

Congress passes last minute bills in effort to meet World Bank fiber optic funding requirements

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 30, 2017

Palikir, Pohnpei—The FSM Congress has passed two bills which they hope, when taken together will meet the World Bank’s requirements for the largest single project grant in FSM history. The bills now go to the President’s office for consideration.

The two bills had the effect of rejecting in its entirety the contents of the bill submitted by TC&I to transfer some FSMTC assets to a new government owned wholesaler for communications capacity. If taken together the bills would give the wholesaler (Open Access Entity or OAE) access to FSMTC’s fiber optic spur at no charge and would also give FSMTC access at no charge to World Bank funded fiber optic lines that are planned if World Bank decides that their funding conditions have been met.

It is not at all clear whether their compromise



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Pohnpei files claims against four former employees of Treasury and Administration

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

June 2, 2017

Pohnpei—Pohnpei’s office of the Attorney General has filed a claim against four former employees of Pohnpei State. The State is seeking to recover financial damages for payments for unauthorized overtime in the amount that the claims say the State will prove in Court.

The claim is based on audit findings on Pohnpei’s Payroll System for fiscal years 2011 and 2012, conducted by the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor in 2013. Its finding and subsequent compliance investigation support was handed over to the Attorney

General’s office but the AG’s office failed to act at that time.

The audit said that during those years the government overran its budget for overtime expenses by \$164,247.52. The audit reported that the Judicial Branch of the Government had no overtime expenses for the 34 employees who worked in that branch during the audit period. The Legislative Branch had 64 employees and overran its overtime budget by \$7,756.13. The Executive Branch had 1,180 employees and overran its overtime budget by \$149,165.51.

\$145,336.35 of the entire government’s overtime budget overrun was for just one department—the Department of Treasury and Administration and \$100,670.53 of that amount was for only five employees within DOTA who together were paid 9,172.5 hours overtime pay in addition to their regular time hours during the course of the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years.

The Department of Public Safety and the Audit Office Compliance Investigation Unit conducted a joint investigation which resulted in a report being submitted to the Office of the

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FSM NORMA Donates World Tuna Day Skirt Proceeds to ECE

An Outcome & Appreciation Ceremony was held on May 19, 2017 by the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority, during which Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan presented appreciation certificates to all involved in helping to make the FSM's first World Tuna Day celebrations a success. The unofficial results of an event survey were presented at the gathering, which noted feedback in areas such as better timing, enhanced logistics and improved participation. The overall coordination of the event was reported in the survey as being excellent.

In official remarks, Executive Director Pangelinan expressed expectation that next year's World Tuna Day event would be even bigger and better than this year's event and that the Early Childhood Education Centers would continue to participate. Executive Director Pangelinan also indicated his shared hope with Vice President Yosiwo P. George, as expressed during his keynote address

at the World Tuna Day Fair that, that as a way to improve on participation and timing of the event, efforts would be underway to work with the FSM Congress to make World Tuna Day an official FSM holiday. "We must improve on public awareness of this important resource. What better way to do that than to designate World Tuna Day as a legal holiday, so that everyone can participate in the celebrations?"

Among various contests held for World Tuna Day was a tuna-themed, locally tailored skirt or "urohs" competition. Submitted skirt designs were open to public viewing and judging by fair-goers, then auctioned live at the WTD fair. The live auction garnered \$850, proceeds of which were divided equally among the five Pohnpei State Early Childhood Education Centers that participated in the WTD Fair and presented at the Outcome & Appreciation Ceremony. Accepting the certificates and donations on behalf of ECE

were Mrs. Marmihner Pelep for Sapwalap ECE, Mrs. Rosalihna Rosario for ESDM ECE, Mrs. Arsenia Barnabas for Pehleng ECE, Ms. Dyna Amusten for Wone ECE and Mrs. Elise Ioanis for Wenik ECE. After receiving their donations, the ECE representatives presented a children's song that they composed for their students for World Tuna Day, which referenced the importance of fish to our daily lives and how it is essential "from head to toe."

Also present at the Outcome & Appreciation Ceremony were representatives from World Bank/PROP, FSM Vital Petrocorp, FSM Telecommunications, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Pohnpei Department of Health Services, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, Vice President's Office, King's Media Zone, Etscheit Enterprises, Jitters Coffee, Kaselehlie Press and volunteers from COM-FSM, all of whom contributed to a successful inaugural

World Tuna Day Fair.

For more information or to participate in the World Tuna Day Feedback Survey, please contact the NORMA Office at (691) 320-2700, email Chief of Statistics, Compliance & Technical Projects Ms. Suzanne Lowe Gallen (suzanne.gallen@norma.fm) or visit the NORMA Facebook page.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

"A&E Design Services for the Kosrae Project Management Office Renovation Project"

NOTICE

The Project Management Office (PMO) of the State of Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is hereby soliciting Statements of Professional Qualifications from interested entities for the purpose of implementing A&E Design Services for the Kosrae Project Management Office Renovation Project. This Work will be funded by Infrastructure Sector Grants under the Amended Compact of Free Association between the United States and the FSM.

Design services will include preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimate for renovation of an existing abandoned space at the Kosrae Gym of approximately 840 square feet in size.

The RFQ and further may be obtained by submitting a written letter of interest to Mr. Bruce Howell, Manager, Kosrae Project Management Office, P.O. Box 158, Kosrae, FM 96944-0158 at email: howellbruce@yahoo.com with the subject heading, "Statement of Qualifications for the Design Services for the Kosrae Project Management Office Renovation Project"

In order to be considered, Statements of Professional Proposal and Qualifications must be submitted to the above contact no later than 4:00 P.M. Kosrae, FSM time, Friday, June 23, 2017.



NORMA Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan, ECE Chief Arwelson Arpona and Representatives from the 5 WTD participating ECE Centers.

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Bill Jaynes
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Remote Pacific Regions set for Broadband Internet under new World Bank Projects

\$36m grants approved to bring broadband to Kiribati and Federated States of Micronesia

WASHINGTON D.C., May 31, 2017 – The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors today approved US\$36 million in grants to help provide reliable fiber optic broadband internet to approximately 80,000 people in Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The grants, including US\$20 million for Kiribati and US\$16.26 million for FSM, will finance the installation of a submarine cable system connecting Tarawa (Kiribati) to Nauru, and Kosrae state (FSM) to Pohnpei state (FSM), which is connected to global networks. The Asian Development Bank is preparing finance to support Nauru’s participation in the cable system.

“We have already seen the benefits high-speed, reliable and affordable internet can bring to countries across the Pacific, and we look forward to working with Kiribati and Micronesia to bring faster and cheaper connectivity to the North Pacific,” said Michel Kerf, World Bank Country Director for Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. “These connections will play a crucial role in linking families, creating economic

and employment opportunities, reducing transaction costs, providing remote education and healthcare, and boosting national and international coordination.”

The projects are part of the Pacific Regional Connectivity Program, which aims to bring more reliable and affordable internet to the majority of countries in the Pacific Islands. Kiribati and Micronesia are two of the world’s most remote island nations, covering six million square kilometers of the Pacific Ocean, making access to information, services and economic opportunities a massive challenge.

In Kiribati, the internet capacity will be sold by the wholesaler on an open access basis to ensure equal access for all fixed and mobile networks operated by local retailers in Tarawa and nearby islands, accounting for more than two-thirds of the country’s population. A complementary project, supported by the World Bank, Australia and New Zealand will also help deliver mobile broadband services to more distant outer islands.

“High-speed internet will connect Kiribati to the rest of the world,

bringing new opportunities into our homes and offices and promoting overall economic integration. This is crucial for our development,” said Dr Teatao Tira, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism, government of Kiribati. “The government has already taken important steps to reduce the cost and improve the quality of services and this cable will take those achievements to the next level.”

In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), both Yap and Chuuk states are already part of the Pacific Regional Connectivity Program through the Palau-FSM Connectivity phase. The underwater cable systems for Yap and Chuuk states are set for installation late 2017 and are expected to be ready for service by early 2018. With this additional funding, all four states in Micronesia will have access to broadband internet.

This accomplishment will complete a key objective of the FSM Government’s National Development Strategy, which aims to connect all four states to fiber optic cable systems to ensure equality of access.

