

# Jenna Deena Panuelo crowned as Miss Water in Miss Earth Guam pageant

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

June 29, 2017

**Guam**—17 well prepared but very nervous contestants graced the runway on June 21 at the Sheraton Laguna Resort in Guam. Each one hoped that they would be named Miss Earth Guam. One of those contestants was 18 year old Jenna Deena Panuelo of Pohnpei. When it was all over Jenna had been named second runner up with the title of Miss Water, and appropriate title for a woman from Pohnpei.



Each of the contestants environmental and non-environmental platforms, short paragraphs describing issues they are passionate about. Jenna’s environmental platform was on raising global warming awareness. “Jenna knows that global warming is a real problem. She also knows that people who aren’t affected by it do not believe that it is real. We can raise that awareness by speaking up and showing others what is at stake, our culture, islands, and history,” is said.

Her non-environmental issue was on positive body image. “Jenna believes that with a positive body image, comes a positive mind set. Many people today do not have a positive body image due to what our society set as ‘a nice body.’ We could help each other by embracing our differences; spreading more positivity, and less negativity.”

Though social media posts made it seem as if the contestants would be judged on the basis of the

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Bert Duarte

# Youth group builds three dimensional scale model of U

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

June 29, 2017

**Pohnpei, FSM**—This afternoon the makers of a stunning three dimensional scale model of U officially turned over their creation to the U Municipal



government. The scale model was built using quarter inch sheets of foam board. Each layer of foam represents 10 meters in elevation. The highest point in U is 660 meters and required 66 layers of foam board to represent it. It is currently on the property of the Un Municipal government.



The model was a cooperative effort between the U Municipal Government, leaders, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Pohnpei State Government, The Nature Conservancy Micronesia program and the Micronesia Conservation Trust.

Patrick Vuet of Partners with Melanesians and Mike Aulerio of The Nature Conservancy oversaw the project with assistance from Bejay Obispo and Angel

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# FSM Senator delivers commencement address at Eastern Oregon University

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

June 27, 2017

FSM--Senator David Panuelo, Pohnpei's At-Large representative to the FSM Congress was honored to be invited to give the key note speech at Commencement at his alma mater, Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon on June 17.

Like many other FSM graduates of EOU, Panuelo's story has so far been a highly successful one. He graduated from EOU in 1987, after which he returned to the FSM and quickly began a career in foreign affairs working in Australia, Fiji, and New Zealand. His last overseas appointment was as the Charge d'Affaires for the FSM's mission to the United Nations. He served as Secretary for Economic Development in Pohnpei before serving a brief stint as Assistant Secretary for American and European affairs.

Afterward he shifted his attention to the private sector. After starting a successful construction company he founded the community non-profit, Care Micronesia Foundation.

In 2011 he was first elected to a two year seat at the FSM Congress and in 2015 was elected as the four year at large representative for the Pohnpei delegation.

Among the more than 900 graduates, the class of 2017 included five students from the Micronesia region. Faylynn Floriano of Palau earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Jordan Repeki Suel of Saipan earned a Bachelor of Science

in Integrative Studies, Matthew J Muritok, of Chuuk, FSM earned a Bachelor of Science in Philosophy, Politics & Economics. Ngeyaol Polycarp of Palau earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Crop & Soil Sciences. Valentin Martin Jr. of Pohnpei, FSM earned a Master of Business Administration.

Panuelo did not share highlights of his keynote address but told EOU prior to the commencement, "EOU, in no small measure, played a major [role] in the building blocks of my life," Panuelo said. "I am deeply indebted to the faculty and staff who were so generous ... and opened up my horizons to see and explore the world through the prism of EOU."

"Become a global actor — our issues are no longer local," Panuelo said. "Degradation of our environment, extinction of species of plants and animals, onslaught of climate change and sea level rise, spread of communicable diseases doesn't respect borders. The world we live in today is much smaller than you think."

"Life is an incredible never-ending journey in an arena of learning — EOU has given you the best," Panuelo told an EOU reporter. "So graduates go out there and just get it — just get it and turn them into your own life-changing stories that not only benefit you, but humankind around you in our shared world today."

"20 students graduating from EOU with bachelors or masters degrees is not a big deal in the United States," he wrote in an



email. "But for a small island nation like ours it makes a world of difference."

He said that after his commencement speech he presented a Resolution that he sponsored that was adopted by the 20th Congress and a \$10,000 donation from the 20th Congress to the EOU Foundation in appreciation of the school's significant role in the development of its human resources.

He listed the FSM alumni from the school, a virtual "whose who" list including himself:

Congressman Robson Romolow, Governor of Pohnpei State Marcello Peterson, Lt. Governor of Pohnpei Reed Oliver, FSM

Ambassador to Fiji Sebastian Anefal, President of the FSM Development Bank Anna Mendiola, CEO/President of the Pacific Islands Development Bank Aren Palik, Pohnpei State Senator Edgar Likaned, State Senator Marvin Yamaguchi, Former State Senator Robert Nakasone, Businessman Frank Panuelo, Businessman Kumer Panuelo, FSM Bank Branch Manager Kenneth Welles, and COM-FSM Librarian Bruce Robert.



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# Court awards \$46,500 to man abused while in police custody

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

June 27, 2017

**Pohnpei, FSM**—On June 23, over six years after Ramon Ioanis filed a lawsuit seeking monetary damages for abuse by police officers and jail staff, the Pohnpei State Supreme Court finally awarded him \$46,500.

Attorney Martin Jano provided a hard copy of the “Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law” issued by Pohnpei Supreme Court Associate Justice Nickontro Johnny on April 4, 2017. Johnny said that the plaintiff’s story of the events leading to his arrest, including where the arrest took place were inconsistent over the course of the case but he was consistent in his claims of abuse while in police custody.

Ioanis consistently claimed that on April 12, 2010, two Pohnpei State Police officers arrested him, handcuffed and placed him face-down in the back of their patrol car. He claimed that one of the officers struck him in the head and kicked him in the side as he was lying helpless in the car. Once he arrived at the jail, he was locked in a cell with hands still cuffed behind his back. A short time later, a corrections officer entered his cell and put ankle cuffs on him as well. He claimed that he was left in both

sets of cuffs for the entire eleven days of his incarceration.

His wife testified that while Ioanis was incarcerated, she visited the jail five times and was denied opportunity to see her husband on each occasion.

Though the court found that the testimony of events that occurred before the arrest was inconsistent, it found the testimony of events after his arrest to be credible. Johnny said that whether Ioanis was drunk or sober when he was arrested has no bearing on whether he was unlawfully battered by one of the officers.

As to the injuries to his wrists and ankles from having been hand cuffed, Johnny did not accept the police explanation that Ioanis was mentally unstable and needed to be restrained. “If Plaintiff was mentally unstable and needed to be restrained, the jail supervisor should have notified the Plaintiff’s family and a mental health professional at the Department of Health, who could have sought a commitment order from the Court. If Plaintiff slammed himself against his cell wall, the corrections officer who witnessed this event should have created an incident report or at least told his/her supervisor about Plaintiff’s behavior. Yet Defendants did not produce any reports, health specialists, or family

members to support the mental instability/self-harm story. This leads the Court to one of three conclusions, all damaging the jail’s already blemished public image,” he ruled. “...Whichever of the explanations applies, this Court finds that a corrections officer at the Pohnpei State Jail placed Plaintiff in ankle-cuffs. Plaintiff was then left hand and ankle cuffed in his cell for eleven days without justification.”

