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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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Pohnpei sidewalk project from SDA to the airport is under way



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 14, 2017

Pohnpei—Health and safety are two of the reasons that beginning with the 19th FSM Congress, the Pohnpei Delegation began to sponsor bills to improve infrastructure for pedestrians in their home State. It's taken

a while for the paper work, approvals, and bids to be processed but work has now begun in earnest on constructions of sidewalks stretching from Seventh Day Adventist School, through Kolonia Town, and continuing on down the causeway.

Regional consultants have long said that one of the keys to combatting non-

communicable diseases such as diabetes and obesity related illnesses is exercise, and that walking is an excellent form of exercise. The new walkway will provide a safe place for people to walk without having to go around in endless circles as so many committed people currently do at the PICS track.

Senators Ferny Perman and Esmond Moses said that when they were scouting the additional potential for a sidewalk in Palikir the safety component of the sidewalk became crystal clear. They witnessed the moment when a woman who was talking on her cell phone while driving hit a young boy who was walking on the street. They said that the boy was in a coma for four days. He is in the third grade.

The 20th Congress also recently approved an allocation sponsored by members of the Pohnpei Delegation to complete the sidewalk all the way to the airport. That portion of the project is not yet ready for the bid process.

Though streetlights currently exist on the causeway, plans are in place to also provide solar powered lighting for the new walkway.

The walkway will be raised and built over drainage culverts that will stretch the length of the causeway to mitigate the

effects of flooding during heavy rains or exceptionally high tides.

In order to help keep pedestrians safe, there will be a buffer area between the roadway and the walkway to help prevent the possibility that notoriously fast drivers on the causeway will cause them harm. There currently is no buffer. Walkers are left to their own devices to try to keep themselves safe.

VCS won the bids for the sidewalk project from SDA through to the intersection at the Botanical Gardens and also a large portion of the project on the causeway. ACE Construction won the bid for the sidewalk from the botanical garden up to the Tuna Commission.

VCS is currently working on building up areas of the causeway where the sidewalk will go. The company is also currently finishing up a sidewalk project that runs alongside the short road leading to and from the causeway. That project is a variance on the original project to widen the road that was completed earlier this year.

VCS is also working on an additional Congress funded project to build a road behind the Moylan's building in front of the Pohnpei Legislature that will also have a walkway.

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Japanese government hands over construction equipment to PTA

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 4, 2017

Pohnpei—During a ceremony on the front port of the Pohnpei Administration building at 3:00 on December 4, Ambassador Ryoichi Horie turned over a substantial donation of heavy machinery to the Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA).



The donation, worth approximately 52 million yen (\$460,000) not only included two large dump trucks, a fuel truck and a large truck with a “lowboy” trailer but also included substantial training on the equipment.

Ambassador Horie said that he had learned that though PTA has large equipment, some of it previously donated by Japan, the Authority didn’t have anything that could transport it to a work site. PTA had previously been hiring a local company to move equipment for them when they needed on the site. The truck with the

lowboy trailer resolves that problem for the future.

The keys were presented to Acting Governor Reed Oliver who turned them over to the Director of PTA for immediate use.

Hawaii State Representative visits Kosrae and Pohnpei

By **Paul Hadik**

Hawaii State Representative Ken Ito visited both Kosrae and Pohnpei in November to meet with COFA veterans and get a better understanding of the challenges they are facing when they return home after service. Rep. Ito introduced HCR176 in early 2017 to the Hawaii State House of Representatives which urged:

“HAWAII’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM OR PASS LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS FROM COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS

WITH ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL CARE WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.”

This past summer Rep. Ito co-sponsored a resolution at the National Conference of State Legislatures strengthening the call throughout all 50 States to the National Congress in Washington DC to work with the Veterans Administration to address these issues.

This was Rep. Ito’s first visit to the FSM. While in Kosrae he met with veterans and their families for a get together at Bully Hayes’ Restaurant and enjoyed local food and talking with the Veterans.



of the struggles COFA vets are facing and what opportunities are becoming available to remedy these issues. Later that night Rep. Ito met with both Kosrae State National Congressmen, Paliknoa Welly and Alik Alik to find opportunities to get the FSM National Government involved and plan a larger meeting in 2018.

That Monday he met with Kosrae State Governor Lyndon Jackson and Lt. Governor Carson Sigrah followed by a hearing at the Kosrae State Legislature and a luncheon. At the Legislature Rep. Ito and PREL CEO Paul Hadik talked

In Pohnpei, Rep. Ito was able to meet with Benito Cantero, Director of Public Safety. Cantero is an outspoken veteran. During his meeting Rep. Ito once again heard the same struggles that Veterans are facing when they can’t afford airfare

See “Veterans” on page 11



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Kosrae Boxing Club stages first ever boxing tournament in Tofol

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 8, 2017
Tofol, Kosrae—The fledgling Kosrae Boxing Club held its first boxing exhibition at the Kosrae Tofol Gym after just one year in existence.

Founder and President, Greg Ribauw said that the President of the Pohnpei Boxing Club, Mr. Erick Divinigracia helped the club in preparing its bylaws and other details. The club now has 23 members and seven directors on the Board of Directors. It has been operating since December of last year.



13 year old Murson Ribauw, one of the clubs athletes will be leaving Kosrae to return home to Nauru so club members decided to hold the exhibition both as a way of saying goodbye but also as a way of showcasing all of the athletes' capabilities and as a means of raising funds for the club.

They are hoping for bigger and better

things and have taken to seeking donations from local businesses, the Kosrae Congress, recently have used Fundrazr.com as a medium for accepting donations worldwide. They hope to one day have new equipment, their own training venue and a real boxing ring. During the exhibition match, the club raised \$150 which is a start. One of the spectators also donated two brand new 16 ounce boxing gloves and two mouth guards

after the exhibition.

Ribauw says that his son in law, DJ Maaki of Nauru is the coach and trainer for the club. Maaki is a former boxer with a great deal of experience in the sport throughout the world. In 2010, he won a silver medal at the Oceania Championship in Canberra. That same year he also won a silver medal at the World Youth Olympics in Singapore in the flyweight division.

The club was able to send one of its athletes, Dalton Kihleng to Pohnpei for the Liberation games in September to participate in the local boxing tournament there. Funding for the travel and accommodation for both the coach and the athlete was made possible by Bruce Kihleng and the Kosrae State Congress. Kihleng lost by decision but Ribauw says it was a great first time experience for Kihleng and for the club.

