

Kolonia Town moving along with a little help from friends

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 3, 2018

Kolonia, Pohnpei—During Saipan Governor Ralph Torres' visit to Pohnpei to attend the meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Bank, he invited Kolonia Town Mayor Jose San Nicolas to go to Saipan for a visit. The Mayor jumped at the opportunity and made the trip at his own expense just two days after the gala opening of the now heavily used China Kolonia friendship gym.

During the visit, Governor Torres asked San Nicolas how Saipan could help Kolonia Town. San Nicolas said that he first offered help on the problem of recycling of scrap metal that has become a big problem since China banned the

importation of metals. That ban meant that the Chinese owned scrap metal yard in Nett closed down. But Mayor San Nicolas said that Kolonia had already made arrangements with a company from Taiwan, the details of which are in their final stages.

Instead, San Nicolas asked the Governor if Saipan could potentially provide expert trainers for the Kolonia Town Police Department since Kolonia has no police academy. The governor agreed to that and more and has organized a group of instructors that is set to arrive in Pohnpei on May 17.

San Nicolas has written to each of the police departments in Pohnpei's



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Pohnpei could again provide a casino option for tourists for a potential resort investor

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 3, 2018

Pohnpei—Pohnpei's Senator Aurelia Joab made a statement at the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) regarding the Governor's plans to establish a resort and casino in Pohnpei. It was not a new idea but his presentation garnered a strong reaction on social media after a youth delegate posted a video of the speech.

The idea was first introduced by former Governor John Ehsa, albeit on a grander scale than is currently being proposed. Current Governor Marcelo Peterson also mentioned the idea of a 200 room resort when he gave his State of the State address to the legislature. He said that a company was

interested "in establishing a 5-star or 4-star hotel operation in Pohnpei and will be adding an additional 200 rooms." His speech made no mention of a casino operation but Senator Joab's presentation to PATA in Saipan did, though Joab's speech made no mention of any particular investor.

In July of 2016, the Governor issued a call for a feasibility study for a Five Star Eco-Lodge Resort. That call also made no mention of a casino operation.

Pohnpei's Chief of Staff, Joseph Saimon said today that it is true that the Governor submitted a bill to Pohnpei's Attorney General for review before submission to the legislature that if passed would allow for a casino operation in Pohnpei. He said that the provisions of the bill would be similar to the bill that the legislature passed during Ehsa's administration. It would not allow for locals to gamble at the casino but would allow for visiting foreigners to do so.

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FSM and Australia commemorate ANZAC Day at Kangaroo Court

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2018

Pohnpei—In this morning’s pre-dawn hours dozens of people gathered together at the Kangaroo Court, the Royal Australian Navy housing complex, to commemorate ANZAC Day.

The 25th of April, ANZAC Day, is one of Australia’s and New Zealand’s most important national commemorative events marking the anniversary of the first major military action involving Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. Around the world and in every city and town in Australia and New Zealand, commemoration services are held at dawn, the time of the original landing by the ANZAC’s on the beaches

of Gallipoli, Turkey in 1915. It is a day when all Australians and New Zealanders reflect on the sacrifices of so many.

Lt. Commander Lauren Milburn of the Royal Australian Navy gave the welcome and call to commemoration. It was the Lt. Commander’s first Anzac day commemoration in Pohnpei which proceeds universally along a prescribed course no matter where it is commemorated, though the subtleties do vary.

The celebrants were asked to join in the singing of the hymn, “Abide With Me”.

Chief Petty Officer Byron Evans read the poem, “Waiting” written by poet Lee O’Neill.



Australian Embassy’s Charge d’Affaires Eliza Woolcock provided the official address. Australia’s Charge d’Affaires, Eliza Woolcock spoke next. “Australians and New Zealanders had fought in battle before April 1915 but as part of another nation’s forces. We commemorate this as ANZAC Day because it is the anniversary of the first time they fought under the flags of their own countries,” she said.

“Today the first rays of sunlight on the dawn of the 25th of April 2018 in Pohnpei will soon shine for the hundreds of thousands, if not millions, who will be at other dawn services this morning around the world.

This morning Australia’s Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Concetta-Fierravanti-Wells will also be speaking at the ANZAC Day ceremony in Palau, along with Australia’s Ambassador to the FSM, Palau and Marshall Islands, HE George Fraser. The Ambassador passes on his regrets that he is not able to join us here in Pohnpei this morning...

“For Micronesians, today also acknowledges the loss of life and suffering here in Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap during World War II, along with former and current Micronesian Service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend freedom and maintain peace in other parts of the world...