“Just a few short years ago, no one would have believed such a project was possible. Through vision, persistence and with the mutual support of our regional and donor partnerships we are now on the verge of achieving our dream of connecting our small island state communities to the world,” said Vice President Yosiwo P. George of the Federates States of Micronesia (FSM). “This project will provide all four states with access to good quality and affordable internet connections. We look forward to being able to overcome some of the challenges our remoteness creates.”

In addition to laying the fiber optic cable, the grants will fund technical assistance provided to relevant government ministries and help develop the regulatory framework needed to promote competition and keep costs as low as possible for consumers.

The US\$36.26 million grants are provided through the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank’s fund for countries most in need.

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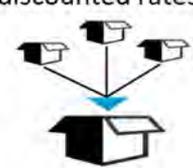


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Access to justice/enabling rights workshop



FSM Supreme Court

The FSM Supreme Court, with the support of the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI), conducted a three day Access to Justice/Enabling Rights Workshop from May 23-25, 2017 at the Governor's Conference room in Kolonia, Pohnpei. A week prior to the workshop, from May 15-20, FSM Supreme Court staff, including General Counsel Danny Rescue, Jr., Acting Director Atarino Helieisar, and Pohnpei State Justice Ombudsman Johnny Peter, along with PJSI Technical Director

Dr. Livingston Armytage, went out to various offices, agencies, outer islands, and municipalities in Pohnpei to conduct an Access to Justice Assessment.

The initiative was the first of its kind in the FSM

An Access to Justice Assessment is a tool that can assist courts in planning their work, allocating resources and responding to community concerns. It can assist the courts to improve service delivery by identifying justice needs within the FSM,

however, because of limitations on funding and time to conduct the study, only Pohnpei State was assessed. The Assessment provides people with an opportunity to give feedback on their needs and how the National, State, Land, and Municipal Courts are addressing those needs. They also provide the courts with an opportunity to evaluate this feedback and develop a plan of action, taking the views of users and potential users into consideration. The key aspect of the Assessment is not that they are conducted, but how the findings are used. The courts need to be committed to taking action to address community needs expressed in the Assessment and using the findings to improve court performance and increase the public's access to justice.

The first day of the workshop involved interested stakeholders and court users, and allowed them to give comments on obstacles that individuals may face when accessing courts in Pohnpei. The information gathered during the first day of the training supplemented the data gathered during the Assessments taken during the previous week. Judges and court staff from the FSM Supreme Court, Pohnpei State

Court, Court of Land Tenure, and Municipal Courts were in attendance during day 1 of the training.

The second and third day of the workshop were limited to judges and court staff, who discussed the findings of the Assessments, reviewed the comments from the Assessments, and discussed ways to address issues regarding access to our courts. The topics of pro se litigants (individuals who appear before the court without an attorney), and enabling rights were also discussed in the three day training.

A main focus throughout the workshop was access to the courts for victims of domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, human trafficking, people with physical and mental disabilities, and the need for translation as a barrier to justice for many FSM citizens. As a result of the training, various court plans were developed to address the issues raised in regards to access to justice, which will be initiated in the coming months. Scheduled public awareness of people's rights and community outreach efforts to explain court functions and procedures will be some of the first activities to be implemented by the courts in Pohnpei.

Yap Human Trafficking Task Force announces Awareness Walk

COLONIA, YAP FSM. The Yap State Human Trafficking Task Force will host an Awareness Walk on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. to raise awareness about gender-based violence and human trafficking in Yap.

Registration will take place at the Yap Human Trafficking Task Force booth at the Living History Museum during Yap's Homecoming Summer Festival beginning Friday, June 16th from 12 noon to 5:00pm, and from 6:30 to 7:00 am on Saturday, June 17th. The Walk will begin at 7:00am on Saturday.

Participants will walk around the lagoon and arrive back at the Task Force booth where t-shirts will be awarded to the first 100 people to complete the Walk. All other participants will receive a reusable water bottle after completing the Walk in recognition of their participation in this important initiative to raise awareness and stop human trafficking and gender-based violence in Yap. A special raffle will also be held at the booth with winners announced on Saturday afternoon.

Human trafficking is the trade of human beings for the purpose of exploitation, such as forced labor and commercial sex. This form of modern slavery is an issue that occurs everywhere in the world, even in the State of Yap. Established in August 2015, the Yap State Human Trafficking Task Force promotes awareness and helps prevent trafficking in Yap.

For more information, visit the Yap State Human Trafficking Task Force Facebook page, call 350-2105 or visit www.livefree.fm.

17th Micronesian Presidents' Summit (MPS) held in Guam

FSM Information Services // May 15, 2017

TAMUNING, Guam — The Federated States of Micronesia hosted the 17th Micronesian Presidents Summit (MPS) at its new FSM Consulate Office in Guam on May 3, 2017. The three Presidents of the Micronesian region, namely H.E. President Peter M. Christian of the Federated States of Micronesia, H.E. President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., of the Republic of Palau, and H.E. Hilda C. Heine, Ed. D, of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, gathered in Guam at the margins of the Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF), which was held earlier from 1 – 2 May, 2017. The MPS is an annual event for the Micronesian Presidents to discuss issues of common interest.

A Joint Communique was signed as an outcome of the 17th MPS based on discussions held by the Presidents on a whole range of issues including maritime boundaries, labor harmonization, shipping services, invasive species, health, higher education, high seas bunkering, to name a few.

In addition to the Communique, two resolutions were also signed, the first to request assistance for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and appropriate entities to provide a market analysis on United Airlines service provisioning and pricing in the Micronesian region, and another on strengthening the transnational crime units in the three countries of FSM, ROP, and RMI.

...Claims

Continued from front page

attorney General on February 11, 2014. The investigation report concluded that possible breaches of the Financial Management Regulations, the Pohnpei Public Service System Regulations, and the Pohnpei Criminal Code existed and recommended that the Office of the Attorney General take action. The office did not take action at that time and by the time the current AG received a report from Pohnpei OPA on August 31, 2016, the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution for the matters had lapsed.

But the Pohnpei Code provides a six year statute of limitation for the commencement of a civil action. On April 21, the Office of the Attorney General filed a civil complaint against two employees who formerly worked at the Department of Treasury and Administration and a Motion to Amend Answer to permit filing a counterclaim against two other former employees who sued the Government following their termination of employment.

The complaints seek recovery for payment of overtime hours in excess of amounts authorized.

The defendants in the civil actions are Angeline Neth, Francine Poll, Andrew Joseph, and Frankie Albert. The claims are for alleged Breach of Fiduciary Duty.

...World Bank

Continued from front page

decision will be enough to trigger the World Bank funding. Since the bills were presented separately, President Christian could choose to veto one or the other of the bills, or potentially even both. World Bank could decide that the legislation didn't dig deeply enough to meet their criteria.

The timing for the legislation was critical. FSM has signed agreements with service providers to lay fiber optic cable. Without the World Bank grant, the FSM would have to default on those agreements. According to the Standing Committee on Transportation and Communication (T&C) hearings and its committee report, the cable provider has already been manufacturing the cable. If World Bank funding is not assured, they will not load the cable onto the vessel that will lay that cable on the ocean's floor.

That time is rapidly approaching. Some decision had to be made by the end of the Congress session and Senators were not pleased with having been put on the spot for such a critical and complex decision.

The World Bank wants to fund fiber optic connectivity for Yap and Chuuk, and is currently in the process of deciding on funding of fiber optic connectivity for Kosrae, but it will not release the funds if mechanisms to allow fair competition on those lines are not in place. It would not fund FSMTC ownership of the cables because a monopoly, even if only a de facto monopoly, could decide to keep things as they are, the Project Coordinator for the cable project said.

The World Bank's goal is to provide for the opportunity for competitors to enter the telecommunications market in the FSM in order to generate the lowest possible prices for consumers with the best possible service. They want to allow for the innovations that competition often brings to the marketplace.

It's not at all an unprecedented move. In 1982, AT&T and its subsidiaries had a monopoly in the US telecommunications industry. They controlled everything from the telephones that customers were required to rent if they wanted service, to the lines the signals were carried on. It was only after that monopoly was broken up that consumer prices began to fall. Communications innovations skyrocketed and the entire US economy was positively affected.