In its ruling after the damages hearing in May the Court said that the Plaintiff had offered no evidence of lost income as a result of his abuse at the hands of law enforcement officials. In his assessment he therefore relied only on previous cases against Kolonia Town and Pohnpei State governments awarded without proof of monetary loss.

In Conrad v. Kolonia a Kolonia Town police officer broke a Plaintiff’s leg during an arrest. The injury required substantial medical treatment, including surgery at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. In that case the court awarded the Plaintiff \$4,540.77 as compensation for the battery and \$1,377.68 for pain and suffering.

In Plais v. Panuelo the plaintiff was held in solitary confinement for 11 days after successfully escaping from jail. During that time he was beaten by two police

officers and the jail denied his mother access to him. The Court awarded the Plaintiff \$3,500 for the beatings and \$5,000 for unlawful denials of access.

In Warren v. Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety the Plaintiff was jailed for two and a half days and was not allowed to speak with his wife on the telephone during that time. The Court awarded the Plaintiff \$500 for denial of access.

“The above cited cases show that Pohnpei Department of Public Safety has a long history of tolerating abuses of authority by its employees,” Johnny wrote. “...In light of the egregious abuses of authority displayed by DPS employees in this case, as well as the relevant case law, the Court holds Pohnpei State and its agency, the Department of Public Safety, jointly and severally liable as follows:

- \$10,000 for battery committed against Plaintiff by one of the arresting officers.
- \$33,000 (11 days x \$3,000 per day) for negligent acts and omissions committed by corrections officers in holding Plaintiff in cuffs for eleven day, and
- \$3,500 (5 denials x \$700) for unlawful denials of access.

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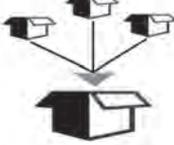
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# From Micronesia to the Arctic - Developing Future Indigenous Climate Leaders

*Island Research & Education Initiative*

*June 29, 2017*

**FSM**—Imagine traveling from our tropical islands to the farthest northern reaches of the planet, where tundra covers the land, the ocean is full of icebergs, and people hunt seals for food. Is there something we have in common with people living there and what can we learn from each other? This coming August, two students from the FSM and one from Palau will have the amazing opportunity to find out.

As distant and different the northernmost parts of our planet are from the Pacific Islands, these two areas are inexorably linked in the face of climate change: melting ice from the Arctic adds water to the ocean and causes the sea level rise that we observe in Micronesia. The Arctic itself is not spared of destructive effects of climate change either. Houses there are literally sinking into the ground as the frozen soil melts, and people struggle to feed their families as warm weather disrupts traditional hunting and fishing patterns. Paradoxically, indigenous people of Micronesia and the Arctic live far away from nations most responsible for the global climate change, yet find themselves bearing the brunt of it. Indigenous people's voices would be

more powerful around the world if people facing similar hardships could connect with each other and speak together.

Wanting to create just such opportunities, the Pohnpei-based organization, Island Research & Education Initiative (iREi) has partnered with Canadian organization Students on Ice (SOI) to create a unique program called Coral & Ice Exchange. According to Dr. Danko Taborosi of iREi, whose 2016 visit to the Arctic inspired the work to create this program, the aim is to "provide opportunities to youth of today to gain truly unique and powerful perspectives, make lifelong friendships and connections, and become climate leaders of tomorrow."

The program has secured three \$10,000 scholarships, awarded by Tarek Sherif and Sophie Nicholson from New York, Island Research & Education Initiative (iREi) from Pohnpei, and Neco Marine from Palau, respectively to Chloe Arnold from Chuuk, Karen Ehmes from Pohnpei, and Dylan Telei from Palau. The students were selected on the basis of their academic performance and an essay contest. Both FSM students hail from Xavier High School, which has enthusiastically embraced the program. Xavier's principal, Mr. Martin Carl, says "I am extremely grateful to iREi and the



generous benefactors from New York for allowing our students to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity. Both Chloe and Karen are excellent students and I am proud of them for representing our school and the entire FSM."

In the first week of August, Chloe, Karen, and Dylan will travel to Canada, where they will join students from other parts of the world and board an expedition ship where they will live for 2 weeks. The ship will cruise through the Canadian Arctic and Greenland, visiting communities and wilderness areas high above the Arctic

Circle, where the sun never sets this time of the year. After the students return to their homes at the end of August, they'll share what they have learned about what climate change is like on the global scale and how it affects people locally in different places,

and apply that knowledge in their further education and careers, perhaps even helping their own communities adapt to climate change in the future. In September, the readers of Kaselehlie Press will hear directly from Chloe, Karen, and Dylan about their unique experiences and see their photos exploring the distant North.

## 22 Pacific Participants Graduate from 2017 Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP)

**HONOLULU, HAWAII.** Twenty-two (22) participants from throughout the U.S. affiliated insular areas represented the 2015 graduating class of the Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP). ELDP graduation ceremonies were held on June 9, 2017 at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. The ELDP is funded by the U. S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative.

The ELDP was designed to assist the insular areas with developing and retaining the qualified and skilled staff that will become the future leaders of their respective governments. Program participants met four times over the past year to further develop their skills in leadership, management, government finance, program management, public policy and fiscal reform. ELDP participants represent the governments of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the



Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

The ELDP participants met four times over the past year for one week of training on Guam, CNMI, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Honolulu, Hawaii. During each phase of the program, participants heard from guest speakers that included Guam Justice Robert Torres, CNMI Governor Ralph Torres, and RMI President Hilda Heine, among others. In addition to developing an Individual

Development Plan, ELDP participants identified mentors who they met with throughout the year and took part in reading and group assignments between training sessions. A major component of the ELDP were group projects in the areas as health, education, environment, finance and budgeting and leadership, which participants developed throughout the year and presented on the final day of the program.

The 2017 ELDP graduating class included:

(American Samoa) Jewel Tuiasosopo, Sapioamo Galeai; (Chuuk) Crystal Angela Sana-Ekichy; (CNMI) Marjorie Anne Daria, Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Tracy Guerrero, Tracy Norita; (FSM) Elina Paul, Lover Haimin; (Guam) Ealani Flores, Jerrick Hernandez, Sophia Diaz; (Kosrae) Heidi Sigrah; (RMI) Anjanette Kattil, Junior Paul, Shem Livai; (Palau) Edolem Ikerdeu, Everdil Rechebei, Stephanie Nakamura, Sweetie Kalbesang; (Pohnpei) Joseph Saimon; (Yap) Jonathan Francis Waayan Chugen.

The 2017 ELDP graduating class represents the fifth ELDP program. Since its inception in 2008, 103 participants from across the Pacific have completed the ELDP program. Additional information on the Executive Leadership Development Program can be found online at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>. The application process for the sixth ELDP cohort is expected to begin February, 2018.