Ribauw says that the club currently doesn't have a permanent venue for training. The club uses property outside of Ribauw's house in Malem for their daily practice sessions. When it is raining they use the track and the

Kosrae gym for practices. He says the club started with used equipment such as gloves, skip ropes, mouth guards and boxing pads.

Ribauw says that the club urgently needs donations to help their athletes along their path of success. On Facebook, lookup Kosrae Boxing Club to contact them.

Pohnpei files a third set of criminal charges against former Chief Justice Rodriguez

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 11, 2017
Pohnpei—Pohnpei has filed a third set of criminal charges against former Pohnpei Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez accusing him of six counts of Misconduct in Office.

The fives counts all relate to a checking account at the Bank of Guam Pohnpei branch maintained since 2009 outside of the reach or control of the Department of Treasury and Administration in the name of the Pohnpei State Supreme Court, allegedly under Rodriguez' direction and control.

The first count of Misconduct in Public Office has to do with the very existence of the account which prosecutors allege violated the Financial Management Act of Pohnpei. On June 10, 2014 the Pohnpei State Auditor issued a Management Advisory to the Pohnpei Supreme Court saying that the account was in violation of the act and should be immediately closed and all proceeds from the account forwarded to the Pohnpei

Treasury. The Court did not close down the account.

Count two says that between 2009 and the time that he resigned at the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court he failed to report either any of the activities of the account at the Bank of Guam to the Pohnpei Legislature. The count alleges that he continued to fail to report the activities of the account even after he was advised in 2014 by the State Auditor that the account was in violation of the law.

Count three alleges that he improperly made payments out of the Bank of Guam account outside of the purview of the Department of Treasury and Administration. It says that such an act was a violation of laws that require government funds to be disbursed only by authorization and appropriation by Pohnpei law or to liquidate a valid obligation.

Count four alleges that Rodriguez "made deposits of checks or accepted direct deposits that were made payable to the Pohnpei Supreme Court from donors, obligors or persons making fee payments to the Supreme

Court, and other third parties..." The charges allege that some of those payments were for trips undertaken by the Chief Justice for judicial training or to attend conferences sponsored by non-Pohnpei Government entities.

Count five alleges that Rodriguez used the Bank of Guam account to cover up improper activity such as payment of stipends while also receiving full per diem for travel. The charges say that in addition to receiving those

deposits outside of legally acceptable means, he then drew checks to reimburse himself for per diem and travel expenses after also collecting money from the State government for the same travels.

Count six (incorrectly labeled as a second "Count five" in the charges) accused the former Chief Justice of using the Bank of Guam account to accept and disburse funds from parties in active cases where he was the presiding Justice.

At press time, Mr. Rodriguez had not yet had his day in court and is presumed to be innocent of the charges unless the court otherwise decides after full hearings.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
January 1, 2018**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is
the end of working hours on:
Wednesday December 27, 2017**

Pohnpei Players strut their “hour on the stage” in a magnificent Christmas play

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 9, 2017

Pohnpei—“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” was not some boastful, self-assigned description of a play put on by a group of people with huge egos. It was merely the title of a play written by playwright Barbara Robinson and performed by Pohnpei Players Community Theatre. The title of the play was not intended to be prideful, the plot of the story revealed, but the people who participated in it have absolutely every right to take some pride in a marvelously done and fun performance.

My wife and I attended the first performance when we left the gymnasium of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School we both felt lighter than when we arrived, not only because of the uplifting nature of the story that made this old romantic cry on several occasions but because the cast and crew worked so well together. I immediately went back to the office and posted a Facebook message encouraging anyone who was on the fence about whether or not they would attend any of the two remaining shows to get off the fence and go forthwith.

There may have been some confusion about how to obtain tickets for the performances. The promoters had published that members of the cast and crew had tickets but that there were only a limited number of tickets available at the door. It’s possible that confusion kept the crowds smaller than they should have been for such excellent performances. However, even some people who did have tickets didn’t show. Those people who did show up for the performance were treated to one of the finest events of the year. Those who didn’t lost out on something special.

The performances are over so it is safe for me to give a short synopsis of the plot without spoiling anything. The six children of the Herdman family are unruly bullies from a poor family that run rampant in a small community. They are universally despised and feared in equal measures by everyone in their small town. They learn that if they go to Sunday school at a local church they will get free snacks so they show up just in time to pretty much take over the church’s annual Christmas pageant.

The woman who ALWAYS directs the pageant breaks her leg and Grace Bradley, played by veteran actress and assistant director Kristi Parker, is maneuvered into taking on the production herself. At the first rehearsal the Herdmans end with all of the key roles—Mary, Joseph, Wisemen, and the angel of the Lord—because no one will volunteer for those parts for fear of reprisals. The play follows the sometimes cute, sometimes hilarious antics of the Herdmans as Mrs. Baker tries frantically to make good on her own goal to make this “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”.

On the evening of the pageant the participants have never been able to get all the way through even once, but the church is packed with people who came mainly to see what disaster the Herdmans would create. Grace and her husband whose part was well played by Dennis Gearhart fully expect disaster but something has happened to the Herdmans. They have finally gotten the message of the story they are telling. Imogene Herdman, very convincingly played by Isabella Sipos, has had a tender moment with the doll they are using to betray the Christ child. Through Sipos acting it is apparent that the message of the good news they are telling has reached her heart and everything changes.

The pageant goes off perfectly and tenderly. One of the Herdman boys playing a wiseman decides that a fancy gift of gold, frankincense and myrrh is not what the new family needs and so brings the canned ham that their family received from the welfare department as a special gift that the Herdmans won’t take back after the pageant is over.

The audience is left to imagine what happens in the future, but at least for that one event, they have truly heard and experience the message of Christmas to the shock of the congregation. For all of them, it was indeed the best Christmas pageant ever.

The cast, crew and directors were all volunteers. Just the same, the production was remarkably professional in their adaptability. Unbeknownst to the crowd the stairway leading to stage left broke near the beginning of the performance but the performance went on with barely a hiccup. I was none the wiser until the next day when the Assistant Director, Kristi Parker told me about the incident.

Wayne and Kristi Parker were the director and assistant director. They have vast experience in theatre and wanted to share it here in Pohnpei. Though Natasha Funke had no previous acting or theater experience she brought significant management skills in her role as producer. Spencer Parker acted as Student Director and Stage Manager. Spencer, who is in 10th grade has acted on stages for most of his life, beginning at the age of two. Sandra Wang-Harris served as Production Manager and Music Director. Wang

is an optometrist who also has significant music skills. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Music from the University of Georgia.