It wasn't done overnight. It took years. The process began with an antitrust lawsuit that

was filed in 1974 that only finally ended after AT&T, fearing that they may lose the lawsuit, made a conciliatory agreement in 1982.

AT&T's market was approximately 300 million men, women and children. No one knows whether a potential telecom competitor would be attracted to the FSM market consisting of 105,000 men, women and children—the population of a small US town—but the World Bank wants to ensure that the mechanisms to allow for that possibility are in place before it releases funds for the project. It won't provide the funding until the FSM has taken the steps to ensure that will be the case.

At issue is access to the HANTRU1 fiber optic spur that provides Pohnpei with fiber optic services. That line is crucial to connecting a new line to Chuuk, but the line belongs to FSMTC, which is paying off a \$22 million loan to Rural Utility Services (RUS) for it and associated facilities.

The Executive Branch requested Congress to consider a bill that would have, among other provisions, transferred the ownership of the HANTRU1 spur from FSM Telecommunications Corporation to the FSM Open Access Entity (OAE) along with the loan obligation.

The OAE was provided for under the telecommunications liberalization Act of 2014 but was only recently established as the FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation, another FSM government corporation.

President Christian, in both his initial transmittal letter that came with the bill and in another letter sent to Congress on May 29, represented the bill to transfer assets and limit satellite usage, among other provisions, as the only acceptable way forward.

During the first T&C Committee hearings on the proposed bill, the question was repeatedly asked if World Bank truly was requiring that ownership of the HANTRU1 fiber optic line be transferred from FSMTC. Committee members who had carefully read the World Bank financing arrangement said that they didn't see anywhere in that agreement that the World Bank was requiring transfer of ownership of the asset.

The OAE Project Coordinator presented two options but said that the transfer of the HANTRU1 line to OAE, which would then offer wholesale prices on the line that FSMTC and other competitors could purchase is the best way forward.

FSMTC's CEO Fredy Perman reasoned that the HANTRU1 line was their asset and that their credit rating is leveraged against its assets. Transferring the line to the OAE would affect their ability to do business. He said that the matter was moot anyway since he had received confirmation from RUS that they would not be interested in transferring the balance of the loan to the OAE.

T&C Chairman Senator Victor Gouland instructed the OAE and FSMTC to get together and discuss the issues and come back to the committee with an agreement.

Chief of Staff Leo Falcam told the committee at the beginning of the final hearing on the matter that progress had been made and that an agreement for a possible resolution to the problem was in the works but that it would not likely be done in time and so the bill was still before Congress.

The potential resolution came in the form of an IRU (Indefeasible Right of Use – “indefeasible” essentially means “non-revokable”) that the OAE presented to FSMTC last Thursday. It is unclear how long that document has been in existence but it is clear that it didn't come into existence last Thursday, and

Perman wanted that point to be on the record. But they are still working on it. At press time, no agreement had been made.

Perman pointed out that the IRU for Yap services took two years to negotiate. He said that agreements with other parties on the HANTRU1 line meant that those parties needed to be consulted before any agreements could be made.

Ultimately, Congress struck all of the proposed wording of the bill to transfer the HANTRU1 line to the OAE and other provisions in the bill.

World Bank wanted to be sure that the OAE has access to the HANTRU1 line free of charge in order to establish a competitive environment. Congress passed a bill to require that. It passed another bill to allow free of charge access to FSMTC on the new lines that will be installed for fiber optic connectivity in the other FSM States.

Except for the fact that FSMTC is on the hook for the \$22 million dollar loan to land HANTRU1 in Pohnpei, that latter bill could be seen as a competitive advantage over others who might use the line. The Yap delegation voted against that bill on second reading. The other three states voted for it.

A proposed amendment of a few words would have once again exempted FSMTC from Gross Revenue Tax. Off-Journal conversations on that amendment centered on the fact that no public hearings had been held regarding that possibility. Senators decided that it could set a dangerous precedent. When they re-adjourned, the proposed amendment was withdrawn.

It is currently unclear whether or not the bills that Congress passed will meet World Bank requirements for the fiber optic cable grant.

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Closing date is November 1, 2017.

South Pacific Tourism Organisation Board deliberates on South Pacific

Tourism Exchange 2018

23 May 2017, Suva, FIJI – The South Pacific Tourism Organisation Board of Directors met in Sydney yesterday to deliberate amongst other things on the success of the 2017 South Pacific Tourism Exchange (SPTe) and to also consider plans for the next event, recognized as the biggest travel show for the South Pacific.

Based on feedback from the participants of the 2017 SPTe, the Board agreed that the next event will be held in Adelaide in 2018, to coincide with the Australian Tourism Exchange.

Other decisions made at the meeting include the approval by the Board for Vanuatu to host the inaugural Pacific Tourism Insights Conference (PTIC) 2017, a joint collaboration between SPTO, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and the Vanuatu Tourism Office. The conference is to be held on October 25th this year and is

aimed at giving the industry an insight into global trends and events that are directly related to the tourism industry.

The second quarter meeting was attended by the government representatives of American Samoa, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the private sector representative from Fiji Airways.

The Directors also discussed issues related to SPTO's policies, activities, work programme and budget since their last meeting in October and approved a tabled Governance Policy which includes the appointments of Tourism Industry Members to the SPTO Board.

Other decisions made include the approval of a specialized Membership and Corporate

Sponsorship Officer (MCSO) dedicated to driving membership programme and corporate sponsorship.

SPTO Chief Executive Officer, Chris Cocker updated the Board on the funding proposals and other activities currently being undertaken by the secretariat in order to diversify its funding base and not rely solely on one donor.

"The SPTO secretariat is appreciative of the efforts and commitments of the National Tourism Offices to support the advocacy role of the Secretariat," Mr Cocker said.

"We need the support of the NTO's to enable

us to continue to provide a strong secretariat role for all of our tourism stakeholders in the Pacific."

The meeting was held following the conclusion of SPTe 2017 at the International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour, where more than 100 sellers from the Pacific region came together to meet 79 buyers from Europe, United States of America, Canada, China, South Korea and Australia and New Zealand to discuss travel packages to the region.

The next Board of Directors meeting has been scheduled for 26 October 2017, following the PITC meeting in Vanuatu.

Leadership welcomes US Pacific Fleet Commander to Yap

Civic Affairs // May 17, 2017

COLONIA, Yap — On May 9, 2017, the leadership welcomed Admiral Scott H. Swift and his mission to Yap State. The Commander, United States Pacific Fleet and his mission briefly visited Yap to briefly meet with the Yap State Leadership and officials of the FSM National Government and the US Embassy.

Admiral Swift arrived with his delegation in the afternoon last Tuesday, and were escorted to the conference room of the Yap Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility of the Yap International Airport. The Admiral then met with members of the Yap State Leadership, FSM Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Jr., and US Ambassador Robert Riley and his delegates.

On behalf of Yap State, Governor Tony Ganngiyan welcomed Admiral Swift and his delegation to Yap State, and thanked them for taking the time to visit and discuss mutual interests with the State and the FSM. Governor Ganngiyan noted that Yap State historically hosted the US Navy fleet at Ulithi Atoll during WWII, and have since made friendly ties with the US Navy through continually provided projects and programs such as CCAD Seabees. He raised concerns of the global impact of such a relationship, with the Chief of Staff elaborating further on potential risks in the region.

The FSM President's Chief of Staff, Mr.

Falcam, extended greetings from the nation's capital in Palikir, and reiterated the governor's gratitude for the "very beneficial" CCAD program, and noted the difficulties of servicing a nation that occupy a fairly large space in the Pacific with poor infrastructure.

Admiral Swift in his remarks hearkened to their previous meeting in Hawaii and the expressed challenges faced by the FSM. He stated that US Pacific Fleet stands to continue the dialogue and assist on common interests especially on areas of needed direct support; he stressed the issue of prioritization and focusing on areas of mutual interest—for example, the airport runway, and ocean security.

The admiral shared that his mission was on their fifth stop on a Indo-Asia-Pacific trip that started in Australia for the Battle of the Coral Sea 75th anniversary. The admiral and his delegation were scheduled to be in Yap for only two hours; after meeting with the local leadership and separately with the US Ambassador, the mission departed a little after 5:30 PM from the Yap International Airport.