“This is a day of remembrance for the fallen, and of the returned. The words ‘we will remember them’, and ‘lest we forget’, are always part of these services... While all wars are tragedies, we must not diminish the sacrifices of those who gave everything, who put their own lives at

risk to protect others from the atrocity of further war. Harry Emerson Fosdick says, ‘the tragedy of war is that it uses man’s best, to do man’s worst.’

“We do not glorify war, but we are grateful for the willingness of service men and women to put their lives at risk for the good of others; to work together to protect values, and people, not only of their time, but also for future generations unknown to them,” she said.

After her speech, representatives of several nations and organizations participated in the laying of wreaths at the ANZAC shrine.

Mrs. Lara Evans read the traditional “Ode of Remembrance”, which says, “They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old, ages shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.”

The Last Post bugle call was sounded followed by a minute of silence in remembrance.

Reveille was sounded while flag bearers, Maisy and Amos Milburn and Emily and Jameson Evans helped their parents to raise the Australian and New Zealand flags.

The Youth 4 Change choir sang the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems.

After the solemn ceremony, a traditional, hearty “Gun Fire Breakfast” was served on the compound.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Japan officially turns over paving equipment to Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

April 24, 2018

Pohnpei—This morning the Japanese Embassy officially turned over road paving equipment to the Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA).

The donation of the two rollers and an asphalt finisher and their spare parts were worth approximately 41 million yen (approximately \$376,000 USD).

In accepting the donation from Japan, Acting Governor Reed Oliver promised that the equipment would be maintained. He fluidly spoke the Japanese language when he thanked Ambassador Ryoichi Horie for the donation of the people of Japan to the people of Pohnpei.

Before turning over the symbolic keys to the

equipment to the Acting Governor and the Pohnpei Transportation Authority, Ambassador Horie said that he hoped that the donation would help Pohnpei to maintain its roads. He also challenged the Pohnpei Transportation Authority to maintain the new equipment.

Though the equipment was officially turned over today, two weeks prior to the turnover, PTA had already used the equipment to repair streets in Kolonia that had been damaged during the heavy rains that caused mudslides in Pohnpei in late March.

Ambassador Horie witnessed some of the repairs that PTA was able to accomplish in Kolonia because of his country's donation to Pohnpei.



New radio program “Nahlikend En Leng” started in Pohnpei!

Takuya Nagaoka (Executive Director, NGO Pasifika Renaissance) and Jason Barnabas (Assistant Educator, Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office)

The Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office and NGO Pasifika Renaissance has launched a new radio program “Nahlikend En Leng” in Pohnpei from April 25th! This is the second collaborative project of the two organizations, as we began to film Pohnpeian Elders’ stories together to share videos on YouTube (<https://goo.gl/gmoiEo>) from last year.

This weekly program is aired on V6AH at 8 PM every day. We read aloud Pohnpeian legends, tales and historical accounts in the Pohnpeian language and broadcast Pohnpeian Elders’ stories recorded during our video

documentation project. The name of the program, Nahlikend En Leng, is the honorific title of "paret" (in Pohnpeian) or brown noddy tern (*Anous stolidus*). The bird bears news both good and bad, such as the loss of a loved one or other important happenings.

Many older Pohnpeians have fond childhood memories of listening to stories told by elderly relatives before bed. This practice, however, has been largely lost in Pohnpei due to the spread of new media such as videos and games and the decline of the younger generation’s interest in traditional culture.

In Pohnpei, the radio (V6AH) is currently the only media covering the whole island of Pohnpei and its outer islands. This program aims to pass down important Pohnpeian stories to younger generation and to promote the importance of cultural heritage. We hope the program will spark conversations about their culture and history during family gatherings and sakau sessions.

If you are not in Pohnpei, you can listen our programs on YouTube: <https://goo.gl/ykK9CZ>. We would like to thank Pohnpeian Elders, the COM-FSM Library, the Department

of Education and the Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation (V6AH) for their assistance. If you like to contribute stories to our radio program and video documentation project, please phone us at 320-2652. Stay tuned!



23rd Micronesia Islands Forum (MIF) held in Saipan, CNMI

President Peter M. Christian was joined by the Chuuk Governor Johnson Elimo, Pohnpei Governor Marcelo K. Peterson and Yap Lt. Governor James Yangetmai, and their respective delegations, to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), to attend the 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum (MIF) on April 25 – 27, 2018. The MIF is composed of Chief Executives, namely: the Presidents of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the four Governors of Chuuk State, Pohnpei State, Yap State, and Kosrae State, and the Governors of the Territory of Guam and CNMI. The Chief Executives met to reaffirm their commitments on behalf of their people and their governments to the Micronesian Region as a whole, in order to establish closer ties among themselves, continued constructive dialogue and cooperation upon issues of mutual interest, and agree upon initiatives that benefit the MIF members and the Micronesian Region.