The main sponsor for the production was the Embassy of the United States. Other sponsors and contributors were Pohnpei Catholic School, OLMCHS, Genesis, Dar Pingelap Photography, KFC-Kolonia Fried Chicken, Kaselehlie Diner, Ray and Dors, and the families and friends of the cast members. It was additionally supported by a host of committed volunteers.

The community players hope to produce more performances in 2018. If those are even half as good as the Christmas play you will not want to miss it.

You can find the group on Facebook under the name Pohnpei Players.



Happy Holidays



#studentSuccessIsOurSuccess



Photo courtesy of Dr. Mai Ling Perman

DR. NICK SANTIAGO
COM-FSM Class of 2010

Alumni Success

Dr. Nick Santiago is a proud member of the College's class of 2010. While attending COM-FSM National Campus he earned an AA in Liberal Arts in the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP).

Dr. Santiago shared that participating in HCOP prepared him for "further studies in the health field". He credits Mr. Dana Lee Ling, Dr. Mike Dema, and Ms. Jasmin Gonzales for "being great mentors and lecturers". He also shared that he is thankful to all the lecturers at COM-FSM, who are "truly the unsung heroes, and deserve recognition for the hard work and dedication towards improving a student's life".

Nick attended the Fiji National University- College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (formerly Fiji School of Medicine); where he graduated on December 12, 2017 with a Bachelors of Medicine and Bachelors of Surgery (MBBS). He looks forward to returning to his home island of Pohnpei, where he hopes to serve the people of Pohnpei in the local health system.

The college congratulates Dr. Santiago on his achievements, and is proud to be a part of his path to success.

Share your story by
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Operation Christmas Drop 2017 in Full Flight

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola | Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs
| Dec. 12, 2017

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- Operation Christmas Drop 2017 officially took off with the ceremonial "push" of the first pallet at Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) Guam Dec. 11.

Operation Christmas Drop is the longest ongoing U.S. Department of Defense operation and humanitarian airlift in the world. It began in December 1952, when a WB-50 Superfortress aircrew flying a mission over the Pacific spotted islanders from Kapingamarangi waving at them. As a sign of goodwill, the crew gathered what they could, bundled the items, attached a parachute and dropped the package to the people below.

Distinguished visitors at the push ceremony included U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Commander Maj. General Christopher Bence; Joint Region Marianas Commander and U.S. Defense Representative to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing Commander Col. Scott Zippwald; Yokota Air Base, 374th Airlift Wing Vice Commander Col. Sergio Vega; and U.S. Embassy in the Federated States of Micronesia Deputy Chief of Mission Joanne Cummings.

Col. Scott Hurrelbrink, 36th Wing vice commander, Andersen AFB, stood on a stage built on a trailer that fed humanitarian airlift boxes into the belly of a C-130J Super Hercules, which will have its inaugural flight during the operation. In the shade of the hangar, Hurrelbrink addressed a crowd filled with island community members and military partners and shared the importance of the humanitarian event and training opportunity.

"What started with one bundle and one island has grown into an immense tradition of goodwill and partnership that has impacted the residents of more than 50 surrounding areas," he said. "Operation Christmas Drop goes well beyond the reach of this magnificent island because it connects the military, it connects our civilians and communities, alike."

Over the decades, the operation evolved into a multi-national airlift training exercise. This year service members from Andersen AFB, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and Yokota Air Base, Japan, partnered with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) to execute low-cost, low-altitude training air drops.

The 2017 Christmas Drop Committee, a non-profit organization, raised more than 53,000 dollars and received in excess of 20,000 dollars in donated supplies such as tools, fishing equipment, educational materials and toys, among much more. This year, island neighbors located in remote areas in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau will receive the packages.

C-130 air crews from the JASDF, the RAAF, and the U.S. Air Force 374th Airlift Wing's 36th Airlift Squadron from Yokota, Japan will fly a combined 22 sorties, dropping 120 boxes, weighing 65,000 pounds. The Navy and Coast Guard will also assist in deliveries.

Throughout the year, the committee worked with the local community including the University of Guam, local and national media, the Mayors Council of Guam and other Guam government entities to raise the funds and collect the crucial supplies.

"I'd like to personally thank everyone who has contributed to this monumental event from across the whole government to our local communities, right here in Guam, to our most trusted partners, Japan and Australia," Hurrelbrink said. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."



Two bundles soar toward a Micronesian island during the 66th Operation Christmas Drop, Dec. 13, 2017. Over the course of 10 days, the aircrews airdrop food, supplies and educational materials to islanders throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. David Owsianka)

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, AL, UNITED STATES
12.13.2017 Photo by Staff Sgt. David Owsianka 374th Airlift Wing/Public Affairs

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Many FSM transportation needs pinned on one small Chinese plane

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

December 13, 2017

FSM—While it is true that the Harbin Y-12 has arrived in the FSM, there has not yet been a country to country presentation of the Chinese donated plane and has not yet been put into service in the FSM. When it is, it is likely to be based in Yap for a variety of reasons. Not the least of those reasons is United's announced complete abandonment of the Yap to Palau direct flight due to a lack of demand for the flight.

The only remaining route to Yap after January 7 will be through Guam's airport where travelers must have at least a US transit visa.

United's announcement has already affected Yap's economy. According to an article in the Pacific Island Times by Joyce McClure, the Manta Ray Resort, the largest hotel on Yap's main island has already had booking cancellations for their dive and hotel packages worth \$65,000. They expect that amount to at least double as customers learn that their easy flight through Palau will, as of January 7, be much more complicated.

According to McClure's article, Manta Ray Resort often sends customers to other Yap Hotels when they are full. Those hotels and other small businesses will be hurt as well, as the number of tourists dwindles.

Additionally, United's announcement means that foreign contract workers in Yap who do not have US transit visas will be left with no travel options.

Some hopes for relief came with the donation of the Harbin Y-12. It's a small plane with only 17 seats. FSM's President Peter Christian says that some of those seats will need to be removed in order to make room for luggage making the number of passengers it can carry even fewer. It's a small plane to be sure but he still hopes that the plane could be used to establish a regular flight to and from Palau. He said that the FSM hopes to bring in a commercial operator to service a new route.

In the meantime, the FSM can authorize Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) which currently serves Ulithi and Fais, to fly charter flights to Koror on a case by case basis. One of PMA's pilots has been trained to fly the Y-12. One of their engineers has also been trained to repair the plane.

President Christian said that PMA is a non-profit organization and the route really should be operated by a commercial operator. He said that Caroline Islands Air (CIA), the State owned airline, also should not be operating the route though CIA's pilot and engineer, Alex Tretnoff has also been trained both as a pilot of the Y-12 and an engineer for the plane.