Admiral Scott Harbison Swift is the current Commander, US Pacific Fleet as of May 27, 2015. The US Pacific Fleet (USPACFLT) is the Pacific Ocean command of the US Navy providing forces to the US Pacific Command, headquartered in Hawaii.

John Sohl retires as FSMTC CEO; Fredy Perman named as successor

FSMTC/FSMIS // April 27, 2017

KOLONIA, Pohnpei — FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) announced today (April 27) that John D. Sohl, President / Chief Executive Officer, has retired from the company effective April 24, 2017 and that Fredy S. Perman, currently Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer has been selected by the FSMTC Board of Directors to succeed him as President/Chief Executive Officer.

John D. Sohl joined FSMTC on July 1988 as the Assistant General Manager and rose through the ranks to eventually become the President/Chief Executive Officer in April of 2010. Under his leadership, the submarine fiber cable became operational and has since grown to be FSMTC's single most critical asset. John also worked closely with the FSM Government to upgrade its mobile network to 3G services which was launched in July of 2014 just in time for the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei. John was one of the founding fathers of the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) whose headquarter is in Suva, Fiji. The objective of the association is to improve, promote, enhance, facilitate and provide telecommunications services within Member and Associate Member countries. While John is retiring from the telecom sector, he is the current Chairman of the FSM Development Bank and also a Director on the Bank of FSM.

"I am incredibly sad to leave friends and colleagues at FSMTC. However, it is a natural process that one has to retire and give way to the young and energetic. I am proud to have been a part of the Company's growth and evolution into a world standard telecommunication provider," said Mr. Sohl.

"On behalf of the Board and everyone at FSMTC, I would like to thank John not only for his leadership over the last seven years as President and CEO, but also for the dedication and commitment that he has given to FSMTC for 29 years," stated Chairman of the FSMTC Board, Mr. Leonard Isotoff.

Fredy S. Perman has been part of the FSMTC team for 17 years, beginning as Associate Marketing Manager in September 2000, and then in 2001 he became Customer Care Manager before being promoted to Executive Vice-President/Chief Operations Officer in April 2010. Fredy holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Management from University of the South Pacific, a graduate degree in Economics from Monash University, Australia and a graduate certificate in Telecommunications and Information Resource Management from University of Hawaii, Manoa. He is currently an Executive Officer and Vice President of the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA).

"Fredy is as prepared to lead this company as any chief executive in our history," said John Sigrav, Vice Chairman of the FSMTC Board.

"I am humbled and excited by this opportunity to lead FSMTC, particularly during a time of profound challenge both in technology and the regulatory environment. We will stand firm by the timeless values laid down by our founding fathers, and act decisively to maintain our strong position," said Fredy. "We will be guided by a new vision for our future and we will work with our customers and all other stakeholders towards ensuring that we provide the best possible services that we can sustain" stated Fredy.



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Cutting-Edge Advocacy in Pohnpei, FSM

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Establishment of a Specialist VAW/G Support Services

Cutting Edge Advocacy is a network of concerned individuals in FSM and from around the region that meets regularly on FB to advocate against the various forms of violence against women in FSM. It is the public relations arm of Micronesian Justice Initiative, a not for profit support Center whose main objective is to promote human rights principles and provide legal literacy training and legal aid to victims of human rights abuse throughout Micronesia.

Cutting-Edge Advocacy in Pohnpei, FSM, has the great pleasure in inviting you to express your interest in the establishment of a specialist support services that will provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, gender based violence and victims of human trafficking. Expressions of interest can be submitted from NGOs, IO, civil societies and individuals who either have a vast interest in, or who work/care for women and girls, victims of human rights violations.

Objectives

The objective of the EOI is to identify a group or an organization that can provide the following:

- Develop comprehensive referral mechanism for victims
- Provide psychosocial counselling
- Provide a safe place, shelter, for victims' rehabilitation
- Provide reintegration support services

Note: Individuals interested in providing/supporting services for women and girls are welcome to submit their CV and cover letter expressing their motivation for this work.

Expression of Interest should include, but is not limited to:

- either have a vast interest in, or who work/care for women and girls, victims of domestic violence, gender based violence and human trafficking
- motivation letter stating your interest

Process

Expressions of interest must be submitted to the Technical Committee Deadline for submission of Expressions of interest: 23 June 2017

Please do not hesitate to contact Marstella Jack if you have any questions or concerns on 320-7400 or ejacklaw@gmail.com.

Advance Science, Robotics, Showcased by Island Students

Habele

Elaborate cultural dances and seafaring canoes have made the Micronesian Islands of Yap famous, but this month it was the ultra-advanced Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills of local students on display.

An annual competition and exhibition organized by Yap Catholic High School drew nearly 200 community members who came to watch and support 70 high school student participants.

Ambitious freshmen students showed off complicated robots designed, built, and refined, over the spring semester. First year students also presented science fair projects completed for their Earth Science course. Sophomores involved with the STEM and Robotics Club ran demonstrations which included sound wave experiments, and tests of strength utilizing complex force sensors.

Upperclassmen were not to be outdone. Juniors displayed science fair projects focused on issues directly pertinent to Yap including climate change, erosion, and seawater intrusion. Seniors explained circuitry design and supervised underclassmen's demonstrations.

The highlight was a presentation of the Yap Robo Team, headed to Washington, DC to represent the entire Federated States of Micronesia at the FIRST Global Robotics Competition in mid-July. Three Yap Catholic seniors—all stars from last year's multi school Robo Day competition—have designed, fabricated, and programmed a robot to compete in this Olympic-based event. They'll face stiff competition from over 160 different national teams at the three-day event.

"Every year we encourage the students to push the boundaries further and expand the STEM program even more. This year they absolutely blew it out of the water with their demonstrations and science projects,"

explained Principal Michael Wiencek and Science Teacher Devi Gopal. "It is going to be hard to top this next year."

Since 2011, the STEM and Robotics Program have been financially supported by "Habele," a US-based nonprofit established by former Peace Corps Volunteers. This year, with the unprecedented opportunity -and expenses- of fielding a team for the FIRST Global Competition, individual, corporate, and public sector donors rallied behind the students.

Tim Waters & Associates, JoDoCo Group, Matson, College of Micronesia FSM, and Blue Sky Traders have all made generous contributions to equip, train, and send the team. Yap's Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia also secured public support through a pair of federal appropriations. A further fifty-two American and Micronesian citizens made personal donations through an online fundraising page.

"We should all be proud of these kids, who've been at it since 2011," explained regional newspaper publisher Lee Weber, in a column highlighting the tremendous technical, logistical, and financial obstacles tackled by Yap's Robo League in April. "This is a great opportunity for these young Micronesian students."



Two more public auditor's offices undergo performance measurement

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) continues its support for public auditors in the North Pacific, to enhance their capabilities through measuring their performance. The Government of Guam's Office of Public Accountability (OPA) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) State of Yap's Office of the Public Auditor (Yap OPA) were assessed concurrently by two separate review teams on 15-19 May 2017.

A peer review team consisting of Ms. Atmita Jonathan, Deputy Auditor-General and Ms. Ayako Yamaguchi-Eliou, Manager for Performance Audit both from the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) Auditor-General's Office and Mrs. Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo, PASAI's Director of Practice Development, assessed the performance of the Government of Guam's OPA. Ms Yukari Hechanova, Deputy Public Auditor and Ms Rodalyn Gerardo, Special Assistant facilitated the support from the OPA for the peer review team.

The performance of Yap OPA was assessed by a peer review team led by Mr Stoney Taulung, Public Auditor for Kosrae State of FSM along with Ms Emma Balagot, Audit Manager and Ms Alice George, Senior Auditor both from the Office of the Kosrae Public

Auditor, and Ms Claire Kelly, PASAI consultant. Yap OPA's support for the assessment was co-ordinated by Ms Leelkan P Southwick, Chief Investigator, Mr Bryan Y Dabugsiy, Senior Auditor and Ms Emma L Gilyan, Administrative assistant.

