accredited Ambassador. A copy of the President's response is also herewith attached in full:

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S REPLY TO THE

REMARKS OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AKILLINO HARRIS SUSAIA UPON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF HIS LETTER OF CREDENCE

Mr. Ambassador:

It is with great pleasure that I accept your Letter of Credence, which establishes you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federated States of Micronesia and I acknowledge receipt of the Letter of Recall of your predecessor, Ambassador Asterio Takesy. I would like to extend to you and your family a warm welcome to Washington, and I look forward to working with you to improve the close partnership between our countries.

The United States and the Federated States of Micronesia enjoy a close and special relationship dating more than 70 years. In 1986, the Compact of Free Association between our two countries entered into force, ushering in a new phase in our bilateral relationship. The Compact, as amended in 2003, provides a valuable framework for many of our bilateral activities. It also reaffirms our shared commitment to democracy and freedom.

The Federated States of Micronesia is an important partner for U.S. engagement in the Pacific. The mutual security of our two nations undergirds our special relationship. The United States is committed to defending the Federated States of Micronesia and your people from attack or threats, just as we would defend our own country and citizens. We are deeply grateful for the military service of Micronesians in the U.S. Armed Forces and their sacrifices in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Our strong relationship extends beyond defense considerations. In particular, we appreciate your country's continued support at the United Nations as we work on critical challenges across the globe. Our people-to-people ties also continue to grow, including citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia who study and work in the United States and American citizens who contribute their skills to Micronesia, supporting diversity and economic development in both countries. More than 4,300 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in the Federated States of Micronesia, continually adding value to our relationship.

Mr. Ambassador, I look forward to working with you to advance our shared agenda and deepen the friendship between our countries. It is a pleasure to welcome you to Washington.

There were ten other ambassadors presenting their credentials along with Ambassador Susaia. Accompanying Ambassador Susaia to the Presentation of Credentials was his son Ricky Olter.



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### ...Telecommunications

Continued from page 3

to Guam. Globe President and CEO Ernest Cu and George Rechucher, Chairman of the Belau Submarine Cable Company signed a similar agreement for Palau with Globe. The signing of the two agreements was witnessed by FSM President Peter Christian and Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Jr.

As a result of FSM and Palau partnering with SEA-US (Globe and Telin) and NEC, FSM's provisioning of the Yap cable system is coming in at about \$10 million under the original budget and the provisioning of the Chuuk cable system by NEC ensures a reduction in project management risk and an acceleration in delivery. The installation of all three cable systems will all be on a single vessel scheduled for loading in July of this year.

Overall project implementation responsibilities currently reside in the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure and will soon be transferred to the newly established FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation with its principal office at P.O. Box PS-250, Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM 96941.

Ownership and implementation responsibilities for the fiber optic cable systems is transferring from DTCI to the newly established FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMT Cable Co.). FSMT Cable Co., as owner of the Yap and Chuuk cable systems, will provide open access (non-competitive) bandwidth access to the international cable systems for all domestic telecommunications operators in FSM.

FSM's purchase of the Yap and Chuuk cable systems is with grant funding provided by the World Bank under a project that became effective in March, 2015. The project is the largest donor funded telecom project in the Pacific. The project includes implementation of market liberalization and regulatory reforms in tandem with new investments in the delivery of broadband connectivity to the FSM states of Yap and Chuuk. The current value of the project is \$47.5 million. An add-on to include funds for Kosrae to participate in the East Micronesia Cable system project with Kiribati and Nauru will go up to World Bank's board on May 31, 2017 for final approval. Once approved an additional \$16.2 million in grant funding will be added to the existing project.

During the week of May 14-20, the World

Bank ICT team was scheduled to be in Pohnpei to review last steps for the release of the project funds so that FSM can make payments for the Yap and Chuuk cable systems. The World Bank ICT team has also accepted FSM's invitation to assist in the development of a proposal for a next phase ICT project that would support completion of the buildout of infrastructure to ensure that the international cable systems are distributed to end users in FSM. This would include implementing applications (e-health, e-government, e-education) to optimize the benefits of fiber connectivity to end users in FSM. The projects for the Yap and Chuuk cables along with the proposed add-on for Kosrae and proposed next phase ICT project would be fully funded by World Bank grants in the amount of \$75-80 million.

Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure (DTCI) Secretary Lukner B. Weilbacher has remarked that "FSM has adopted a national policy to connect all four FSM states (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae) with fiber optic cable systems. In 2009, the HANTRU-1 cable system landed in the state of Pohnpei. As a result of the positive outcomes on the horizon for this project and through FSM's collaboration and partnership with Palau and SEA-US, FSM is now on the cusp of securing cable connections to all of the FSM states. By the completion of this project, FSM, in collaboration of service providers, will be positioned to meet its objective to offer broadband connectivity to virtually the entire population of the FSM at competitive prices. The impact of these grant funded projects cannot be underestimated, as they will provide the core infrastructure and services that will be a foundation for future development."

The release of funds for these projects by the World Bank depends on FSM carrying out next steps to implement the FSM Telecom Act of 2014, which opens up the telecom market to competition. As of press time, a bill had been transmitted to the FSM Congress and was scheduled for public hearing. The bill, if passed, will be the final step by FSM to release the project funds for the existing project and will ensure delivery of the capacity from the Chuuk and Yap cable systems to end users by early next year and to proceed on projects for the Kosrae fiber and domestic outlay and applications.



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# Congratulations



*Maximo A. Mida*

Recent graduate from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree. Mr. Mida will be taking the Guam and FSM bar exams. Prior to law school Mr. Mida served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 20 years, and was a rescue swimmer. Mr. Mida will be joining the Ramp & Mida Law Firm. Mr. Mida is the older brother of Kembo Mida, Jr.



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