Christian insisted that the potential location of the Y-12 in Yap is not at all a plan to undermine or edge out PMA from their operation there.

FSM Chief of Staff Leo Falcam and Master Halbert of the Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure said that full plans for the use of the Y-12 plane are still in the works with a few minor details to handle.

One of the benefits of basing the plane in Yap is marine surveillance. Falcam said that recently, there has been an increase of unlawful sea activity in the area, whether illegal fishing or human smuggling. FSM Marine Surveillance vessels have been based in Yap on a rotating basis to try to combat the problems. The Y-12 could aid FSM law enforcers in their efforts in the area.

But the plane is not yet being used.

AVIC, the company in Harbin, Heilongjiang, China that made the plane has sent four technicians to Pohnpei as part of the warranty service. They will be in Pohnpei for the next six months. Falcam, an experienced pilot said that there isn't a problem with the plane and that it is common for new aircraft to be serviced after being built.

President Christian said that the plane has Pratt Whitney engines from Canada and avionics provided by the United States. "The only thing on the plane that is from China is the body," he said.

President Christian said that another reason the plane had not yet been put into service was resolved this week when Congress approved an allocation of \$1.2 million for the purchase of the parts that the company recommends to have on hand for servicing.

There are more plans for the plane than just routes to Palau and back, and marine surveillance. President Christian said that the FSM hopes to have the 3000 foot asphalt runway in Woleai back in service by the end of January. It had been completely overgrown. No planes have landed in Woleai for a long time.

Though the plant life has been cut down on the runway, President Christian wants to have a pilot have a look to see what needs to be done. He said that the FSM received two bids for complete repaving of the Woleai runway but the two contractors who bid on it came back with prices that were far beyond what the FSM could afford. "It could be that they were thinking about paving a 75 foot wide runway," he said. "If we cut that down to 40 feet it could save a lot of money."

The rehabilitation of the Woleai runway is part of a developing plan for internal transportation that isn't currently available. President Christian said that runways in Ta, Onoun, Woleai and other islands in the FSM could provide much better transportation connectivity for people have previously had no alternatives for travel than to go by sea.

There are too many transportation problems in the FSM than one small plane donated by the government of China can solve. No one at the government is saying it on the record but off the record, the hope is that the Chinese government will provide one more.

Photo Exhibit to Launch Year of Marking FSM-Japan Relations

TOKYO, Japan – The Federated States of Micronesia and Japan in 2018 will mark 30 years of diplomatic relations with a yearlong series of events in Tokyo. The first will be an exhibit of photography of Chuuk Lagoon and Xavier High School by Floyd K. Takeuchi, which will be on display at the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) Global Plaza in Tokyo's Ichigaya district.

"Tropical Light" features 10 large photographs of scenes based in Chuuk Lagoon, and six large photographs of students at Xavier High School, a small Jesuit mission school on Weno Island that has produced many of the Western Pacific's leaders, including the current FSM president and two of his predecessors. "Tropical Light" opens on December 14, 2017 and will close on January 11, 2018.

"'Tropical Light' showcases some of the best of our nation," says FSM Ambassador to Japan John Fritz. "And it's particularly meaningful that this beautiful exhibition will be on display at JICA, which has managed many overseas development assistance projects in the FSM, and has assigned JICA volunteers to our country, including Xavier High School."

The FSM Embassy and the Tokyo-based Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) are co-sponsoring the "Tropical Light" exhibition. APIC is a private agency that promotes relations between Japan and the nations of Oceania and the Caribbean.

"We're proud to co-sponsor 'Tropical Light' with the FSM Embassy. The photographs show Japan the natural beauty of the islands of Micronesia, and the promise of the future that's evident in the faces of the students at Xavier High School," said Peter Y. Sato, president of APIC. President Sato is Japan's

former ambassador to China. APIC's executive director, Shoji Sato, is Japan's former ambassador to the FSM.

Photographer Floyd K. Takeuchi is an American journalist who has spent much of the past 40 years working in the Pacific. Based in Hawaii, he was born and raised in the Marshall Islands and his family lived on Saipan for nearly 20 years.



FSM Ambassador to Japan John Fritz; Ambassador Peter Sato, president of the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation; photographer Floyd K. Takeuchi; and, Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa, executive senior vice president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to open "Tropical Light," an exhibit of Takeuchi's photographs of Chuuk Lagoon and Xavier High School, at the JICA Global Plaza in Tokyo

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World-class training for Robotics Students in Yap

By Habele Outer Island Education Fund

December 12, 2017

Colonia, Yap- Island students have been receiving high tech training in the design and construction of robots as the five high schools of the Yap Robo League work towards their goal of a statewide robotics competition next spring.

Habele's Director of STEM Programs, Amelia Weiss, first met with participating school leaders on Yap in early December. A series of workshops, site visits, and peer-to-peer trainings followed. Administrators, teachers, and select students from Yap High School, Outer Islands High School, Yap Catholic High School, Yap SDA School, and Faith Christian Academy participated throughout.

In addition to the five participating high schools, staff from the Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC) and Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) joined each of the training sessions. These local industry partners are also building robots in preparation for the all Yap State "Robo Day" scheduled from May 22 of 2018. "It's clear the students and teachers are highly motivated," observed Weiss between meetings. "They have the drive, the equipment is coming in, and now we are providing the technical support to help



them meet their goals"

Stateside, students and teachers at South River High School in Edgewater, Maryland learned about their peers on Yap. The Power Hawks Robotics Club hosted Habele's President, Scott Leis, who spoke to the team about the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Yap State, Micronesian culture and the Compacts of Free Association (COFA), which formally link the Freely Associated States (FAS) to the US. Leis also answered questions from students about how they could support the students at their partner school – Yap Public High School.