# Cops kill islanders

## Chuukese gunned down in WA, OK

Giff Johnson  
The Marshall Islands Journal

A Marshall Islander and a Chuukese were killed by police officers in separate incidents in the US mainland over the past several weeks.

Based on posts on social media by Marshallese living in the US and news reports, the Marshallese who was killed in Auburn, Wash- ington this past weekend was Isaiah Obet, a former resident of Delap, Majuro. A report on Auburn King 5 TV news said Au- burn police shot and killed a man armed with a knife who walked into two homes demanding money and later tried to carjack a vehicle with the driver inside.

A local resident told King 5 she was sitting on a couch watching TV when the suspect walked in, demanding money. He left when she told him to leave, and then she rang 911. Police showed up when the suspect entered another house with people in it. The suspect fled. A few blocks away,

with police in pursuit, he attempted to carjack a vehicle with a female driver in it when the officer opened fire, killing the man, said to be Obet.

The other death occurred in Tulsa, Oklahoma earlier this month involving 18-year-old Naway Willy, from Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia.

A report by Fox 23 news presents police confusion regarding a suspect in an earlier homicide, whom they initially believed was Willy but later determined, after he was shot and killed by an of- ficer, that Willy was not involved in the earlier homicide.

According to the news site, police say, “Willy had a gun on him and took off during a homicide investigation. They later said they didn’t believe Willy was involved in the homicide.” Another person was subsequently arrested as a suspect in the shooting death of Rabson Robert in early June.

# FSM seeks shooting answers

## DC envoy Susaia’s concern on Tulsa shootings

Giff Johnson  
The Marshall Islands Journal

The FSM Embassy in Washington, DC is looking into the deaths of two Micronesians that occurred in early June in Tulsa, Oklahoma — at least one of them an officer-involved shooting.

“We have spoken to the Tulsa Police Department and were directed to the Detective Homicide Division, but so far have not received any information,” Federated States of Micronesia Ambassador Akillino Susaia told the Journal this week.

To follow up the June 2 shooting deaths of Naway Willy, 18, and Rabson Robert, 36, Susaia sent a diplomatic note to the State Department last week requesting the US government’s aid to obtain information from local law enforcement authorities.

News reports indicated that Robert had been killed and Willy was initially thought to be a suspect in the murder, but later police said they didn’t believe Willy was involved and arrested another suspect.

In the diplomatic note, the FSM Embassy notes the “request for assistance is necessitated by the incident that took place on or around 2 June 2017 in Tulsa in which two citizens of the FSM, both of them young men, were reportedly shot to death by local law enforcement officers.”

The ambassador told the Journal they were requesting the US State Department’s assistance under the terms of the Vienna

Convention on Consular Relations and the provisions of the Compact of Free Association.

The carefully worded request to the State Depart- ment also pointed out “the long history of law enforcement cooperation between FSM and the US” under the Compact.

“Their (Robert’s and Willy’s) families and friends have sought to obtain information from the Tulsa Police Department but were not successful,” the FSM diplomatic note explained. “They have turned to the Embassy for assistance.”

Susaia expressed condolences to the families and friends of the victims. He said he didn’t want to “make specific judgments on the police-involved shootings while all the relevant facts of the case have yet to be confirmed.”

He took the opportunity to “remind us all about the importance of conducting ourselves appropriately to avoid harm and, just as important, for law enforcement authorities to exercise prudence in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities to the public.”

While noting that “the Embassy is aware of the rise in police-related incidences in the United States,” Susaia said the FSM is “grateful for the basic decency and fairness of the American people, whom we hope will continue to be the advocates and tireless moral pillars of support for the friendship and historic ties between our peoples that are enshrined in the Compact of Free Association, and which serve as the founda- tion of the special partnership between the FSM and the US.”

# ...U model

Continued from front page

Jonathon of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei. 21 young people from U, four interns from CSP and community elders from U made the beautiful and useful model. Construction began on June 19 and was completed on June 28th.



Vuet explained that the model was derived from a precisely accurate, flat topographical map that had contour lines on it indicating elevation. The 8 x 8 foot base was marked with a grid and each sheet of foam was precisely locate on the three dimensional scale model to be accurate in a 1:5000 scale. Everything on the 3D model is precisely located including the location of a ship wreck on the reef.

“The U Municipal Government has taken many strides this year to improve management of its natural resources,” Micronesia Conservation Trust Director Willy Kostka wrote. “In February, its leadership endorsed their Locally Managed Marine Area- Fisheries Plan, the first of its kind in Pohnpei. To further ensure the sustainable management of their resources and successful implementation of the plan, it was decided that a tangible and visual model of U’s territory in the

form of a 3D map is essential. U realized that overfishing is not the only threat to their fisheries, but also other pressures, like eutrophication (excessive richness of nutrients in the ocean that runs off from land), sedimentation, and pollution which result from deforestation, development, and farming. Having the model in place will assist U leadership and communities to visualize potential environment risks/ threats from unsustainable development.”

He said that the initiative is the first of its kind not only in Pohnpei, but in all of the FSM. The completion of the model is another stepping stone for U for sustainable management of its resources.

Ricky Carl of The Nature Conservancy said that there are not currently plans to fund another project of its kind but that it could be considered depending on community interest.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust

sent a list of names for special acknowledgement: Thelsa Abraham, Maiko Agrippa, Manwick Albert, Marvin Andon, Antrea Anton, Nate Ben, Ethan Donre, Mayuleen Edgar, Natasha Edwin, Keston James, Jarid John, Lizzy Joseph,

Jake Katau, Dyson Kilmete, Avaleen Lohn, Juliet Mathias, Zelnick Moses, Ramsey Narruhn, Berly Primo Pedrus Primo, Trini Ramires, Lainyleen Ramirez, Tanya Semes, Sidney Simram, Theron William, Kaudensio Marquez.



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT



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 Location: Palau/FSM  
 Closing Date: July 07, 2017

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The Fisheries Advisor, manages and advances fisheries projects, plans and methods for the Micronesia Program. The Fisheries Advisor leads the coordination of technical and scientific support for the implementation of the Conservancy's fisheries management strategies within the geographic scope of the Micronesia Program. They focus on providing scientific advice on marine ecosystems, fisheries and climate adaptation based fisheries management. They work as part of the Micronesia Program's Conservation Science and Planning Team to build fisheries science capacity within the Micronesia Program and within partners, including mentoring of in country Conservancy and partner staff. They provide scientific support to local jurisdictions on fisheries management, implementation, planning and evaluation. They provide support in the coordination of the MC Marine Measures Working Group and participates as part of the resource team for the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC). They apply diversified knowledge of scientific principles and practices to a broad variety of assessments and related fields. They represent the Micronesia Program in TNC planning and science forums, and develops and maintains external partnerships. They assist in fundraising for the Micronesia Program, including the development of grant proposals and programs reports.

## REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE &amp; SKILL

- BA/BS, fisheries or marine biology and 5 years' experience in coral reef fisheries science or related field or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Experience negotiating complex agreements
- Supervisory experience
- Experience communicating with the public and/or media both in writing and verbally
- Experience using applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Web Browsers
- Experience with principles of coral reef fisheries science and management
- Knowledge in fisheries management conservation practice in the Pacific
- Ability to explain conservation practices to technical and non-technical audience
- Practical knowledge of social and political environments in Micronesia
- Knowledge of current trends and practices in both pelagic and coastal fisheries management and science
- Experience working in Pacific Island Countries or other developing countries
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## Groundbreaking Ceremony for Construction of Gymnasium at Nett Elementary School



Embassy of Japan

On June 16, 2017, the Groundbreaking Ceremony was held at Nett Elementary School for the Project for Construction of Gymnasium in Nett Elementary School, Pohnpei State which provided Department of Education, Pohnpei State with US\$180,970 from Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects of the Government of Japan.

The goal for this project is to provide a gymnasium which improves an educational environment and students' health at Nett Elementary School. Nett Elementary School has physical education classes for improving mental and physical health, and preventing a lifestyle-related disease for students. However, this school has only an outside playground so that unfortunately the classes are often cancelled by heavy rains. Therefore, the provided gymnasium expects to help to conduct the classes regularly and safely which would improve education and health for 897 students and 18 teachers at Nett Elementary School. The gymnasium would be open to local people as well.

Charge d'Affairs ad interim Koji Sugiyama sincerely congratulated this day as a reinforcement of two countries' friendship and hoped the Gymnasium will increase opportunities of exercise for students and local people. Mr. Hagino Iriarte, Nett School PTA President expressed his full of joys for making local people's long-term dream coming true by this project and his gratitude to the Congress of the FSM. The Hon. Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor of Pohnpei State stated that the Gymnasium will help not only people in Nett but also everyone in Pohnpei State to enhance their health and community's and expressed his sincere appreciation to the government and people of Japan.

At the ceremony, Director of Department of Education Churchill Edward, Nett Elementary School Principal Primo Loyola, Budget Officer Christina Elnei,



Speech by The Hon. Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor of Pohnpei State



Speech by Charge d'Affairs ad interim Koji Sugiyama



Speech by Mr. Hagino Iriarte, Nett School PTA President

Public Affairs Officer Heinrich Stevenson, Nett District Administrator Peteriko Hairens, Delco Construction, and staffs of the Embassy of Japan in the FSM were also present.

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**3G COVERAGE SITES:**

1. MWAHND - Nan U to Awak
2. SOKEHS- Kolonia, Dekehtik, Sokehs, Nan Kewi, Dolon, Sekere
3. TELECOM HQ- Downtown Kolonia
4. CUPID- Dolonier, Nanpohnmal, Nan Kewi, Mwalok, PICS area
5. PALIKIR- Dolon, Sokehs Pah, Nan Mal, Sekere
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# 77 year old Aikido master hopes to see the benefits of the martial art spread to Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

**Pohnpei, FSM**—17 year old Kai Rekdahl, a first degree black belt in the Martial Art of Aikido, held up his hand as if ready to strike Sensei Mutsuko Minegishi over the breakfast table at Ocean View. Minegishi is 60 years older than Rekdahl but neither of her breakfast companions were at all worried. Even if Rekdahl actually did want to hurt her, he would not likely have been able to do so. Minegishi has been practicing and promoting Aikido all over the world since she was 32 years old. She reached up and gently guided Rekdahl's hand in another direction. "He means me harm," she said, "but I don't want to hurt him so I redirect his energy in a way like water flows so that neither of us is hurt."

It was a small demonstration of the principles of Aikido. Minegishi had asked Rekdahl, who has been practicing the martial art with her at least three times a week since he was nine years old, because "Aikido requires to practice with a partner. I needed him to assist me," Minegishi wrote in an email. Rekdahl's entire family of six are involved in Aikido in Guam. His parents, his younger sisters and his youngest brother who is five years old are all involved.

Minegishi, who has promoted Aikido in 35 countries, was in Pohnpei in early June to promote Aikido here.

"Founded by Morihei Ueshiba, Aikido is a martial art that focuses on harmonizing with your opponent to bring peaceful resolutions to situations involving conflict," an Aikido website said.

While in Pohnpei, Minegishi spent the mornings teaching a group of young people that grew in number each day. In the evenings, after business hours she taught adults. She used the rest of the time to talk with community leaders and groups about the Aikido and its benefits. She also has been looking for an ideal candidate to lead Aikido in Pohnpei. That's not an easy task. Her standards for an Aikido teacher are high and are not solely related to the person's knowledge of the techniques of Aikido. The person must be a self-disciplined, physical and spiritual role model for the students.

She also worked to find a volunteer who would be willing to handle the administrative details of running an Aikido program here, someone separate from the Aikido teacher.

Minegishi is member of the Rotary Club of

Tumon Bay. While in Pohnpei she also visited the Rotary Club of Pohnpei hoping to drum up support for establishing an Aikido program here.

She said that along with a training location, mats are essential. Aikidogi, the loose fitting "uniform" of the martial arts are also necessary since some of the moves practiced involve gripping the clothing of the opponent.

But Minegishi would probably disagree with the use of the word "opponent" as would most practitioners of Aikido. Aikido is not a competitive sport, and even the word "sport" is probably unacceptable as we understood. You will never see an Aikido competition at the Olympic Games or anywhere else. Advancement in Aikido is not achieved by besting an opponent but by demonstrating proficiency in techniques that become increasingly difficult as rank increases. Those who practice Aikido work in cooperation with a partner, "still employing effective techniques against an energetic and realistic attack, yet doing so by blending with the attack and redirecting its energy back to the attacker," the Aikido web page said.

Minegishi said that many police officers in Japan are trained in the art of Aikido because it allows them to subdue attackers without brutal or deadly force.

She is the Chief Instructor at "Guam Aikikai" and is currently finalizing plans for a new dojo, a facility for Aikido in Guam. She intends to bring in potential instructors from several countries on a scholarship basis for intensive training in the art so that they can take Aikido back to their home countries.

Aikido is especially helpful for self-defense and for situations where aggressors need to be subdued. She said that last July Guam Aikikai held a special seminar regarding "Violence against women and children". Students from Kiribati, Guam, Thailand, and New Caledonia attended the seminar. She hopes that she can also help to enable Pohnpeians to defend themselves in a non-harmful way.

Minegishi said that one of her regrets is that she started the practice of Aikido so late in her life. She said that children are much more agile and learn more quickly but added that it's never too late to start. New people came into her classes every day, and as is the way at any Aikido dojo, the more experienced students helped the new students to understand what was going on. "It's never too late to start", she said. "The goal is to develop to the highest level of growth that our inborn potential allows. It's not a competition. A coconut is not a banana. There is no comparing; no competition. A green belt is not envious of a black belt and a black belt does not look down on green belt." She said that it's all about the joy of personal achievement and realizing that we are all one a part of the universe and everyone has an equal right to live and develop.



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## Pohnpei coffer watchers sign an MOU to work together

June 20, 2017  
 Pohnpei — The watchdogs of Pohnpei’s financial resources this afternoon signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) promising to do their jobs in a cooperative way in order to prevent financial fraud and waste of Pohnpei’s funds.



Ihlen Joseph, the Pohnpei State Auditor, Benito Cantero, the Director of the Department of Public Safety, and Dana Smith, the Attorney General signed the MOU that affirms cooperative and mutual law enforcement efforts on financial crimes on Pohnpei’s resources.