Assessing the performance of public auditors helps them gauge the status of their internal development purposes and enables them to demonstrate their credibility with external stakeholders. This assessment was conducted using the INTOSAI's SAI Performance Measurement Framework (SAI PMF). The framework assesses a holistic performance of the SAI covering audit work, internal governance and ethics, relations with external stakeholders, and independence and legal framework. The peer review teams presented their preliminary assessment results to the respective Public Auditors and staff at the completion of the week-long assessments.

As an elected government official, Ms. Doris Flores Brooks, Public Auditor for Guam, mentioned in her inaugural remarks earlier this year that she welcomed the assessment and is looking forward to the results to assist her Office in identifying areas of their operations that require improvement. During the assessment, she said she would publish the results of her Office's



(l-r): Clariza Roque, Sina Palamo-Iosefo, Atmita Jonathan, Ayako Yamaguchi-Eliou, Yukari Hechanova, Doris Flores Brooks - Public Auditor and Rodalyn Gerardo.

performance assessment to demonstrate her commitment to strengthening accountability, transparency and integrity of government and public sector entities.

Mr Achilles Defngin, Yap Public Auditor expressed his appreciation of the assessment saying, "The Office is very grateful for the opportunity to have another similar North Pacific SAI carry out the assessment. Yap OPA wants the assessment to identify the Office's strengths and weaknesses and highlight where we can improve".

Guam OPA and Yap OPA are two of the six SAIs from the Northern Pacific who are participating in the second phase of the SAI PMF project in PASAI, a collaboration between the INTOSAI Development Initiatives (IDI), the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and PASAI. This



Front row, left-right: Concepcion Arles - Audit Manager, Alice George, Claire Kelly, Emma Balagot; Middle row, left-right: Bryan Y Dabugsiy, Irene Laabrug - Senior Staff Auditor, Leelkan P Southwick, Achilles Defngin, Stoney Taulung; Back row, left-right: Jesse Foruw - Investigator, Emma Gilyan and Berlinda Bay - Staff Auditor

series of performance measurement will culminate with all six SAIs presenting and discussing their draft performance reports during a workshop to be held in the RMI in October 2017.

The implementation of SAI PMF is aligned with one of PASAI's strategic goals, developing SAI's performance measurement framework to assist with improving the delivery of SAI's audit responsibilities in order to make a difference in the lives of citizens.

The two assessments were supported by the DFAT, IDI and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

Pacific Community announces Regional Director for Micronesia



Pacific Community Regional Director, Micronesia - Lara Studzinski

The Pacific Community's Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga has announced the appointment of Lara Studzinski as the organisation's new Regional Director, Micronesia.

Ms Studzinski, who started in the leadership role at the end of April, brings significant expertise in projects and programmes management with over 15 years of service in the international development field.

She joins the Pacific Community (SPC) from the Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) where she played a key role in the management of funds for several grantees across four Micronesian countries.

Prior, she worked with SPC's Public Health Division for six years, strategically ensuring the division's strong financial management, reporting, grant management, human resources management and systems development.

Ms Studzinski holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management from Ohio State University.

Having worked and lived in the Micronesia region for eight years, Ms Studzinski's experience and knowledge of Micronesian member countries and territories will stand

her in good stead as she assumes this senior position and provides a valuable contribution to SPC's efforts to strengthen engagement with its members and partners to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of its work.

Ms Studzinski is based at SPC's Pohnpei Office in the Federated States of Micronesia.

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Chuuk youth participate in Future Scholars Program



participated in a class on DNA analysis, where they learned the basics of DNA and how to create a DNA sample. Beyond classes on DNA, students again visited Clemson's ICAR facility and Healthcare simulation center. At the ICAR facility, students discussed the ability to manufacture and test a car for the future and inquired about the best car for the Pacific islands of the future. At the health simulation center, students again practiced the skills necessary to become a

From March 24- April 9 of this year, Chuuk High School students again traveled to Clemson University to participate in the University's Future Scholars Program. In addition to last year's activities, students worked on a case study project, where they prepared a project to improve one aspect of Chuuk during the course of the week, which they have since implemented upon their return to Chuuk.

While at Clemson, the students participated in daily classes and took part in educational excursions each day to augment what they learned in class. During class, students developed their critical thinking skills and learned the valuable skill of SWOT (Strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats) analysis, which they have brought back to Chuuk and since applied to their school work at Chuuk High School. One student even has said he wishes to teach his fellow local close up participants the skill.

During afternoon excursions, students were exposed to university facilities, classes, professors, and unique features of Greenville South Carolina and Clemson. Students

health care professional and became interested in the idea of becoming Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

To finish their academic experience, students looked at their home state of Chuuk and applied a SWOT analysis to determine a possible project for future application in the areas of solar energy, recycling development, and peer tutoring. In addition to their project, the students also participated in an exchange at three levels of the South Carolina education system.

At the elementary level, our Chuukese students taught the elementary students of Pickens, South Carolina about the FSM and about their home state of Chuuk. At the secondary level, Chuukese and South Carolinian students participated together in an afternoon of conversation at Shannon Forest High School in Greenville, South Carolina. During this afternoon exchange, students discussed commonalities between life in the United States and in the FSM along with teenage concerns and school related issues. Before the young scholars departed each other's company,

our Chuukese students explained to the South Carolinian high school what changes they planned to make in the future based on their Clemson Future Scholars journey. Before the students of Chuuk High returned to Chuuk they had one last opportunity to discuss with a college level Clemson education student their final project as part of the development of their ideas.

Overall, the students of Chuuk High School again had an informative and enjoyable time at one of the United States top universities. The Future Scholars Program wishes to expand further into the FSM with the ultimate goal of providing a nationwide program. Any interested parties should contact Clemson's Youth Learning Institute.



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President proposes \$591.9 million FY18 budget for the U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States Additional \$123.9 Million for Palau Compact Review Agreement Proposed

US Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 23, 2017) – President Donald Trump today proposed \$591.9 million for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) for the benefit of the U.S. Territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands through the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA). The budget request for OIA includes \$84.3 million in discretionary appropriations

and \$507.6 million in mandatory funding. Additionally, the budget requests \$123.9 million of discretionary Department of Defense appropriations to be transferred to the Department of the Interior to support enactment of the 2010 Compact Review Agreement with Palau. The Palau Compact is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy.

“While we continue to support all of our U.S. insular areas, we have long been striving to meet our commitments to the Republic of Palau,” said Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula. “President Trump’s strong support for the

Palau Compact shows that he recognizes the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States.”

“The Territories and Freely Associated States are absolutely critical to the strategic readiness of the United States, and they are part of the fabric of who we are as fellow Americans,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “President Trump’s budget proposal makes it abundantly clear that these lands, often on the front lines of escalating tensions, are under our protection and serve vital importance. The President’s budget balances these priorities

and commitments to the Insular Areas with his promise to make government work for the taxpayer again and support a balanced budget by 2027,” Secretary Zinke said.

The President’s budget allows Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs to carry out its core mission of empowering insular area communities by improving quality of life, creating economic opportunity, and promoting efficient and effective governance. The funding allows OIA to continue providing grants for technical assistance, implementing sustainable energy plans and invasive species control.

Letter to the Editor

Pohnpei AG v. Pohnpei CJ

There seem(s) to be little doubt (that) the Pohnpei State Attorney General’s office is on an official rampage to derail the Pohnpei Chief Justice from office. First, it flooded the State Legislature with more than a dozen assertions of acts (that) the AG(’s) office deemed (to be) illegal...(that the office considered to be)...misconduct in office.

While the state legislature set about its task to determine (whether) the evidence (was) credible to support (the AG’s) claim of misconduct, the AG upgrade(d) the ante by filing civil action PCA No. 154-17 against the Chief Justice. The grounds alleged in the civil action (were) basically the same as those provided to the State Legislature to consider as bas(e) s for removal of the CJ from office by impeachment.

For its final assault, the Pohnpei AG’s office filed criminal case PKD No. 54-17 charging the Pohnpei CJ with more than 20 counts of violations of laws based on the exact grounds that support(ed) its call for impeachment, and its lawsuit PCA. No. 54-2017.

These three legal weapons, of choice, namely: (1) call for impeachment, (2) lawsuit, and (3) criminal charges, all

[Editor’s note: As often as possible, I attempt to publish letters to the editor in unedited form even if I personally disagree with the opinions expressed. However, in the case of the above letter I was forced to make some edits while leaving intact, the opinion that was expressed.]