"The students at South River High School were eager to learn all about the Western

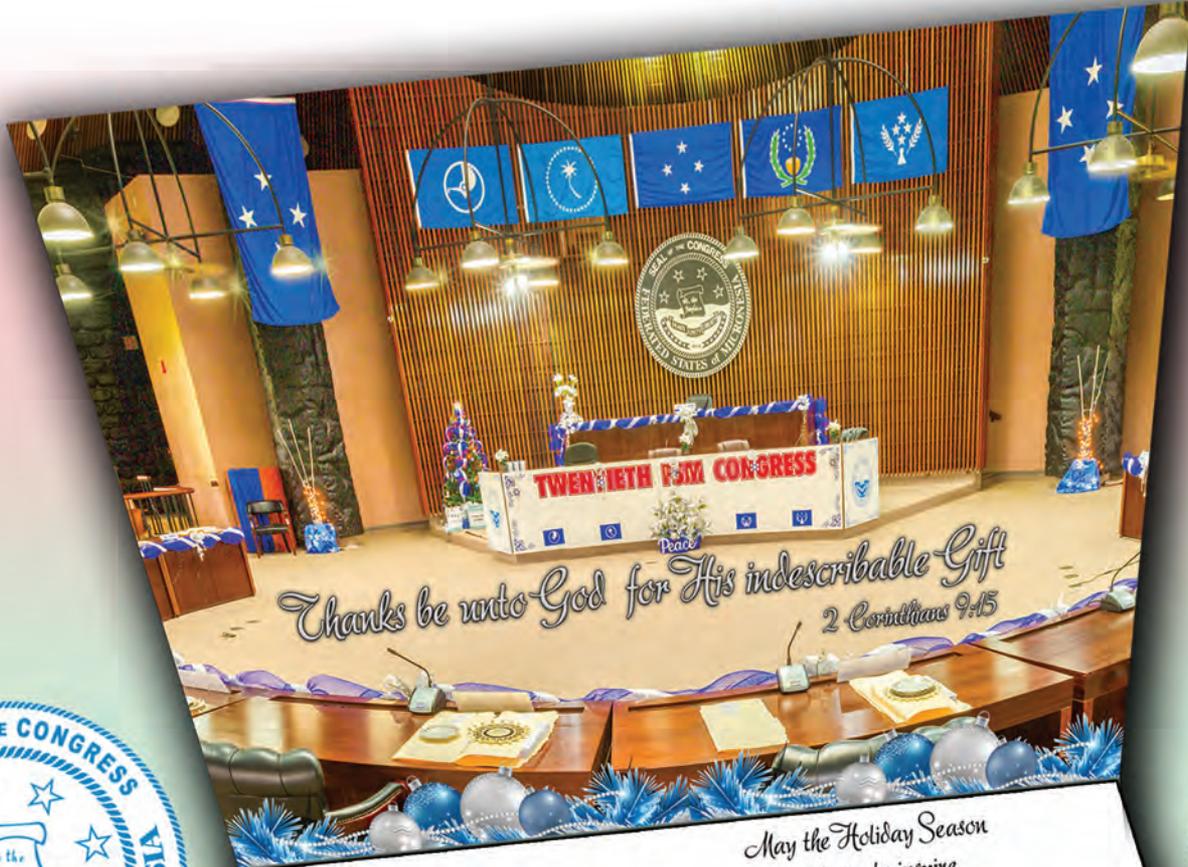
Pacific," explained Leis. "Few realized the geographical realities of life on a remote archipelago or that there is a long-standing, formal relationship between the FSM and US".

On the US West Coast, students of the Eagle Engineering Robotics Club at Chaminade College Preparatory High School packed a dozen boxes of donated robotics parts. These will be sent to Yap Catholic High School, which will distribute the equipment to the five participating schools across Yap State. This donation compliments scores of supplies that Habele has already sent this year, thanks to a Technical Assistance Program grant from the United States Department of the Interior's Office of



Insular Affairs (OIA).

"We are thrilled to be helping our peers in the Pacific," said Coach Tommy Smeltzer of Eagle Engineering. Since 2011, we've been proud to support the teams of the Yap Robo League through donations and technical support, and it is especially exciting to see the League continue to grow and thrive."



*Thanks be unto God for His indescribable Gift
2 Corinthians 9:15*



*May the Holiday Season
continue to inspire
Love, Generosity and Altruism
in each of us.*

*May the New Year bring
Peace, Prosperity and Good Health
to each of us.
So let us be thankful and be full of Joy.*

*Wesley W. Simina
Speaker
Twentieth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia*



Technical Cooperation Project for the Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System by JICA

JICA

December 1, 2017

Kosrae—The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started the “Project for the Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System”. This is 5 years’ technical cooperation project targeted for 5 pacific island countries; Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati, RMI, and FSM. The aim of this project is to promote the deployment of a hybrid power generation system composed of Diesel Generators (DG) and Renewable Energy (RE) by providing technical support for the appropriate & economical operation and maintenance of DG as well as for the appropriate integration of RE, and operation and maintenance of RE. For this purpose, JICA offers technical assistance by Chief Advisor, Mr. Ogawa, long-term expert based in Fiji, and short-term expert team headed by Okinawa Ene-tech., Co, at each states of the FSM, as well as inviting trainees for trainings in Okinawa, and Fiji.



attendance from Department of Resources and Development of the FSM, Kosrae State Government, KUA, YSPSC, CPUC, PUC, JICA-FSM, and the expert team.

Through the JCC meeting, basic design of the project including members of counterpart, method of implementation and monitoring were explained and agreed among the parties. The Minutes of Meeting was signed by Hon. Marion Henry; Secretary of Department of Resources and Development, Mr. Tadayuki Ogawa; Chief Advisor of the project, and Mr. Shinji Shibata; Resident Representative of JICA-FSM with witness of the Lt. Governor of Kosrae, Hon. Carson Sigrah.

As the next main activity of this project, officials from each state will be invited to the counterpart training in Okinawa in February next year to disseminate skills and knowledges on the Hybrid Power Generation System in Japan.

In 30th October, 2017, the expert team made first visit to the power plant in Yap, followed by Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

In 25th November, the first Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting was held at Kosrae State Government Office with

REQUEST OF PROPOSALS

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Federated States Of Micronesia FM 96941
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All proposals will be accepted from December 19, 2017 closing December 18, 2017 closing December 29, 2017 no later than 5:00PM.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals received in connection with this proposal request.

Additional information regarding this proposal request can be obtained from the office of the General Manager Mr. Pius Roby email address: pbroby@mail.fm or the Marketing division of Pohnpei Port Authority, Dekehtik, Pohnpei State, Mr. Luciano Abraham email address: 1485sano1957@gmail.com or by calling telephone No: 320-2793 or 320-2682 for more info.

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Guam's \$14.9 million share of 2018 compact impact funding to support government operations and school building lease payments

WASHINGTON (December 5, 2017) – Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech has announced that Guam's 2018 share of Compact Impact funding, \$14.9 million, is being provided to the Government of Guam for costs associated with providing education, public health, and public safety-related services for the residents of the territory. Guam Governor Eddie Calvo has requested the use of \$6.7 million towards school building lease payments and \$8.2 million towards offsetting government operational costs.