Under the MOU, the Office of the Pohnpei State Public Auditor’s Compliance Investigation Division (CID) will continue to receive allegations of fraud, waste and mismanagement after audits are completed. The CID would continue to conduct preliminary inquiries to determine whether or not there is reasonable cause to work with the Department of Public Safety to cooperatively refer the results of investigations to the Office of Attorney General for further investigation and potential prosecution.

The MOU essentially confirms that all of the offices will work together as they are charged to do.

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SUMMONS

THE STATE OF HAWAII

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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)  
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 CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT

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 Deputy Attorney General  
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 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740  
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### Dear Friends and Family

*Thank you for your kindness following the passing of Pastor Isamo Welles.*

*We are so grateful for everything you have done to support us during this sad time. We appreciate the flowers, meals, the visits and phone calls and the kind words from everyone all over the globe.*

*Thank you also for attending Pastor Isamo Welles's funeral; it meant a lot to us. The great outpouring of support touched us deeply. Please know that we appreciate each and every one of you.*

*Thank you for being there for us.*

*The Welles Family*



Mrs. Yolanda Joab Mori, COM-FSM Class of 2010

Yolanda Joab Mori is an alumni of the College's National Campus, where she graduated as President of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society in 2010, while studying Liberal Arts.

After graduating Yolanda traveled to the Philippines to do volunteer work for the World Youth Alliance (WYA) for six months advocating human rights issues, and mentoring youth in Manila. At the same time, she represented the WYA in Mexico and Azerbaijan, as one of the youngest heads of delegations.

Upon returning home Yolanda began her career with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), while at the same time earning simultaneous degrees in Community Based Disaster Management in 2011, and Community Climate Change Adaptation from the World Bank Institute. She is also a founding member of the Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (CADRE) Program, which is present throughout the Micronesian Region. She is the only IOM Micronesia staff member who has lived and worked in all four FSM States and the Marshall Islands, and went on to become the youngest and only female sub office representative in Kosrae in 2014.

The CADRE Program has been her life's work that has resulted in seawalls being built, rainwater harvesting systems and catchment tanks being installed, solar panels being installed, dozens of community based emergency plans drafted, amendment of the national curriculum and over 10,000 young students across the Micronesian region being taught the urgent awareness of

climate change.

In 2016 she completed her certificate studies at Harvard University in Educational Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship and graduated as Fellow of the East West Center's prestigious Pacific Islands Leadership Program. Currently, while working full time she is a new full time student as well, taking night classes at Chaminade University's extension in Chuuk working towards a degree in Education for Oceania.

Mrs. Mori has also spoken at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, as well as the One Young World Summit in Canada. She also joined the FSM delegation to the COP22 in Morocco. She was also the guest speaker at the College's 65th Commencement exercises. Most recently she spoke at German Green Convention in Berlin.

On her son's second birthday, Yolanda and her husband founded Island PRIDE (Promoting Resilience through Involvement, Development & Education); a new non-profit non-government organization that aims to empower youth by doing exactly what its name entails. She serves as the Executive Director of the organization.

Yolanda is the mother of Alvin Yoshi Mori III (Tre), and wife of Mr. Alvin Yoshi Mori II. She is also the proud daughter of Madilde Primo Joab of Uh, Pohnpei.

The College congratulates Yolanda for her dedication to the people of the region. We celebrate her successes as a highlight of twenty-five years of higher education in the FSM.

*Follow us online for a video interview of Yolanda Joab Mori*



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# Linking Climate Change and Health in the Lower-Mortlock Islands

By Zag Puas

Climate Change is a cutting-edge reality in the Lower Mortlocks. The rise in the sea level is one of the major consequences of climate change; it affects food production, water conservation and especially human health.

In November 2016, a new partnership between US based organization- the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) and an indigenous Mortlockese, Zag Puas (PhD), formed a partnership to develop strategies to address the link between climate change and healthy life style. Food production and water conservation practices were adopted as top priorities in anticipation of the increasing incursion of salt water on farm land and fresh water wells. The extent of the project also calls for the sharing of ideas between the Mortlockese stake- holders, DHSA, ASTHO and the public at large.

The Lower Mortlocks is a collection of four islands, Lukunor, Oneop, Satowan and Ta. Lukunor and Oneop shared a lagoon, while Satowan and Ta are located on a separate lagoon. These islands communities suffer from lack of health care services due to their

geographical distance from the major port-towns, for example, Weno and Pohnpei. Despite this, many of the low-lying atoll dwellers persist in living on their islands. This is despite the knowledge that one day their islands will not be able to sustain them, due to the anticipated rise in the sea level. Recent studies indicated that arable land will be overwhelmed by salt water within a fifty-year time frame.

The islands' elevation ranges from 3-4 metres above sea level. Because of their vulnerability, they are among the first to experience the ongoing and brutal reality of climate change induced sea level rise. Relocation will be the last option, however, a great number of the people have stated that it is not an option for them at all. For instance, during my field interviews, many Mortlockese cannot foresee living in an alternative environment, even if it is on another island, where they would be the subject to someone else's dictates. They expressed a preference to remain in the Mortlocks and die, rather than to live in an alien space somewhere beyond the horizon.

However, to prolong their ability to remain living on the island in the face of climate change, providing appropriate health care

in the communities, remains a major challenge. The above partnership is undertaking a project which seeks to enmesh traditional and outside knowledge to enhance a healthy life style in the age of climate change. Taro farming targeting specific species of taro that can withstand increased salinity in the soil, together with the construction of a low-cost water storage facilities, are the two of the strategies proposed as a way of promoting and maintaining a healthy life style in the Mortlocks. At this stage, the project has been progressing well in meeting its main objectives. ASTHO, the principal provider for the project, together with the FSM DHSA, and many prominent members of the public, have been very supportive of the project since communities on low-lying islands are often exposed to greater health challenges. The Mortlockese people wish to express their deep appreciation to the two major supporters and look forward to continue the partnership in light of the ongoing climate change induced health challenges as they arise in the future.



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## Interior Provides Guam with FY 2017 Grant Funding

June 23, 2017

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— This week Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula made available \$516,031 from Technical Assistance grant funding for the benefit of several programs that are identified as priority needs by Guam Governor Eddie Calvo.

“Guam is the biggest island of the U.S. Insular Areas in the Pacific and an important regional hub for cultural and business travel and exchange,” said Pula. “We are pleased to provide this funding that assists the Government of Guam to keep the public safe and ensure overall efficiencies in public services.”

Department of Public Health and Social Services - \$204,060 to improve automation in the processing of applications for Health Certificates, Sanitary Permits, and Controlled Substances Registration Certificates. Funds will also provide for conversion of the current database to Filemaker Pro which will enable web-enabled application and payment services, as well as reduce fraud and abuse.

Guam Police Department - \$13,671 for the Mandaña Community Oriented Policing App (Neighborhood Watch Program). The neighborhood watch program has already proven effective in Barrigada and Agaña Heights, not only reducing incidences of burglary, larceny and assault, but also improving the climate for business, access to community facilities and improved services, and ensuring overall revitalization of common village areas on the island. The mobile application part of the project allows citizens to utilize the latest technology to access and report issues related to public safety. Mobile apps also provide law enforcement agencies such as the Mariana Regional Fusion Center with real-time information, useful for criminal intelligence analysis. Push notifications

will also be a feature for people in the community with mobile technology to connect to government alerts and other surveillances.