The Summit was opened by outgoing Chairman of the 22nd MIF, Guam Governor Calvo, on the afternoon of April 25, 2018 and the chairmanship passed onto Governor Torres of CNMI, who officially called the

23rd MIF Session to order and began his opening statement by welcoming his fellow Chief Executives to Saipan. He highlighted this year's theme of "Navigating the World as One Micronesia" to promote the family spirit of the Micronesian Islands. FSM President Christian, Palau President Remengesau, RMI President Heine, Guam Governor Calvo, Chuuk Governor Elimo, Pohnpei Governor Peterson, and Yap Lt. Governor Yangetmai gave their opening remarks.

The reports and recommendations from the nine standing committees were given, along with presentations on a number of issues of interest in the region and jointly directed action in the MIF respective jurisdictions and were reflected in the 23rd MIF outcome documents. The MIF agreed on the MIF Secretariat's deliverables, cooperation on biosecurity, interventions on climate change and telehealth/telemedicine, and promotion and support of increased transportation access. The Forum concluded with the announcing of the 24th MIF venue to be held in Chuuk, closing remarks by the eight Chief Executives, exchange of gifts, and signing of the 23rd Communiqué, Resolutions and Letters on April 27, 2018.



23rd MIF Leaders (from right to left): Guam Gov. Calvo, Palau President Remengesau, RMI President Heine, CNMI Gov. Torres, FSM President Christian, Pohnpei Gov. Peterson, Chuuk Gov. Elimo and Yap Lt. Gov. Yangetmai

While in Saipan, FSM President, Chuuk and Pohnpei State Governors, and Yap Lt. Governor also met with the FSM citizens residing in Saipan and were hosted by Saipanese families and friends to a Carolinian and Chamorro gathering to celebrate the close ties between the FSM and CNMI cultures. It was announced at the FSM citizen engagement of President Christian's intent to establish an FSM Honorary Consul in CNMI which would need to be processed through the U.S. Government. He requested the U.S. Government representatives attending the 23rd MIF for an "amicable and expeditious processing and approval, in order to provide valuable services and representation for our citizens residing in our neighboring

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands".

In the spirit of cooperation in the area of law enforcement and combating transnational crimes, the Presidents of FSM, RMI and Palau signed an agreement establishing the Micronesian Transnational Crime Unit (MTCU), which is hosted by FSM. Members of the MTCU will work together towards operationalizing this unit and will collaborate in achieving its mandate.

Accompanying the President, State Governors and Lt. Governor to the Forum were officials and representatives from the national and state offices, national agencies and national enterprises.

Snapshot of Pohnpei fish markets reveals holes in regulation

*By Amanda Pampuro
Pacific Island Times*

As more locals in Pohnpei rely on local markets to buy their fish, the question of food safety becomes an ever more pressing issue.

A snapshot study sponsored by MarAlliance, a San Francisco-based organization aiming to support "positive change for threatened marine wildlife, their critical habitats and dependent human communities," suggests that many fish being sold in open markets are sitting in dangerously warm temperatures, making them ripe places for illness-inducing pathogens like *E. coli* and *Vibrio* to grow.

Dr. Kevin Rhodes, the fish biologist who ran the study admitted that the small sample — five fish from five markets — is not enough to condemn local fish markets, but contended that the results highlight a need for regular testing and enforcement.

Since it was founded in 1992, the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency's mission has worked on developing protocols to test and regulate food safety at various locations including stores, restaurants, take-outs and fish markets.

"Nobody's been doing fish testing on the island, for at least the last 20 years

to my knowledge, which is about as long as I've been here," Rhodes said. "There's obviously a lack of sanitation and health standards at the fish markets and that was part of the reason for me to do (the study)."

Donna Scheuring, a consultant with the Pohnpei EPA, confirmed that testing market fish for bacteria and disease is not a priority, but that monthly facility testing is—unless of course [EPA personnel] are too busy. The small EPA office has three inspectors who cover all food-related businesses, including school cafeterias and prisons.