"I am pleased to allocate these funds to cover the costs of priorities identified by Governor Calvo on behalf of the federal government," said Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech. "This funding is allocated by Congress to help Guam address impacts on public services by residents who hail from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshalls, and the Republic of Palau, and ultimately helps bolster public services for the people of Guam."

Compact Impact Assistance to Guam for fiscal year 2018 will support the following:

- \$6,661,550 for the Guam Department of Education School Leaseback Program. Started in fiscal year 2007, the program was to finance, design, build, maintain, and leaseback four public school facilities: Liguan Elementary School; Adacao Elementary School; Astumbo Middle School; and Okkodo High School. Completed in 2008 and 2009, the schools have been occupied since. Leaseback payments will be completed in 2023.

...Veterans

Continued from page 2

for medical checkups or are deprived of some of their benefits due to living in the FSM from where they were recruited.

At the end of the trip Rep. Ito said, "I just want to express my deepest gratitude for the warm welcome I received from my arrival and departure. The reception I received from the Military Veterans and their families the first night was overwhelming. I really enjoyed myself. Mahalo for such an honor.

"I am convinced that the treatment of the Veterans by the US Veterans Administration is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

- \$8,245,121 will be available to the Government of Guam as a general operations offset to reimburse costs associated with providing education, public health, and public safety-related services.

Under the Compacts of Free Association first approved in Public Law 99-239 (1986) and Public Law 99-658 (1994), and later amended in Public Law 108-188 (2003), citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are legal nonimmigrants allowed, for indefinite periods of time, to live, work, and study in the United States without a visa. The final Compact agreement in 1994 terminated what was then the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, providing the U.S. with important strategic denial rights to the western Pacific region between Guam and Hawaii. In 1996, under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, nonimmigrants living and working legally in the U.S. under the Compacts were deemed ineligible for federal public benefits. Thus began what has been a rising concern for the Governments of Guam and Hawaii, as U.S. ports of entry in the Pacific, who have directly borne the cost of public services related to migration under the Compacts, often referred to as "Compact Impact".

In 2003, the U.S. Congress allocated \$30 million annually to Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa to assist in defraying costs due to increased demands placed on health, educational, social, or public sector services, or infrastructure related to such services due to Compact Impact. The funds are currently distributed using a ratio allocation based on a 2013 U.S. Census Bureau enumeration. Per that enumeration, there are an estimated 17,170 Compact migrants on Guam, roughly ten per cent of Guam's total population. The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting a new enumeration expected to be completed in 2018.

Under current law, Compact Impact funding expires in 2023.

"Meeting all the local and National government officials and sharing information and ideas to better the conditions for all the Micronesians was very encouraging and productive.

"Kosrae and the rest of the island chain (of the FSM) is such a beautiful place on this planet and I hope everyone will work to keep it as is.

"I will continue to work with Paul Hadik and PREL to find solutions to these many complex problems."

"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Representative Ito continues to work to better conditions for veterans from the FSM.

New Zealand's Matt Hooper confirmed as next Forum Fisheries Deputy

Forum Fisheries Agency

December 6, 2017

Manila, Philippines--As FFA's Deputy Director General Wez Norris prepares to wrap up his final Tuna Commission meeting with the Forum Fisheries Agency tomorrow (December 7), the announcement of his successor has been made.

Director General James Movick confirmed the appointment of Mr Matthew Hooper of New Zealand to the position of Deputy Director General of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), commencing during the first half of 2018.

Hooper, who spent part of his childhood in Tokelau, and began his career in New Zealand fisheries in 1996, has been serving with the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as the Counsellor (Primary Industries) and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), based at the New Zealand Embassy in Rome.

In making the announcement from Manila, where the FFA delegation is supporting Pacific nations to the annual Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPFC) meetings, DG Movick says the incoming deputy brings significant experience in Pacific tuna fisheries, including the WCPFC, to the role. He says the selection committee was impressed by Hooper's experience in leading inter-agency and multi-disciplinary teams in both national and international negotiations and advocacy at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, and, like his predecessor, an open and collaborative relationship management style suited to FFA's multi-cultural setting.

The Director General, who will complete his own six year term at the helm of the agency later next year, paid tribute to the quality and standard of service to Pacific fisheries led by his Deputy.

"The contribution and impact made by Deputy Director-General Norris during his time with the agency has been lasting and impressive, and the extraordinary level of service from Wez to the organization, and our members, is well-recognized," says DG Movick.

"As he completes his final Tuna Commission in his pivotal role with the FFA team, I know our forum fisheries committee officials, leaders, development partners and stakeholders will similarly join me in welcoming the incoming Deputy Director."



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Japanese Ambassador hosts reception at his home for Japanese National Day

November 30, 2017

Pohnpei—Ambassador of Japan to the FSM Ryoichi Horie hosted a dinner reception at his home to celebrate Japan's upcoming national day in celebration of the 84th birthday of the Emperor of Japan. Vice President Yosiw George and Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick were in attendance among other dignitaries from Pohnpei as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

Pretrick gave a speech on behalf of the FSM extolling the virtues of nearly 30 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and the FSM.

Ambassador Horie also spoke. The text of his speech follows:

"Good evening. Thank you very much for your coming to our national day reception tonight to celebrate the Emperor's birthday. His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan will become 84 years old on 23rd, December this year.

"The Federated States of Micronesia and Japan have been enjoying long and close friendship for many decades and next year will mark the 30th anniversary of our bilateral diplomatic relations. For last three decades, lots of political leaders, tourists, businessmen and students have visited each other's countries.

"From 23rd to 26th October this year, His Excellency Mr. Peter Martin Christian, the President of the FSM, made an official visit to Japan. During his stay in Japan, among many other schedules, President Christian made a State Call on his majesty the Emperor of Japan, had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe and attended a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister. The two leaders have reconfirmed our two nations' important partnership connected by historical ties and close friendship and agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations. They have also agreed to continue to cooperate for various issues bilaterally, regionally and internationally. The Prime Minister Abe offered his invitation to the President Christian to attend the Eighth Pacific Leaders Meeting (PALM 8), which will be held in May 2018 in Japan. The President accepted this invitation.

"Just after the summit meeting on 25th October, in front of the President Christian and the Prime Minister Abe, together with the Foreign Secretary Mr. Lorin Robert, I signed an Exchange of Notes for Grant Aid for Economic and Social Development Program for the FSM, amounting to 350 million Yen, which is approximately 3.2 million dollars. This is one of Japan's continued commitments to the people and the nation of the FSM and I hope this new assistance will promote socio-economic development of the FSM.