I had initially intended to run the item exactly as it was submitted until I was reminded that if a newspaper publishes something when we know that parts of the information are false the newspaper loses its constitutional protections against defamation. In New

York Times v. Sullivan, Time v. Hill, and Gertz v. Robert Welsh (1974) the Court, relying on a long line of previous cases further defined publication with malice as “reckless disregard” for the truth to include “subjective awareness of probably falsity.”

It seems, though, that this is not going to be an easy goal on a silver platter in view of the AG’s course of action.

First, it raises a political question. Which branch of the government should remove the CJ(?) Can the Legislature proceed to impeach the CJ when the AG has pre-empted the legislature and filed criminal charges against the CJ? If convicted by the court, that would end the CJ tenure.

Common law dictates that an impeached official is not immune from criminal prosecution, but not the other way around; first prosecute and when (if) convicted, proceed with the impeachment.

For officials that can be removed from office by impeachment, a criminal charge is like a double-edge sword. This is so because conviction of (a) crime has two results: (1) removal from office(,) and (2) penalty for the crime is imposed, while an impeachment effectuate(s) removal from office.

The crux of the problem lies in the identical or same grounds that support both the proposed impeachment and the

York Times v. Sullivan, Time v. Hill, and Gertz v. Robert Welsh (1974) the Court, relying on a long line of previous cases further defined publication with malice as “reckless disregard” for the truth to include “subjective awareness of probably falsity.”

The good Mr. Phillip, esquire wrote his letter under the aegis of a group whose articles of incorporation were not accepted by the State government because the name the group chose would be misleading. As submitted, Mr. Phillip’s letter gave the impression that some entity governing all of the attorneys

criminal charges. The Legislature could easily adopt an impeachment and the CJ will then be removed and await trial before a panel of three state court judges.

The standard of proof in the trial of the articles of impeachment is by preponderance of the evidence, while the standard of proof in the criminal charges is higher, which is proof beyond reasonable doubt...so that the criminal charges may create an impasse to the passage of the impeachment resolution, because adoption of an impeachment resolution means (that) two trials will be held on (the) same set of facts with two different standard(s) of proof.

The impeachment trial require(s) the lesser standard of proof and the criminal trial the higher standard of proof.

But surely, it does seem ludicrous to face two trials for the same set of facts that are (to) be tried under two different standard(s) of proof. It is anybody’s guess on the outcome of such trial, which can occur only if the legislature opted to impeach the CJ.

These three events (were) fueled originally by the state public auditor report, that resulted in charges against the

who practice law in Pohnpei agree with his opinion on the subject.

I corrected a statement regarding the amount of time that passed between the AG directed arrest of a court officer and the officer’s unfortunate and untimely death.

The Court did dismiss the case of Ms. Ruthie Hadley but did so at the prosecutor’s request and the dismissal was without prejudice, meaning that the charges can be revisited at a later date.

Most of the other edits I made were

court’s Administrative officer, and a(n) assistant (C)lerk of court. The court’s AO was arrested under AG instruction, while he was about to board a plane with his wife and children to visit his grandparents in the Republic of Palau.

The court’s AO became distraught and traumatized by the arrest and separation from his family, according to family members, that he died (several months) later. The charges against him (the court’s AO) and the assistant clerk of court were recently dismissed by the court (without prejudice).

It is disconcerting that the criminal charges were filed without a thorough consideration of procedural ramifications of such course of action.

(I) am dismayed at the fact the CJ was not investigated or questioned about his travel advances before the filing of the charges. My cursory review of the CJ travel advances indicated (that) the Dept. of Treasury & Administration had approved all the travel advances.

Joseph (Joe) Phillip

for correction of typographical errors, missing words or substantive grammatical errors.

Letters to the Editor are certainly welcome and we will do our best to publish them. Just be aware that we cannot allow defamation or falsehoods to be published under the guise of opinion. It is possible that the person who submitted the above letter believed that all of the information submitted was accurate. Just the same, I still had responsibility to correct what I knew needed to be corrected.]

Closing gender gaps for a more inclusive Asia

Asian Development Bank

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (1 June 2017)

— Gender inequality is slowing the transition toward more inclusive growth in Asia and the Pacific, says a new report by the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Independent Evaluation Department, which reveals a striking picture of the state of gender disparities in the region.

The evaluation of ADB's support for gender and development acknowledges that ADB is recognized as a pioneer among multilateral development banks for integrating gender into the design of its projects. But it urges ADB to step up support for projects that can have a direct impact on gender equality by, for example, addressing restrictions to women's access to economic opportunities, rights, and justice. This lack of access has resulted in over \$3 trillion in income losses in the region, according to one estimate cited in the study.

"Gender equality as part of eradicating poverty is a big unfinished development agenda in Asia," says Marvin Taylor-Dormond, Director General of Independent Evaluation at ADB. "Overcoming gender inequality and discrimination continues to be hard, but without progress in these areas, it will be difficult to realize many of the region's broader development goals."

The evaluation covered ADB-supported

programs in Bangladesh, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, and Timor-Leste. Despite their cultural, social, and economic diversity, common gender issues emerged from all of them.

On the plus side, gender gaps in health and education are narrowing, and the increased provision of basic infrastructure has brought benefits to women on multiple fronts, including improved access to markets and jobs. But gender wage gaps remain glaring, and the increased burden of unpaid caring for the elderly, triggered by Asia's aging population, could further constrain women's participation in labor markets. Because women in Asia mostly work in low-wage, informal-sector jobs, they tend to be hardest hit by economic crises — and are more vulnerable to disasters from natural hazards and the impact of climate change. Gender-based violence remains prevalent in many countries. Chapter 2 of the study discusses the challenges and constraints to achieving greater gender equality in Asia and the Pacific.

"Governments and their development partners could significantly advance gender equality by promoting gender-responsive social protection systems, addressing institutional barriers to women's entry to labor markets, and tackling gender-based violence," says the study's main author Hyun Son.

ADB stepped up its efforts to help women cope with climate change over the evaluation period.

A climate resilience project in Cambodia, for example, integrated gender into national climate change action plans. "Failing to include women in climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local and national levels undermines the effectiveness of climate change action," says Hyun Son.

Mobilizing women into self-help groups focusing on livelihood activities was ADB's main form of support to reduce their vulnerability to shocks and risks. In India, the Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project helped set up 20,265 new groups. But the evaluation found ADB's support for social protection systems — which are vital in helping women cope with shocks and risks — was limited.

"Social protection and safety nets do not always offer equal benefits for women and men," says Son. "The increased vulnerability of women to economic crisis and natural disasters underscores the need for strong social protection systems with a gender perspective."

The study found that ADB was effective in promoting gender equality in education and health, and through travel-time savings for women by incorporating gender issues

into infrastructure projects. Road projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and India, for example, made it easier for women to get to work and transport produce to markets. But ADB's policy and project support to remove barriers to women's participation in labor markets — which is vital for their economic empowerment — remains limited. "Much remains to be done in this area," says the study.

The participation of women in community organizations and the involvement of nongovernment organizations in interventions to promote gender equality — by monitoring their implementation, for example — were common factors of ADB-supported projects evaluated as successful. A good example of how this involvement worked well was a road project in Cambodia that recruited a nongovernment organization and a social marketing firm to explain opportunities for construction work to rural women. Factors that hindered success included a lack of data collected separately for men and women, and the limited involvement of gender specialists.

"Understanding which interventions to promote gender equality work and which do not will be vital for making tangible progress, and here evaluations of projects and programs with gender goals provide invaluable lessons and insights" says Taylor-Dormond.

The evaluation can be downloaded at <https://www.adb.org/documents/thematic-evaluation-study-ADB-support-gender-and-development>



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Applications are available for download from our website at: www.micronesia.emb-japan.go.jp

Deadline for Application: **Friday, June 30, 2017 at 5:00pm** *applications should be submitted to Embassy of Japan in Pohnpei, FSM

Examinations: **Friday, July 28, 2017** *applicants will be informed of the schedule once the applications have been submitted.