"Inspecting fish markets, we try to do them at least once a month, but sometimes if other things happen, inspectors are called for something else, it doesn't always happen," Scheuring admitted. "We're pretty familiar with the fish markets and all of the food establishments around here, so we kind of know which ones we have to keep more of an eye on and which ones we can rely on doing the right thing and not have to supervise them as much."

Between the sea and the sale, fish need to be kept on ice to maintain internal temperatures of 41 degrees Fahrenheit and prevent bacterial growth.

Scheuring's best guess is that Pohnpei has about 20 markets, and she added that enforcing regulations is difficult

because, "Fishermen are all over the place. ... (and) a lot of the fishermen fish at night."

Because many Pohnpeians work day jobs, Scheuring said most of them rely on fish from local markets. In addition to trusting the sellers not to poison their customers, Scheuring trusts the customer to know what to eat.

"Pohnpeians are experts at looking for good fish," Scheuring said. "It's kind of obvious, the eyes are clear and the gills are pink and the flesh is firm, that's just kind of a standard protocol for how you go out to the fish market to see if the fish is fresh or not, so it's not a big deal for Pohnpeians."

While the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority oversees

the entire FSM, each state has its own EPA with its own rules and regulations. Because it exports to Guam, Rhodes said Chuuk has one of the more rigorous protocols.

While the market represents the end of the line, Rhodes pointed out that a number of important issues concerning the fisheries will impact the future of Pohnpei and the FSM.

"What prompted me to do this study is ... I've seen a lot of declines in markets," he said. "Pohnpei State is trying to develop eco-tourism in the long term because the loss of Compact Funds in 2023, so I was hoping it would incentivize them to improve sanitation and health not only for the consumers but also for what tourists see when they come into the state."

...Casino resort

Continued from front page

"A passport would be required for gaming entrance," he said.

Saimon said that the bill that Pohnpei Legislature passed during the Ehsa administration had a "sunset clause" that has expired. The bill currently on the AG's desk would also have a similar sunset clause for action.

Contrary to what Governor Peterson said during his State of the State address,

Saimon said that no developer had yet been identified but if the bill passes legislative scrutiny, the State would issue a call for notices of interest. An investor would be chosen from those investors who submit notices of interest.

Saimon said that a potential site for the resort could be in Dekehtik or on a property in Madolenihmw.

He said that Pohnpei legislators spent time in Saipan investigating the operations and history of resort casinos there.

Senator Joab was in Guam at press time.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: May 23, 2018

Due to coverage of the PALM 8 meetings in Japan that start on our print deadline, the publication date of the next paper will be delayed by two days to May 23, 2018

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Friday May 18, 2018

...Kolonia Town

Continued from front page

municipalities and to the State Police to invite those departments to attend the training exercises.

In addition to offering the training, which will also include paramedic training, Governor Torres also offered two used police vehicles, a used ambulance, and firearms for the police force along with the shipping costs for those items.

San Nicolas said that he notified the FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice, Joses Gallen of the handgun donation and agreed that the handguns should be shipped to the National Police for safekeeping until legal matters can be resolved. San Nicolas said that he doesn't think that there is currently law on the books that would allow officers of municipalities to carry firearms but that he also wasn't certain whether the law prohibits. He is seeking clarification on that matter from AG Gallen. Additionally, none of Kolonia's officers are currently handgun certified, though the matter of certification will change after the professional police trainers arrive if they are allowed to train with the weapons. That remains to be seen.

He said that CNMI has previously donated handguns to FSM states but those donations were to the states and not to municipal governments in those states.

Some have vociferously questioned the need for an armed Kolonia Police force since handguns are banned in the FSM. In a social media conversation on the issue, Kolonia Town Council Speaker Jack Harris reminded readers that approximately two years ago a lone gunman approached the Kolonia Town hall and started firing live rounds. Four unarmed Kolonia Town police officers had to hide until the gunman stopped to reload at which time they were able to disarm him.

San Nicolas has also mobilized the donation of a used fire engine for Kolonia's fire department. When asked why it would be necessary for Kolonia Town to have a fire department he said that within the first seven months after assuming the position as Mayor, three houses burned down in Kolonia. He said that nothing could be done at the time other than to have the police cordon off the area and to try to keep the fire from spreading further. Pohnpei State now has a fire truck that works but it didn't at that time. The Town Council quickly voted to establish its own Fire Department and has trained fire fighters but no equipment.

He said that the donation of the fire truck came from a personal business contact in Guam, Ross Morrison of Morrigo Guam where VCS Construction buys much of its heavy equipment. He said that Morrison has agreed to donate the 3000 gallon fire truck to Kolonia Town but only if the equipment can also be used elsewhere in the State which will require an MOU.