"When it was mentioned to the President Christian during his stay in Japan that next year would mark 30th anniversary of the two nations' diplomatic relations, the President has always responded by saying that the people of the FSM count on beyond 30 years because the peoples of the two nations have been connected for more than 100 years.

"Early this month, I visited the State of Chuuk. In addition to my meeting with the State and Local Government Leaders, Businessmen, school teachers and students, I met many Japanese

Chuukese such as the Mori family, Nakayama family, Aizawa family and Hashiguchi family. They are descendants of Japanese immigrants to Chuuk, the first group of whom came to Chuuk more than 120 years ago. They are playing important roles in various sectors in Chuuk, showing a good example of the long and deep relations between the two countries.

"Such long and deep relations are now expanded and strengthened further by young generations of the two countries. A lot of students of various universities and colleges of Japan, such as Sophia, Waseda, Reitaku, Ritsumeikan, Toyo and Konan, are visiting the FSM and deepening their friendship with students of this country and many Micronesian students are studying at various universities in Japan, such as Sophia, Waseda, Reitaku and Ryukyus. Through mutual exchange programs for high school students as well as college students, young generation exchange between Japan and the FSM are now been expanded and further promoted. I believe that our two nations' friendship and close relations will be further strengthened by such young generations.

"By concluding my remarks, on behalf of all the Japanese residents, all the Embassy staff and my wife, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Government and people of FSM."



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CLOSING DATE:

January 8, 2018

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible for all financial matters of MCT. Reporting to and partnering with the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director, the CFO will set MCT financial policy and direction while also being an active participant in, and driver of, the organization's overall strategy. S/he will lead all financial administration, business planning, budgeting and financial projections and supervision of finance staff. As a member of the senior management team, the CFO will work closely with the Investment, Audit and Finance

Committee of the Board of Trustees, serving as the staff support for the committee and leading the annual financial audit process with the selected external auditor. The CFO will oversee all compliance for government and private grants and contracts. S/he must be able to adapt to a continually evolving environment and thrive in an autonomous and deadline-oriented workplace and share the organization's priorities of maintaining international standards in financial management as well as facilitating project management for grantee and technical partners.

Qualifications

The CFO will be a leader with at least 12-15 years of finance experience, including audit, gathering and evaluating financial information, and making actionable recommendations to senior leadership. S/he will have experience managing finance (accounting, budgeting, control, and reporting), HR, and IT for a complex nonprofit with multiple funding sources including government contracts and diverse program areas delivered regionally.

The CFO will have the following experience and attributes:

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- Demonstrated excellence in managing finance, accounting, budgeting, control, and reporting.
- Strong analytical skills and experience interpreting a strategic vision into an operational model.
- An effective communicator, with strong oral and written skills.
- Strong commitment to developing team members.

- Significant experience in or knowledge of nonprofit accounting, including sophisticated fund and grant accounting, compliance and reporting.
- Strong IT skills and experience preferred.

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Letter to the Editor

Concern over dredging of white sand on the reefs of "Parem-kep" or "Kepkepin-parem"

I write as a concerned citizen to the People of Pohnpei, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Conservationist NGOs and the Pohnpei leadership in which the good people of Pohnpei have entrusted to manage and protect present and future interests of the island within the three developing sectors Agriculture, Fisheries and Tourism.

Everyone who was born and still living right after both the US Navy and DOI administrations of our island would simply notice the dramatic changes not only to our modernization standards, but evidently more ongoing alarming impact to our marine environment. The modernization of Pohnpei has a tremendous touch on our social development as well as actual meeting demands of needed/required island growth. Long story short, under the name of progress and development, we are still witnessing the fast rising effects of enhanced transformation and more marine environmental oversight impacts which are still considered overlooked or less responsive.

I believe we have arrived at the point of serious contemplation and to move beyond such stage and begin addressing near future answers. In light of our close connections and encounters with the land and sea we grew up living, consuming and respecting what God has provided naturally. Consequently, in the name of current progress development, we now face unwanted environmental and ecological impacts that may take thousands of years to heal. Traveling abroad, I witnessed a very modernized and developed island nation which is still

self-sustainable under most of her land/sea/tourism economy resources, and as a matter of factm that island does not rely mostly on imports. The country managed her own building construction codes and related development policies or law. It is mandatory there that no building is constructed taller than the tallest tree on the island.

Now, perhaps it is time we must put in some serious thoughts. Please notice that as construction of many types of our infrastructure moves forward, it is manifestly clear that we will not only deplete or offset nature of our valuable concerned resources, but may directly produce a gloomy impact to the normal ecological system of our island. Here we are also looking at sea creatures (both big, small and microscopic) and, moreover the present effects under diverting the steady natural currents which will be for sure affected the land and reef thought erosion and remigration of ocean creatures, also considering the contributing impact of climate changes in the pacific.

I am a frequent visitor of the reefs and believe me it is not a good sight. Nonetheless, my observation is genuine and I don't need to interview the mentioned parties. The sea is beautiful with clear waters, yet I have a frightful notion that the site may not be long for the next generation of Pohnpeians to cherish. I still believe there is a way to look into more effective alternatives to continue progress under less or no damaging impact to our reefs.

Tony Lucios

Praises for the skilled hands of Dr. Padwick Gallen

Dear Editor,

I am a former patient who had my right eye operated by Dr. Gallen. After some hours passed, my sight was restored perfectly. Truly it was the outcome of a successful job that can only be appraised and deemed according to the proficiency and competency of the individual performing and finishing the task.

same work, sometimes with unnecessary consequences and damages. Today, I am among the many witnesses on this (Pei Sarawi) island to receive the talents of the gifted hands of Dr. Gallen.

May the next generation produce at least one more set of competent hands, God bless your good hands for the people of Pohnpei!

Tony T. Lucios

I only wish to convey the fortunate opportunity of the people of Pohnpei and our Pohnpei State Department of Health Services to have a true Ophthalmologist serving within our reach. I can recall several years back, our health services often employed foreigners to do the

Editors note: I also benefitted from the skills of Dr. Gallen and a surgeon from the Moran Eye Clinic who removed a cataract from my right eye and changed my life again. I too am extremely grateful for the talents of this kind and skilled man.

Second Annual Human Rights and Migration Festival

By: Jessi Libbing, IOM—Micronesia

December 9, 2017

Spanish Wall, Pohnpei, FSM—The International Organization for Migration (IOM)—Micronesia and partners hosted the Second Annual Human Rights and Migration Festival on 9 December at the Spanish Wall. The Festival was the culminating event of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence in Pohnpei. The FSM Government, Pohnpei State Government, College of Micronesia (COM)-FSM, Pacific Community (SPC), Australian Embassy, US Embassy, and IOM partnered together to bring the community an array of events during the 16 Days centered around the theme “Youth Building Peace: Activism for Human Rights.” The culminating event of the 16 Days was the Human Rights and Migration Festival.