Guam Fire Department - \$94,800 to purchase 12 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus units to provide proper respiratory protection for the firefighters on Guam. Twelve of the 60 units currently being operated by the Guam Fire Department will now meet the most recent Fire Protection Association standards. The Guam Fire Department plays an important role in ensuring the quality of life and public safety for a population of roughly 170,000 on the island.

Office of Accountability - \$76,000 supports an on-going collaboration between the Guam Office of Public Accountability and the Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General which provides for staff training and overall capacity building. The strategy is to promote excellence, integrity, and accountability among staff and to ensure efficient and effective use of Federal funds.

Offices of Homeland Security and Civil Defense - \$127,500 to automate current licensing and permitting processes and streamline services provided through the Guam One Stop Licensing Center, which processes all business and professional license applications, as well as building permits and schedules inspections. This collaborative project between numerous agencies and departments, such as

Revenue and Taxation, Public Works, the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Guam Visitor's Bureau, the Guam Contractors License Board and others, will ensure an improved One Stop shop service through a cloud-based system, providing access and flexibility for all end users and integrating all department systems under one platform. This project also supports recommendations provided by the Interior Inspector General who flagged loss of tax revenue due to ineffective implementation of the business license clearance process. This project is expected to be completed by 2019.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. On behalf of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs whose mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

## Yap Chamber of Commerce Brown Bag Lunch Program

A Brown Bag Series of open discussions for business owners and managers has been announced by the Yap Chamber of Commerce (YCC) and Yap Small Business Development Center (YSBDC) beginning June 20, 2017 in Colonia. “We’re very excited to offer this one-hour noontime series that will explore a wide range of topics such as social media, customer service, project management and guerilla marketing,” said Marie Laamar, General Manager of YCC. “We’re calling it a ‘Brown Bag Series’ because participants are invited to bring their lunch to eat during the sessions. We’ll provide beverages.”

The free, informal gatherings are scheduled for 12 noon to 1:00pm on June 20, July 4, August 7 and August 28 at the YSBDC Training Room. Additional dates will be announced.

# ...Jenna

Continued from front page

“most likes” on the pageant web page, the contestants were judged by a panel of eight judges on the swim suit, native costume, and evening gown categories. They were also judged on their poise during a question and answer segment during the coronation ceremony. Contestants could also win in a number of other categories. Contestant #5, Tyler Torres was chosen as the “people’s choice” winner for her social media “likes”.

The judging wasn’t accomplished all in one evening. During the preliminary pageant on June 14, contestant were judged on the swim suit and creative costume categories. Jenna designed her creative costume on the idea of the “flame tree”. “I chose that because in Pohnpei, our flame trees didn’t bloom very much, so when I saw the ones here, I was completely mesmerized by the colors and how orange and red they were,” she exclaimed. She also was captivated by the legend of the flame tree, a very old Chamorro tragic story with a similar story line to Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet.

Jenna described the evening of the Coronation pageant. “Coronation night was so crazy, I just couldn’t believe that everything happened all in one night. We walked out on stage and introduced ourselves individually, then we did a dance number. Afterwards, we walked

out on stage and strutted our stuff in a brand new Chamorrta Swimwear bikini, which they made especially for us for that night. Then we walked out in our evening gowns. The gowns were hot and painful.

“After that was the big moment we all were waiting for, They called out the top 10 contestants out of 17 of us! They called us one by one in random order, and I was so happy I was called to be top 10! That was when we answered our questions that they gave us. Question and answer was the most nerve wracking part of it, because you need to study and have knowledge to be able to answer a question without rehearsing it. I believe I did pretty good on that part, I mean it did get me to top 4! I won’t lie though. I was so shocked when they called me up for top 4! I almost cried when I had to go backstage to wait for my final question as a contestant in the top 4! I held it together because I knew I had to go back onstage.

“So they gave us our final questions and afterwards, they crowned the top 4 and my heart was racing, my feet were shaking, everything was out of control yet my smile came naturally. They called the 3rd runner up, Miss Fire Guam 2017, Julia Naputi Rivera. Then they called 2nd runner up, Miss Water Guam 2017, Jenna Deena Panuelo! They then called 1st runner up, Miss Air Guam 2017, Jestyne Sablan, and then Miss Earth Guam 2017, Emma Mae Sheedy. Just being in the top 4 was unbelievable for me, and I couldn’t be any happier with the results because I gave

it my all and I placed! We all worked so hard during this pageant, we did it!”

Jenna said that she was so nervous and that so much has gone on since then that she not only couldn’t remember how she answered her questions, she couldn’t even really remember what she was asked.

We told her that it appeared that all of the FSM was pulling for her. “I know! It was crazy,” she said. “The support I received throughout the pageant was unbelievable!! I only expected a few family members, but I got so much more than that!”

She said that as second runner up she will be involved with pageant related events during the upcoming year. She said that the President of the Committee, Frank Santos also has other pageants internationally that he may send them to. “Miss Water Guam 2016 has been on multiple trips with Guam Visitors Bureau. So I believe that we will also have opportunities like that as well.”

Since the pageant, the supervisor of the pageant has asked Jenna if she want to model for his agency, JRocket Models. She said that she is still thinking about that.

Both of Jenna’s parents have been enormously



supportive of her as she prepared for the pageant. Her mother, Janet Panuelo said that she is extremely proud of the confidence Jenna has had to “put herself out there” in the way that she has done. She and several other friends and family members were in Guam rooting her daughter on during the pageants.

Her father, Senator David Panuelo of the FSM Congress was unable to be in Guam but he shared an email with me that he sent to his daughter after the event. I made this journalist cry:

“Je, I’m tearing just remembering how not too long ago you were just my little baby girl....and now look at you! I know how proud and confident you must be feeling after all the hard work you’ve put into all the activities leading up to the final event - I love your disposition which shows elegant humility mixed with unfailing courteousness - it defines the beautiful character you have and the person that you have become. Well, I know you know that your elegant humility and unfailing courteousness doesn’t mean you’re not tough. It means you’re an educated young adult with intellect and good character - what parent would not be proud of a daughter like you,” he wrote.