"All of this is for everyone in Pohnpei," San Nicolas says. "We're doing this for Kolonia, yes, but not just for Kolonia. That's the beauty of Kolonia. We're all together—all different types of people. We're going to share with the other municipalities. That's what we do."

"What will it hurt to have another fire department in Pohnpei? I say, the more the better like in Guam or in the US. There are fire departments in nearly every community."



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As we left his office he pointed to the large sakau stone in the yard of the Kolonia Town Hall. "You see that stone? We had two fund raisers for Pohnpei athletes for the Micro Games

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Assistant Secretary Domenech meets with Micronesia's Island Leaders

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
Insular and International Affairs*

SAIPAN – U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech wrapped up his visit to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands where he gave remarks and met with Micronesia's island leaders at the 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum. Hosted this year by CNMI Governor Ralph DeLeon Guerrero TORRES, the annual summit brought together the governors of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands; the presidents of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia; as well as the governors of two FSM states: Chuuk and Pohnpei, and Lt. Governor of Yap.

"The U.S. Government and the Department of the Interior under the leadership of Secretary Zinke will continue to be bridge-building partners," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "We must strengthen our relationships as we confront serious challenges together, both in the U.S. territories as well as in the freely associated states."

The Assistant Secretary participated in a second day of presentations at the MIF to learn more about regional issues of concern for the islands of Micronesia

such as workforce development, energy, invasive species, transportation, health, telecommunications, tourism, and preserving the environment.

A recording of the proceedings of Day 1 of the Micronesia Islands Forum may be accessed here; the timestamp for the Assistant Secretary's full remarks is 2:19. Proceedings from Day 2 of the Micronesia Islands Forum may be accessed here.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 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. The Office of Insular Affairs' mission is to restore trust and fulfill insular responsibilities by executing activities which bolster healthcare capacity, strengthen island economies, and fulfill U.S. Compact obligations. The Assistant Secretary discharges these responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

Sports Officials Heading to Yap for Micro Games

*Joyce McClure
Yap Visitor's Bureau*

Colonia, Yap. World class technical officials in volleyball and baseball will be in Yap for the 2018 Micro Games, announced Jim Tobin, secretary general of the FSM National Olympic Committee. Supported by a grant from the U.S. Olympic Committee, volleyball referee Hansen Leong and baseball referee John Thomas Flanagan, have been nominated by USA Volleyball and USA Baseball respectively to work with the Micronesian referees and umpires to improve their officiating during the Games that will take place July 15 to 27 in Yap. "We are very fortunate to

have these two certified pros who have participated in world championships provide their expertise during the Games," said Tobin. "It's going to be a great learning opportunity for the Micronesian officials as well as the athletes."



*2014 Micro Games Volleyball
Championship*

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Coast Guard, Navy complete joint OMSI patrol in Pacific Ocean

U.S. Coast Guard 14th District Hawaii and the Pacific

HONOLULU — The Coast Guard and Navy completed a 24-day joint mission in the Western and Central Pacific under the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative to combat transnational crimes, enforce fisheries laws and enhance regional security, Wednesday.

A Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment from Tactical Law Enforcement Team Pacific embarked USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) and conducted 12 fisheries enforcement boardings with the assistance of the ship's visit, board, search and seizure team and law enforcement shipriders from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. All boardings were conducted in the exclusive economic zones; eight were in Federated States of Micronesia and four in Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Coast Guard teams and Pacific Island Nation shipriders routinely conduct combined boardings within the host country's exclusive economic zones to protect the ocean and the living marine resources within.

Boarding teams conducted inspections of the vessels to ensure compliance with individual nation's laws and regulations and conservation management measures. "The goal of combined efforts by the Navy and Coast Guard through the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative mission is to combat transnational crime threats, including narco-trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing," Lt. Cmdr. Kenji Awamura, district response enforcement operations planner at Coast Guard 14th District. "In keeping with USS Michael Murphy's motto, OMSI 'Leads the Fight' in combating these activities. IUU fishing undermines efforts to conserve and manage global fish stocks and negatively impacts economies of Oceania States. In partnership with Australia, New Zealand, France, and the Pacific Island nations, OMSI promotes economic and environmental stability throughout Oceania."

Partnership between the Coast Guard and Navy supports OMSI, a Secretary of Defense program to use Department of Defense assets transiting the Pacific region to build maritime domain awareness, ultimately supporting the Coast Guard's maritime law enforcement

operations in Oceania.