An estimated 400+ people came through the event between 4-9 pm. Pohnpei Director for Education Churchill Edward and IOM PREPARE Program Officer Victoria Nyawara delivered moving keynote speeches about human rights in FSM and international human rights and migration respectively. Their speeches centered around the Festival’s theme, “My rights, Are your rights, Are migrants’ rights.”

IOM, COM-FSM, Australian Embassy, and Pohnpei State Social Affairs had interactive booths for children. Human rights and migration related children’s games—from twister, to a geography bee, to creative plays and a living flower chain—helped recognize both Human Rights Day (10 December) and Migrants Day (18 December) in the most creative and easily understood ways for kids, and the Pohnpei Disabled Women and Senior Citizens Groups displayed local handicrafts at the Social Affairs booth.

Students from many of the local high schools and COM participated in the Festival.

Students from COM-FSM sang human rights related songs during the first hour of the event. The COM-FSM Teacher’s Corps created an original play for children that told a beautiful human rights story, and students from the COM-FSM Center for Student Life volunteered throughout the event.

Madolenihmw High School students Trudy Orlando, Membereen Orlando, Ande Jr Orlando, A.M. Eliou and Jeff-Ike Eliou performed their domestic violence skit and original song “Break the cycle of domestic violence”, which won the Australian Embassy-hosted 16 Days of Activism High School Skit Contest in Pohnpei this past November.

Twelve students from Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School entered poetry for the IOM-hosted Poetry Slam and performed live on stage during the event. Eliza Woolcock, Chargé d’Affaires for the Australian Embassy, Kenson Santos, Music Specialist for Youth-4-Change, and Nathan Glancy, Chief of Party for IOM held the incredibly tough job of judging the live poetry slam. All 12 performances were

moving, and the scores were incredibly close. Shania Helgenberger Dadius and Rianna Richard won the slam and received prizes that included gift certificates to Ace Office Supply, noise canceling headphones, dictionaries, and other writing items from IOM, journals and other writing and snacking goodies from Ace Office Supply, phone credit from FSMTC, and many other great items from Pohnpei Public Health and Public Auditor’s Offices.

IOM-Micronesia partnered up with the Pohnpei State Government and COM-FSM to hold a 16 Days of Activism Youth Video Contest in the FSM. The Video Contest was open to all COM and high school students in Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap from September to November 2017, and all videos were required to be original content and videography created by the contestants. Videos needed to fit into either a narrative or documentary category and the video topic had to relate to this year’s overall theme for the 16 Days of Activism in the FSM, “Youth Building Peace: Activism for Human Rights” and answer the question “How do you create peace in your community through activism?” The judging panel included Denise Oen, Director of the Institute of Student Learning and Excellence in Teaching at COM-FSM, Patrick Blank from Micronesian Productions, and Kester James, Acting Chief for Pohnpei Social Affairs. The winning videos were announced and aired for the first time at the Festival.

First prize for the narrative category went to COM-FSM students Kenneth, Percy, Ray, Natasha and Sady for their piece on human trafficking. It tells a fictional story of a college student who is trafficked into prostitution and later commits suicide. After the story, the filmmakers discuss how human trafficking is a violation to our human rights.

First prize in the documentary category went to COM-FSM Media and Arts Club students Shallea Yoriko Nanpei, Cyrena Panuelo, Caroline Apaisam, Richynne Gallen, and Shelton “Jun” Neth for their piece called #FSMFACED. This piece tells the story of what four college students are faced with to create peace in their community through their four unique points of view—“Love and Company,” “Success in School,” “Climate Change” and “Peace and Unity.”

Second prize in the documentary category went to Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School freshman students Jade Togonon, Leila Lane, Julia Borda, Yrra Penascoza, and Jazzy Hairens. Their video answers three challenging questions from the points of view of teachers and students at their school: “What can you say about domestic violence?”, “Do you think the cause of suicide is because of the restriction of human rights?” and “Is it okay to disrespect someone because of his/her race?”

Video contest prizes included certificates for professional assistance to finalize and disseminate the first place films from Micronesian Productions, Sharper Image Action Cameras and water proof bags from IOM, \$25 gift certificates from Ace Office supply, \$50 of phone credit and a brand new phone from FSMTC, a brand new tablet from the COM-FSM Bookstore, and many other great items from Pohnpei Public Health and Public Auditor’s Offices, Ace Office Supply, and IOM.

Thanks to donations from Palm Terrace and the US Embassy, Festival goers were able to enjoy grilled food and cold drinks during all of the festival’s activities.

The Festival ended with a screening of “Years of Living Dangerously: The Uprooted,” as part of the Annual IOM Global Migration Film Festival. The Global Migration Film Festival was launched by IOM last year, and it features new films that capture the promise and challenges of migration for those who leave their homes in search of a better life and the unique contributions migrants make to their new communities. IOM’s first global festival in 2016 took place in 89 countries. Nearly 10,000 people attended 220 screenings, including here in Pohnpei. This year’s feature film showcased migration and climate change through real life stories of the challenges that many are facing. “Years of Living Dangerously” asks the questions: What does the future look like under climate change? Is climate migration really a distant threat or is it already taking place now?

This year’s Human Rights and Migration Festival was a huge success. The Festival raised awareness for an array of human rights and asked the public to reflect deeply on what human rights really are, especially for vulnerable groups such as migrants and people with disabilities.

Stay tuned to IOM—Micronesia’s Facebook and YouTube pages where the winning 16 Days of Activism Youth Video Contest videos will be displayed. And remember, activism for human rights doesn’t end now that the 2017 16 Days are complete. Continue to build peace through activism in your own community!



COM-FSM Music Students take a break from preforming at the Second Annual Human Rights and Migration Festival to pose in the photo booth. Photo Credit: IOM/Olivia Blinn 2017



COM-FSM Teacher’s Corps created an original human rights and migration children’s play for the Second Annual Human Rights and Migration Festival! Photo Credit: IOM/Olivia Blinn 2017



Second Annual Human Rights and Migration Festival keynote speaker, Pohnpei Director for Education Churchill Edward. Photo Credit: IOM/Olivia Blinn 2017



Poetry Slam winner Shania Helgenberger Dadius performs live in front of the audience at the Festival. Photo Credit: IOM/Olivia Blinn 2017

Happy Holidays




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