## 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



<u>Positions</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Annual Salary Range</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>
<u>Instructor- Business</u>	<u>National Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>Until fill</u>
<u>Student Services Assistant</u>	<u>National Campus</u>	<u>\$5,955.00</u>	<u>Until fill</u>
<u>Instructor-Computer/Mathematics</u>	<u>Yap Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>Until fill</u>
<u>Director of Institutional Effectiveness Office</u>	<u>National Campus</u>	<u>\$30,168.00</u>	<u>Until fill</u>
<u>Instructional Coordinator</u>	<u>National Campus</u>	<u>\$17,643.00-\$19,880.00</u>	<u>June 30, 2017</u>
<u>Security Officers (2 Positions)</u>	<u>FSM-FMI Campus</u>	<u>\$5,196.00</u>	<u>July 18,2017</u>
<u>Maintenance Worker</u>	<u>Pohnpei Campus</u>	<u>\$5,562.00</u>	<u>July 18,2017</u>
<u>Security Officers (2 Positions)</u>	<u>Yap Campus</u>	<u>\$5,196.00</u>	<u>July 20, 2017</u>
<u>Instructor-English (2 Positions)</u>	<u>Pohnpei Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>July 20, 2017</u>
<u>Instructor-Computer Information System</u>	<u>National Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>July 20, 2017</u>
<u>Instructor-Social Science</u>	<u>National Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>July 20, 2017</u>
<u>Instructor-Social Science</u>	<u>Pohnpei Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>July 20, 2017</u>
<u>Instructor- Hospitality &amp; Tourism Management</u>	<u>Pohnpei Campus</u>	<u>\$12,305.--\$17,819.00</u>	<u>July 21, 2017</u>
<u>Instructor- Science</u>	<u>Pohnpei Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>July 21, 2017</u>
<u>Instructor-Mathematics</u>	<u>Pohnpei Campus</u>	<u>\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00</u>	<u>July 21, 2017</u>
<u>CRE Coordinator</u>	<u>Pohnpei Campus</u>	<u>\$15,039.00</u>	<u>July 28, 2017</u>

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](mailto:hro@comfsm.fm) and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 130, 131, 192 or visit us at [www.comfsm.fm](http://www.comfsm.fm).

# Vice President George Visits USAID and IOM Project in Chuuk

*International Organization for Migration*

On June 15th, Federated States of Micronesia's Vice President Yoshiwo George participated in a Typhoon Maysak house handover in Chuuk. The house is one of a total of 334 private family homes being built throughout the state of Chuuk as part of USAID's Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project. In partnership with IOM and the FSM government, USAID is rebuilding homes and infrastructure destroyed by 2015's Super Typhoon Maysak.

Accompanied by a team from USAID and IOM, Vice President George hiked up Chuuk's steep and rugged terrain to participate in the handover and ask questions about the project. The Typhoon Maysak homes are being built by groups of trained workers from within each community. Before a completed house is presented to the beneficiary, it must pass a stringent quality control check to ensure it has been built properly according to the drawings and specifications of the engineers and architects.

Vice President George was impressed with the quality of the construction and the scope of the project: "It's amazing to see how people living way up here can get a house. These are excellent jobs and opportunities...it is very important for us to understand this response."

Previously, FEMA was the U.S. government agency responsible for providing relief to disasters within the FSM. That responsibility was transferred to USAID in 2008 pursuant to provisions in the Amended Compact Treaty between the FSM and the U.S. Typhoon Maysak was the first natural disaster in the FSM under the amended provisions.

The partnership between USAID and IOM is that of a 'donor' and 'implementing partner'. As the donor, USAID provides funding, sets the scope of work, and manages the overall project from its regional office in Manila and coordinated through the USAID Typhoon Maysak project field office, based out of the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia, Pohnpei. TMRP is USAID Manila's largest project.

As the implementing partner, IOM is responsible for hiring staff to complete the project, as well as construction, logistics, and day-to-day operations. Because IOM has 166 member states, the staff come from all corners of the globe. According to Vice President George, "It's a mini-U.N. right here in Chuuk. That's the beauty of this. Whether you're from different islands or different countries - this program shows that we can be international."

IOM's head of sub-office in Chuuk, Karupiah Vedharaniyam, spoke about the quality of Chuuk's workers during the visit: "Here in Chuuk they are very hardworking. They are very dedicated and now they have been exposed to working within an organization."

More than 1,330 community workers have been trained and mobilized in Chuuk throughout the course of the project. These workers will be given a card that documents their involvement in the project and could help in attaining future employment in places where

documentation of past work is a requisite for applying for a job.

Vice President George wrapped up the visit with words of encouragement:

"I recommend that more government leaders visit the project...I'm sure our people much appreciate this - they may not always be able to say that in words, but it is in their hearts."

As the housing portion wraps up, the project's focus is now shifting to the repair and reconstruction of public infrastructure.

The Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project is a \$45 million project to repair and replace homes and public infrastructure damaged or destroyed by Typhoon Maysak. A total of 428 new homes are close to completion throughout Chuuk State and Yap's Ulithi Atoll. Additionally, 155 public infrastructure projects are underway, including the repair and reconstruction of schools, public utilities, community houses, dispensaries, and other public buildings.



*IOM and USAID had the opportunity to brief VP George and tour the warehouse, offices, and dock*



*VP George meets IOM's Kristina de Armas at the IOM logistics office in Weno*



*Vice President George participated in a handover with IOM and USAID staff in Weno, Chuuk*

## PNA ministers send strong signal for tuna conservation at RMI meeting

*Parties to the Nauru Agreement*

**24 June 2017**

**Majuro, Marshall Islands**—Pacific tuna resource owners concluded their annual meeting Friday in the Marshall Islands by sending a strong message of their commitment to conserving and managing tuna resources, while increasing economic benefits for the nine islands in the western and central Pacific that use the globally-recognized "Vessel Day Scheme" (VDS) to manage their fishery.

Ministers from the eight Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) members — Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau — and Tokelau recognized the successful implementation of the purse seine VDS, the development of the longline VDS and the progress in branding and vertical integration through the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the Pacific marketing joint venture.

At the outset of the three-day meeting Kiribati Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development Tetabo Nakara handed over chairmanship of the PNA to his counterpart from the Marshall Islands, Minister of Resources and Development Alfred Alfred, Jr. The ministers thanked both new CEO Ludwig Kumoru and outgoing CEO Dr. Transform Aqorau for their work in furthering effective resource management and business initiatives of the PNA.

Following Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine's announcement at the opening of the 12th PNA Ministerial Meeting Wednesday of the Marshall Islands intention to build a new facility for the PNA Office in Majuro, ministers agreed to the plan, and committed to share the financing of the building.

In addition, PNA called on members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to work with them on adopting

a new conservation measure at the December annual meeting that will sustain tuna resources going forward, expressed concern about the delay in a scheduled payment by the United States government for fisheries access of its purse seine fleet, and set the "Total Allowed Effort" — the number of fishing days annually allowed for purse seine fishing 2017-2019 — as well as the "Parties Allowed Effort" — the division of the TAE for each of the nine islands implementing the VDS.

Among key developments at this week's annual PNA Ministers meeting:

- A stock report on skipjack tuna, the primary target species for purse seiners, showed that this important stock is being maintained around the Target Reference Point, meaning skipjack is being fished at sustainable levels. Because fishing for tropical tuna stocks occurs mainly in the waters of the PNA and other Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members, PNA Ministers called on other Western and Central Pacific Fisheries

Commission (WCPFC) members to work with the PNA and the other FFA Members to ensure the long term conservation and management of those stocks in ways that recognize the special requirements of Small Island Developing States that are highly dependent on these stocks, and do not transfer a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto SIDS in accordance with WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures 2013-06 and 2013-07.