"I am proud to say that the crew performed superbly across all mission areas as well as being tremendous ambassadors afloat and ashore for the United States throughout our deployment," said Cmdr. Kevin Louis, commanding officer of USS Michael Murphy.

The Coast Guard is responsible for patrolling the waters around the numerous islands belonging to the United States throughout the region. Each of these islands has territorial waters stretching out to 12 nautical miles from shore. Beyond that, stretching out to 200 nautical miles is an exclusive economic zone, an area defined by international law that allows each nation exclusive rights to the exploration and use of the marine resources within.

Oceania contains 43 percent, or approximately 1.3 million square miles, of United States' EEZs.



Employment Opportunities



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Instructor-English	Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC)- Pohnpei	\$16,131.00 - \$17, 819.00	May 19, 2018
Instructor-Japanese Language	National Campus & CTEC	\$16,131.00 - \$17, 819.00	May 20, 2018
Instructor-English	Yap Campus	\$16,131.00 - \$17, 819.00	May 24, 2018

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

Charting the Course for the Next Generation

Our Legacy and Our Future

For a quarter century the College of Micronesia-FSM has been committed to developing the Federated States of Micronesia into a stronger, more economically independent nation, one recognized as a leader in the Western Pacific region and across the globe. Today the College of Micronesia-FSM proudly serves as 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.

As COM-FSM approaches its 25th anniversary the condition of our College is sound – arguably more sound than it has ever been. We have sustained the energy displayed in overcoming years of accreditation hurdles and channeled it into an organization-wide transformation. When seen through the lens of 1) a well-defined institutional agenda, 2) sound fiscal stewardship, 3) an outcome-based, student-focused academic program, 4) an expanding organizational culture of participatory governance, and 5) an emergent emphasis on strengthening external relations, today's College has an embedded culture of continuous quality improvement and a sense of unity, success, and pride across all six (6) campuses of the COM-FSM system.

So many have contributed to the transformation of this institution. We have been fortunate to have national and state leaders who understand and support the essential role of COM-FSM in educating for the future. We have been privileged to have a Board of Regents who is well informed, extraordinarily supportive and masterful in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities. As a college, as a community, and as a nation we have come together in ways that assured this college would continue its vital work for students of an entire generation.

All this is not to suggest that no unresolved issues remain nor that new challenges are not already on the horizon. Indeed, if we are to preserve the legacy of COM-FSM's "first generation," we need to be every bit as diligent, focused, and hard-working as we prepare to "confront our challenges and create our future." In these remarks it is my intent to provide the community with a pathway for the College to achieve the goals to which we aspire for the next generation. Any good map needs clear markers. In this presidential white paper I am setting forth those markers to guide us along our way.

Our Journey and Our Destination

The positive position and image of the college in the FSM offers a unique opportunity to bring us to the next level. This "presidential white paper" sets forth a roadmap of our work for the balance of this calendar year and more broadly for years to come.

We need to be continually vigilant to protect the long term sustainability of the college. Among these concerns is to successfully support student success in an era of declining college-aged enrollment compounded by outmigration; to meet workforce needs and enhance employment opportunities for graduates; to build capacity by attracting, nurturing, and retaining qualified personnel; and to maintain accreditation status in an atmosphere of increased regulation by the United States Department of Education (USDE).

We re-dedicate ourselves to reaching these goals through the following steps:

1. Enhancing academic quality and program offerings to ensure student success for the next generation.

- Becoming a bachelor's degree granting institution – establishing the FSM's first bachelor's degree – a B.S. in Elementary Education as a significant step in meeting important national and state needs.
- Continuing to expand vocational and technical programs which meet workforce needs.
- Expanding upon recent progress on college access, student success, and enrollment management.
- Developing an emphasis on college completion by decreasing the time to completion and increasing student satisfaction, persistence, retention, and graduation rates by innovating academic quality and enhancing student support services.

2. Building facilities for the next quarter century by funding and implementing the [\$68.84 M] Facilities Master Plan

- Prioritizing Phase I of the National Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP)
 - Construction of a Chuuk campus, capitalizing on the \$3 million provided by Chuuk State leadership which should assist in facilitating the development and implementation of the campus facility plan.
 - Building a Student Center on the national campus.
 - Creating a Pohnpei Career & Technical Center.



President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D.

- Focusing on the continuing need to attract and retain qualified personnel through professional development, cultural awareness, and salary equity.
- Continuing to prioritize participatory governance.
- Continuing to emphasize and foster high engagement of stakeholders in the planning and assessment process.