Place: **Embassy of Japan, One World Plaza 2F**

For further inquiries, please call: 320-5465 or e-mail us at japanemb-consul@pi.mofa.go.jp



Employment Opportunities



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

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement

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

Values:



POSITIONS	LOCATION	ANNUAL SALARY RANGE	CLOSING DATE
Instructor- Business	National Campus	\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00	Until fill
Student Services Assistant	National Campus	\$5,955.00	Until fill
Instructor-Computer/Mathematics	Yap Campus	\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00	Until fill
Director of Institutional Effectiveness Office	National Campus	\$30,168.00	June 2, 2017 or until fill
Student Services Assistants	National Campus	\$5,955.00	June 8, 2017
Security Officer	Yap Campus	\$5,196.00	June 17, 2017
Residential Halls Manager	National Campus	\$10,258.00-\$11,559.00	June 17,2017
Student Services Specialist II	Yap Campus	\$8,501.00-\$9,579.00	June 17, 2017

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

PICPA trains regional police officers

Eleven regional law enforcement officers from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu attended a workshop facilitated by The University of the South Pacific's (USP) Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration (PICPA) on writing Job Descriptions.



The workshop ran from 1-5 May in Suva and was conducted under the auspices of an agreement with the Australian Federal Police's Regional Pacific Police Development Programme (PPDP).

Mr Parmesh Chand, PICPA Director says that good job descriptions are essential for organisations to assist their staff in aligning to organisational vision and to understand their responsibilities and duties.

He added that job descriptions are also useful for performance management, succession planning and identification of areas for training purposes.

The PPDP is an Australian Government initiative supporting a broad range of police development activities throughout the Pacific region. It works with the Police Force in Pacific nations on improving the rule of law as a prerequisite for economic, social and political development of the region.

The programme is operating a regional component as well as country specific bi-lateral programmes in Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

PICPA is a specialist centre which responds to the identified needs and plans of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) for strengthened public administration to enable improved service delivery and faster economic growth.

FILED
IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

STATE OF HAWAII
FC-S No. 16-0039K

2017 MAY 22 PH 2:52
M. LAURO, CLERK
FAMILY COURT OF
THE THIRD CIRCUIT

In the Interest of a male Child, born to MINTERINAFORY on December 10, 2007
In the Interest of a female Child, born to MINTERINAFORY on November 17, 2008
In the Interest of a female Child, born to MINTERINAFORY on October 20, 2010
In the Interest of a female Child, born to MINTERINAFORY on May 31, 2014

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF HAWAII

TO: MINTERIN AFORY
Unknown address
Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a hearing regarding the above-identified matter will be held in the Family Court of the Third Circuit, South Kohala District Court, 67-5187 Kamamalu Street, Kamuela, Hawaii 96743 on MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. before the Honorable Presiding Judge of the above-entitled Court.

You are hereby advised that if you fail to appear on the date set forth in the notice or to file an answer with the clerk of the Family Court of the Third Circuit, whose mailing address is: South Kohala District Court, 67-5187 Kamamalu Street, Kamuela, Hawaii 96743, further action shall be taken without further notice to you and YOUR PARENTAL AND CUSTODIAL DUTIES AND RIGHTS CONCERNING THE CHILD WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A PETITION MAY BE TERMINATED AND SUCH CHILD MAY THEN BE PLACED FOR ADOPTION.

At the hearing to which you are being summoned, you have the right to retain and be represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, please contact the Family Court regarding the appointment of an attorney to represent you.

DATED: Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, MAY 22 2017

N.LAURO (SEAL)
CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT

DOUGLAS S. CHIN 6465
Attorney General
JOHN P. POWELL 4290
Deputy Attorney General
77-6399 Nalani Street, Suite 101
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
Tel. No. (808) 327-6260
Attorneys for the Department
of Human Services

This document is a full, true and correct copy of the original file as it exists.
Clerk, Third Circuit Court, District Hawaii

Supporting performance measurement of public auditors

PASAI/MV // 16 May 16, 2017

KOSRAE, FSM — The second phase of a regional project supporting the measuring of performance of public auditors in the Pacific continues.

During the week beginning May 1, 2017, the performance of the Kosrae Office of the Public Auditor was assessed by a peer review team consisting of auditors from the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor and the Cook Islands Audit Office. Members of the peer review team were Allen Parker, director of audit, Cook Islands Audit Office; Iso Ihlen Joseph, public auditor Pohnpei; Elaine Carl, administrative officer Pohnpei OPA; and Alice Etse, audit manager, Pohnpei OPA.

The week-long assessment was conducted using the SAI Performance Measurement Framework or SAI PMF, a global framework that enables SAIs to assess their performance against International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions and other established international good practices for external public auditing. This assessment is part of a regional project, "Supporting SAI Performance Measurement in PASAI"—a collaboration between the INTOSAI Development Initiatives, PASAI and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Stoney Taulung, the public auditor of Kosrae and his staff, expressed their appreciation of

the assessment and gratitude for the review. In particular he mentioned that the framework can be used to contribute to improved SAI capacity development through promoting the use of performance measurement and management, as well as identifying opportunities to strengthen and monitor SAI performance and accountability.

Furthermore, the Kosrae OPA audit manager, Emma Balagot and staff, also acknowledged the importance of the assessment and their acceptance of the preliminary findings as constructive feedback on areas where the SAI requires improvement.

All six SAIs from the Northern Pacific who are participating in the second phase of this project will be presenting and discussing their draft reports during the reporting workshop to be held in the Marshall Islands in Oct. 2017.

The implementation of SAI PMF is aligned with one of PASAI's strategic goals, developing SAI's performance measurement framework to assist with improving the delivery of SAI's audit responsibilities in order to make a difference in the lives of citizens.

This assessment is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, INTOSAI Development Initiatives and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Handover ceremony for garbage collecting truck at Nett District in Pohnpei

Embassy of Japan in the FSM // May 18, 2017

NETT, Pohnpei — On May 12, 2017, Ambassador Ryoichi Horie was invited to attend the handover ceremony for Garbage Collecting Truck held at Nett District Governmental Office in Pohnpei. The Garbage Collecting Truck was provided under Non-Project Grant Aid for Disaster Reduction Equipment (Total approx. 3.2 million USD).

At the ceremony, Speaker of Nett District Legislature, Mr. Salter Lohn expressed deep appreciation for Japan's such assistance because Nett District' revenues are very small due to small population.

District Administrator Mr. Peteriko L. Hairens mentioned that the Garbage Collecting Truck provided this time is not only used for the welfare and health of Nett district but also it will be a bridge of friendship between Japan and Nett District. And District Administrator Mr. Hairens emphasized the relationship with Japan in relation to what is described as "Nett Village Meeting Place" in Japanese on a pillar of the entrance of the Nett District Governmental Office Building and stated that it will be a good visiting place for Japanese tourists.

Ambassador Ryoichi Horie mentioned that Nett is one of the special and memorable locations for him. He has experienced a lot of things for the first time since he became the ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia. For example, his first attendance of "inpyoukai" which is an agricultural products competition and garbage picking up event, were in Nett. He stated that no matter where we are in any islands or in any countries in the world, the environment is the most important, so he would like Nett district to maintain the healthy environment of Nett district by making full use of the Garbage Collecting Truck provided this time.

The Garbage Collecting Truck provided this time is scheduled to be used for garbage collection in the district every day.



Prosecutor asks court to dismiss charges in Supreme Court theft case—could refile

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

June 2, 2017

Pohnpei—There has been no resolution in the State's case alleging that Ruthy Hadley was involved in the theft of over \$123,000 in collections from the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

"With the untimely death of Co-Defendant Eric Elias the State of Pohnpei was unable to proceed with prosecution against Ruthy Hadley," Attorney Dana Smith said. "The State made a Motion to Dismiss without prejudice. The Defense made a Motion to Dismiss with prejudice. The Court granted the State's Motion to Dismiss without prejudice. The State of Pohnpei's investigation into alleged loss of over \$123,000 in collections at the Pohnpei Supreme Court continues

and, in the event additional evidence is discovered, a criminal case against could be refiled."

Dismissing a case "with prejudice" means that the case is closed and charges can never be refiled. Dismissing a case "without prejudice" means that the current proceeding stops but charges could be refiled as more evidence is uncovered. Refiling the charges would not be a matter of double jeopardy.