- Ministers expressed concern about the overfished status of bigeye tuna, which is important for the longline fishery, and called for the adoption of measures at the WCPFC meeting later this year to rebuild the bigeye stock within the agreed time frame of ten years.
- From PNA business initiatives to date, the ministers see there is great scope for increasing benefits from PNA tuna resources. This includes such initiatives as having more of the tuna catch within PNA waters processed in PNA onshore

*Continued on next page*

Continued from previous page

facilities, and the PNA's small scale tuna canning training and technical assistance program to members that is increasing food self-sufficiency through development of small and medium sized local enterprises.

• Ministers viewed reports on trends in tuna catches in PNA waters, which confirm that the VDS is effectively controlling the number of purse seine vessels while promoting growth in domestic fleets. PNA has held effort within the agreed limit at 2010 catch levels and relatively stable catches have been maintained. In keeping with these limits, the ministers adopted VDS fishing day limits for 2017 and 2018, with a provisional total allowed effort agreed for 2019.

• The increase in revenue from VDS implementation from about US\$60 million annually seven years ago to between US\$450-US\$500 million in 2016 was welcomed by the ministers, who took note of the wide range of profitability and financial capacity to pay for days between purse seine fleets and between different vessels in the same fleet.

• Ministers were encouraged by implementation of the revised fishing treaty with the United States in 2017, including the fact that all U.S. industry fees had been received. But the leaders expressed grave concern that the U.S. Government had not paid its 2017-18 contribution by the due date of 14 June 2017. Ministers noted that this U.S. Government contribution is an integral part of the revised Treaty arrangement and this failure to meet the payment terms seriously affects the financial management of Pacific Island Governments that are dependent on fisheries access revenues for

their budgets. The ministers called on the U.S. Department of State to overcome the apparent process-related difficulties that have caused this delay, and directed the FFA to provide an update to the Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial meeting in early July.

• For the PNA Trial Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Tracking and Monitoring Program, the ministers welcomed the plan for a FAD workshop to progress FAD management. They also recommended the development of amendments of domestic legislation and PNA Implementing Arrangements to enforce compliance with FAD tracking and FAD management by 2018.

• The ministers took steps to implement decisions by an earlier PNA Ministerial Meeting and last year's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to halt bunkering on the high seas. Ministers agreed that at the 2018 annual meeting, Parties will adopt a revision to appropriate legal instruments banning high seas bunkering by purse seine vessels as a condition of licenses to fish in Party waters. The ministers also determined that this bunkering revision will take into account the geographical situation of Kiribati, which has three areas of EEZ separated by areas of high seas.

Ministers also agreed that the PNA Office and FFA will conduct a review of the range of issues involved in bringing bunkering into zone, designated areas or ports, through closing high seas bunkering.

Before concluding the 12th PNA Ministerial Meeting Friday afternoon, ministers agreed to accept Nauru's invitation to host the 2018 annual Official and Ministerial Meetings.

## Letter to the Editor

### Vice Principal's parting words to Chuuk State School system

The intent of this letter is to issue my formal resignation of employment from the Chuuk State School System, effective June 19, 2017— But, my hope for this letter is that it ignites a passion amongst my Chuukese friends, both in Chuuk and outside of Chuuk, to stand up and fight for yourselves and your children to have access to a great education.

I have been working in Chuuk since 2013, and for the last 2 years, I have been Vice Principal at Chuuk High School. I am not resigning because of my salary or because of the intense heat or because the slow internet. I am leaving because the Chuuk Department of Education is actively stopping the education of children. The Department that is supposed to support schools is stripping schools of resources, corrupting the use of funds, "losing" paper work, and actively pushing out individuals who desire to see Chuukese children get an education.

I have watched the "reform" of Chuuk Education for 4 years now, and I can honestly say that education as a whole is worse now than it was 4 years ago. Millions upon millions of dollars have been dedicated to "fixing" the education system, but in reality, those dollars have mostly been used to buy favors for the "political elite" and Chuuk State Department of Education employees at the cost of Chuuk's children.

The idea that money is being misused is known by almost all Chuukese, but I am not sure that all Chuukese know the scale to which it is happening, and what it means for their children's future. I want to be very clear that there is plenty of money available to fund an amazing education system in Chuuk (there is plenty of money for new schools, teachers' raises, supplies, and training), but the truth is almost none of the money is actually spent in a real way to improve the system.

My experience as an administrator at Chuuk High School showed me that the root of the corruption, and the major factor opposing Chuuk's children receiving a great education is the Chuuk Department of Education (CDOE) and the Chuuk State Board of Education.

CDOE has not provided contractually obligated raises to teachers, but they give themselves raises. They are not fixing the toilets at elementary schools, but they are renovating their air conditioned offices. They are not providing real, applicable training for teachers and principals, but they take almost weekly trips to the other states. They will not approve funds for Chuuk High School to repair their school buses, but they buy themselves \$25,000 cars, and give their previous government vehicles to

their relatives. They will not provide proper funding for electricity to Chuuk High School, but they are never without power in their offices. They do not pay leave when it is properly submitted, but they take weeks off at a time with zero consequence. Most students do not have a chair to sit in, but the CDOE has brand new furniture. Schools are left without electricity, technology, or supplies of any kind, but the department has countless computers, printers, toner, ink, pens, paper and resources.

The Chuuk State Board of Education, the group responsible for overseeing the CDOE is a travesty. Administrators, teachers, and myself have begged for their assistance, but they have done nothing. They are the largest disappointment and ultimately responsible for the terrible system. They talk big, but never take action. By never taking action, they are collaborating with the easily visible corruption occurring. Several of the board members say they know about the corruption within the CDOE, but they do nothing. They know schools are not receiving necessary funding for supplies and needs, but they do nothing. They know that employees at the CDOE are depriving the children of an education, but they do nothing.

For 2 years, I have fought for the education of your children. I have fought harder for them than I have ever fought for anything in my life, but I have learned I am unable to change the system as an outsider. I have learned that in order for Chuukese to get a great education, it is the Chuukese parents that must stand up and say it is time to end the corruption. It is time for you to tell the system to stop making excuses—make change.

I wish to end this letter by acknowledging the teachers, staff members, and Principal, Jason Reigon, of Chuuk High School.

Chuuk High School is one of the only true beacons of hope for Chuuk Education, and I have had the pleasure of working with an amazing staff. The teachers, faculty, and administrators of Chuuk High School actually care about the children of Chuuk, and they try every day through whatever means available to help your children.

To each of you, thank you for fighting every day for the children of Chuuk. I will miss all of you and pray for you daily to stay strong in the battles ahead.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Shelton  
Vice Principal, Chuuk High School

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

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**This is to inform the general public that Pohnpei Port Authority is now soliciting bid proposals for the renovation of its hanger currently occupied by Caroline Island Air (CIA).**

**All interested bidders Individuals or Companies may submit their interest proposal to the attention of Pohnpei Port Authority's Acting General Manager Mr. Pius Roby email address pbroby@mail.fm. Pohnpei Port Authority shall start accepting proposals from June 23, 2017 and closing on July 09, 2017 no later than 5:00pm.**

**Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposal received in connection with this announced solicitation.**

**For more information, please feel free to contact Mr. Bronson Sam PPA FM & ID Division Manager by calling phone number 320-2793/2682 or by email address sambronson@gmail.com**



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## Chuuk's Premier Traveler's Destination



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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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