3. Building endowment to the \$10 million goal to support future programs & operations.

- Expanding institutional advancement efforts by building upon growing institutional fund-raising, grant-writing, and endowment-building capacity, capitalizing on the College's 25th anniversary celebration, expanding alumni outreach and extending the reach of the Friends of COM-FSM Foundation.

4. Investing in the College's people to build capacity

5. Strengthening resources to meet current and future needs

- Prioritizing balanced budgets, diversifying revenue, reducing operating costs, aggressively conserving energy, and following fiscal best practices which strengthen fiscal integrity.
- Building bridges to government funding sources at all levels. Monitoring the rapidly changing enterprise risk management environment of higher education.
- Monitoring COM-FSM's comprehensive, integrated master plan that systematically links financial resources with the long term educational goals of the college.
- Mobilizing the strategic planning process to develop contingency plans, collaboration with the national government, and outreach to the U.S. Departments of State and Interior in anticipation of Compact 2023 expiration.

Our Future in Our Hands

On February 6th, 2012 we joined together for the first time. We reaffirmed our commitment to teaching and learning, our commitment to research and scholarship, our commitment to the mission, and our commitment to our core values. Now we mark the 25th anniversary of our College's founding with celebrations – not that we have survived, but that we have thrived.

The positive position and image of the College in the FSM offers a unique opportunity to take us to the next level. A door has opened wide which invites efforts to build an even stronger relationship between the college and the communities it serves. A recent study found that the annual economic impact COM-FSM to the FSM economy is more than \$46.5 million. Nearly half of that impact is due to the Pell Grants and other student assistance programs. In the past 5 years, the impact of new COM-FSM graduates on the FSM economy exceeds \$18 million. A strategic and tactical approach with state and national leadership, will ensure the communities' needs are articulated and appropriately met. Let us continue this journey with dedication and focus to confront our challenges and create a future ensuring quality, sustainability and success for COM-FSM, the students we educate and the nation we serve.

This we will do, and in this we will succeed. To succeed, we must all work to ensure that we are upholding the mission of the college and working toward the collective vision that we set for the institution. We must assess and continuously improve our institution's quality and work to achieve greater success of our students. We will undertake this work together. We must all participate. We must communicate well. This is the job that has been entrusted to us by our community and our nation of behalf of the next generation of students and their families.

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

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E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Ocean View Hotel Restaurant and Bar sponsors fishing tournament

Pohnpei Fishing Club

March 31, 2018

Pohnpei--We had a fine day for a tournament on Saturday, March 31, 2018. A big thanks to Ocean View Hotel, Restaurant and Bar. They put on a nice day out. The rain held off for most of the tournament right up to the prize giving.

There were a lot of fish caught. Two marlins were caught but were unfortunately underweight. Our biggest condolences go to Dane Nighswander, a junior angler who landed a 97.5 pound marlin, just 2.5 pounds underweight. He would have had the biggest fish in the tourney.

The following is the breakdown of the prizes. There were a lot of good prizes to be won. Lara Trott had the biggest fish of the tourney with 37.5 pound yellow fin. I had some of that and it was tasty. We had a tie for 3rd place with a father son combo which is heartwarming and special. It was a day to look back upon. We also had some visiting kids place in the junior angler category.

We want to thank all of the volunteers and helpers, especially Bill, Tina and Kumer's guys on the boom truck. Uta sold hot dogs for the Pohnpei Public Library and the money she raised was

PRIZE CATEGORIES

1st PLACE \$500.00
2nd PLACE \$400.00
3rd PLACE \$250.00
3rd PLACE \$250.00
5th PLACE \$150.00

1st LA \$150 & GC
2nd LA \$75 & GC
2nd LA \$75 & GC

1st JR \$75 & GC
2nd JR \$50 & GC
3rd JR \$25 & GC

BIGGEST OF EACH SPECIES \$100

BIGGEST WAHOO
BIGGEST MAHI MAHI
BIGGEST SKIPJACK

increased by a generous \$200.00 donation by Ocean View. Thank you Ocean View for helping the kids.

All in all it was a good time. Many thanks to the sponsors and all who participated.

Editor's Note: The editor would like to apologize to the sponsors and to the Pohnpei Fishing Club for not publishing the article on this tournament much earlier.