No determination of guilt or innocence has been established with the dismissal of the case.

Hadley is presumed to be innocent unless proven otherwise in a court of law. That day in court has not come.



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**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

Quadrennial Review Commendations & Recommendations for President Joseph Daisy

May 30, 2017

Members of the greater COM-FSM community,

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I am pleased to share with you that the Board of Regents has completed its four-year (quadrennial) comprehensive review of President Joseph Daisy in accordance with Board Policy.

The Regents offer special thanks to 326 individuals representing faculty, staff, administrators and students from across all six campuses who took part in the leadership assessment survey as part of this process. The Regents are also grateful to the thirty (30) persons, representing government officials, former Regents, prominent local business leaders, alumni, and every COM-FSM campus who gave generously of their time to participate in personal interviews.

In its deliberations, the Board received and reviewed a comprehensive report from its Quadrennial Presidential Assessment Committee including a Summative Report of the Quadrennial Assessment of President Joseph Daisy, prepared under its direction. Evidence considered in the Summative Report included: the President's Self-Assessment, archival institutional documents, and the extraordinary participation of the interviewees and survey participants.

In a learning institution that values continuous quality improvement it is important to recognize and commend strong performance. Likewise continuous quality improvement thrives when assessment provides feedback loops which identify opportunities to further strengthen performance. Based upon the Summative Report and our review of the evidence, the COM-FSM Board of Regents issued a series of Commendations & Recommendations

to President Daisy which we now share with members of the greater COM-FSM community as an attachment to this letter.

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the College's founding, the Regents

observe with great satisfaction that this assessment offers compelling evidence that our College's condition is sound – perhaps as sound as it has ever been. It is a privilege and honor to work with President Daisy as our College continues its vital work in support of our students and the future of the FSM. Please join us in expressing our deep appreciation for his dedication and leadership to our College, our community, and our nation.

Sincerely,

Tulensru Waguk, Ph.D
Chairman,
COM-FSM Board of Regents

Quadrennial Review Commendations & Recommendations

Commendations

- During the President's tenure the College has overcome the threat of accreditation sanctions – a point lauded consistently by many participants in the assessment's stakeholder interview process.
- This assessment offers compelling evidence that the College has sustained the energy displayed in overcoming accreditation hurdles and channeled it into an organization-wide transformation that shows potential for bringing about lasting change.
- Evidence from the President's Self-Assessment and the testimony of stakeholder interviews suggests that the College has embedded a culture of continuous quality improvement and instilled a renewed sense of unity, success, and pride across all six (6)



Dr. Waguk, Chair of the College's Board of Regents

campuses of the COM-FSM system.

- When seen through the lens of 1) a well-defined institutional agenda, 2) sound fiscal stewardship, 3) an outcome-based, student-focused academic program, 4) an expanding organizational culture of participatory governance, and 5) an emergent emphasis on strengthening external relations, the past four years have marked a period of significant institutional accomplishment.
- The institutional agenda has been appropriately set forward in a transparent fashion, most significantly through formal processes of strategic planning and mission/vision review. Major best practice components of the strategic plan identified by the President are: institutional effectiveness (an ACCJC outcome measure), continuous quality improvement, and student success.
- Under the President's direction the College "developed, shared, and implemented a vision that inspires the college and community" through a comprehensive, iterative planning cycle. It is well documented that this strategic planning process (now institutionalized in an Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance) has become part of the College's operational culture.
- The past four years have been characterized increasingly by the efficient and effective use of the College's resources, safeguarding of assets, maintaining of appropriate internal controls, and guaranteeing the quality and integrity of all financial and non-financial reporting and disclosures.
- As measured by Institutional Indicators and Benchmark Comparisons, Quality of and Changes in Academic Programs, and Quality of Faculty the academic condition of the college is sound and being strengthened by the implementation of integrated student success strategies.
- There have been significant achievements to actively engage the institution in a continuous process of inquiry, reflection, and self-assessment to increase the College's effectiveness -- particularly through increased participatory governance, delegation of authority, and the reorganization/restructuring of state campus directors as campus deans.

- Internal relations within and across the six campuses are strong as measured by internal stakeholder interviews and powerful statistical evidence.

Recommendations

- As identified by the President -- keep enrollment and student success as priorities, monitoring and strengthening current enrollment management and recruitment efforts.
- Undertake the proposed feasibility study to establish a BA degree program in Education as a significant step in meeting important national and state needs.
- Continue to strengthen relations with the national government to secure financial support for the 2018 budget, especially to offset the continued funding of the \$2.8 million decrement of JEMCO funding which is critical to the institution's ability to fully carry out the Integrated Educational Master Plan and to meet ACCJC Standards for Accreditation.
- Prioritize the next phase of the National Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) focusing on construction for the Chu'uk campus, capitalizing on the \$3 million provided by Chuuk State leadership should assist in facilitating the development and implementation of the campus facility plan.
- Focus on the continuing need to attract and retain qualified personnel through capacity building, cultural awareness, and salary equity.
- Mobilize the strategic planning process to develop contingency plans, outreach efforts to the Departments of State and Interior, and collaboration with the national government in anticipation of Compact renegotiation or termination.
- Build upon growing institutional fund-raising, grant-writing, and endowment-building capacity, by increasing the direct involvement of the President as "closer", capitalizing on the College's upcoming 25th anniversary celebration, and expanding alumni outreach.

Student Success is our Success

National Campus P.O. Box 159 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone: (691)320-2480 Fax: (691)320-2479 E-Mail: national@comfsm.	Chuuk Campus P.O. Box 879 Chuuk, FM 96942 Phone: (691)330-2689 Fax: (691)330-2740 E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.	FSM-FMI P.O. Box 1056 Colonia Yap, FM 96943 Phone: (691)350-5244 Fax: (691)350-5245 E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.	Kosrae Campus P.O. Box 37 Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944 Phone: (691)370-3191 Fax: (691)370-3193 E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm	Pohnpei Campus P.O. Box 614 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone: (691)320-3795 Fax: (691)320-3799 E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.	Yap Campus P.O. Box 286 Colonia Yap, FM 96943 Phone: (691)350-2296/5149 Fax: (691)350-5150
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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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"I've stayed at L5 for quite some time now and am always impressed by the customer service and how the staff are always up to ensuring your stay is more than you would expect." - Sep 6, 2016

"My family and I have stayed here 3 times during our visits to Chuuk. The staff welcome you with gleaming smiles and are always helpful and upbeat. Our take away from this hotel is the feel of its family atmosphere." - Jan 22, 2016

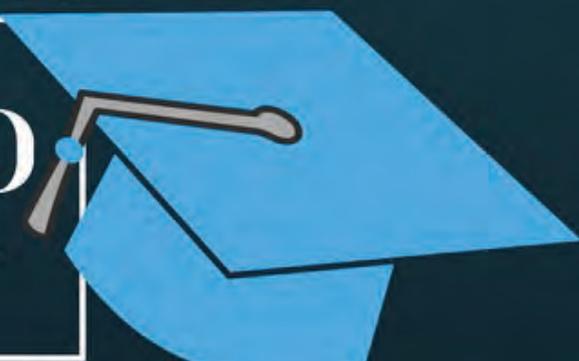
"So glad this place has re-opened and is where I will stay from now on in Chuuk." - Apr 6, 2016

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Rotary Club of Pohnpei in Partnership with Vital-FSM Petrocorp

SCHOLARSHIP

2017-2018

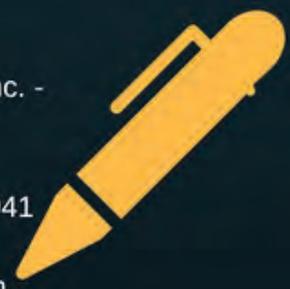


Priority Fields: Engineering, Chemistry, Agriculture, and certain Business Fields

Depending on number of applications, all other disciplines are also welcome

Deadline: July 1, 2017

Submissions or Queries: Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc. -
Scholarship Committee
PO Box 1861
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Fax (691) 320-5502
rotarypohnpei@gmail.com



For application, visit
<http://vitalenergy.fm/news/2017/rotary-annual-scholarship/>