BOAT NAME ANGLER SPECIES WEIGHT

BIGGEST					
PEPE EREPANI	LARA TROTT	YELLOWFIN	37.5lb		
BAVARIA II	AJ CHOCHOL	BARRACUDA	34lb		
BRIANNA	TOMMY REIHER	WAHOO	29.5lb		
BRIANNA	LANCE REIHER	WAHOO	29.5lb		
BAVARIA II	TEMBY COMPRIU	BARRACUDA	19lb		

LADY ANGLER

PEPE EREPANI	LARA TROTT	WAHOO	24.5lb
PEPE EREPANI	LARA TROTT	MAHI MAHI	12lb
SPLASH 2.0	BERNO HEDSON	BARRACUDA	12lb

JUNIOR ANGLER

BRIANNA	LANCE REIHER	WAHOO	18lb
POHNPEI SURF CLUB	KAI	MAHI MAHI	12.5lb
POHNPEI SURF CLUB	TOMMY	MAHI MAHI	10.5lb

HAPPY HOOKERS	ALEX VANNIER	WAHOO	16lb
HAPPY HOOKERS	CHUCK HANDY	MAHI MAHI	16lb
POAWOAWOA	WELBER DAVID	SKIPJACK	12.5lb



PII in limbo as judge axes hearing

Marshall Islands Journal

Pacific International Inc.'s claim against the FSM government is currently in legal limbo, after an FSM Supreme Court judge abruptly cancelled a scheduled hearing for February 23 and has not issued notice for a new hearing nearly two months later.

At 5:15pm on February 22, FSM Judge Bealeen Carl-Worswick "vacated" a hearing scheduled for the following day, "due to a scheduling conflict." She said "the court will reschedule this matter by future court order."

As of this week, eight weeks since the hearing was cancelled, no new hearing date has been scheduled by Carl-Worswick.

A major pending issue is PII's motion before the judge to put a hold on the

litigation and "compel the parties to arbitrate their claims."

The arbitration motion follows on a 2015 mediation session between the FSM government and PII at which a written agreement was reached to partially settle the dispute over the Chuuk road project based on a conditional payment to PII and then proceeding to binding arbitration. After the agreement was signed, the FSM government said it could not bind the FSM Congress to the agreed-to \$2 million payment because the Congress and not the executive branch has authority for spending. Judge Carl-Worswick also rejected a summary judgment motion by PII, saying without the concurrence of both President Peter Christian and the FSM Congress, the mediation agreement was unenforceable.

However, despite this, there was no dispute over the plan to send the dispute to binding arbitration, said PII attorney Thomas Tarpley, who is based in Guam. "The parties agreed that the entire dispute would be submitted to and decided by arbitrators regardless of the settlement terms, which would be addressed post-arbitration," said PII's motion to the court to order the dispute to arbitration.

But the FSM Attorney General's office opposed the move, saying "it does not appear that PII is ready or prepared to proceed to trial. "Instead, it appears appears that PII is again tempting to enforce the terms of the June 3, 2015 document which has previously been presented to and rejected by the court as legally enforceable," said FSM Assistant Attorney General Craig Reffner.

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Second World Tuna Day fishing tournament attracts record number of anglers

Pohnpei Fishing Club

April 28, 2018

Pohnpei—Taiyo Micronesia Corporation, Kasar Fishing Corporation, and the National Fisheries Corporation sponsored a huge fishing tournament in conjunction with World Tuna Day with thousands of dollars in prizes awarded to the top anglers.

The tournament was a one day tournament. Boats left between the hours 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. in the morning and had to get back for the weigh in from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Mangrove Bay.

The sponsors did a great job. Many thanks to Taiyo, Kasar and our own NFC for sponsoring this tournament again and making it successful. In addition to the cash prizes sponsors provided free registration of \$25.00 for all of boats and provided t-shirts.

With the major prize money available, lots of boats signed up. 41 boats entered the tournament and it was our biggest one ever. The following is the listing of prizes and winners. The prizes were really spread around and biggest of species prizes were awarded in a category of small boats with 40 horsepower motors or less and another for boats with larger motors.



Congratulations to all the winners. The tournament was very successful and the weigh in, though wet, was a lot of fun. Check out the Pohnpei Fishing Club Facebook site for some photos.

The weather caused some boats to be delayed in getting back but all boats returned safely. Safety is a big concern but no one needed to set off their epirbs.

Hot dogs and sausages were supplied at the weigh in with proceeds going to the Pohnpei Public Library. Thanks Uta and her helpers. Also we had great live music provided by the sponsors performed by last year's World Tuna Day performance contest winners, Richard and Raychel Narruhn of Madolenihmw.

Also many thanks to Tina, Andy, James, Ansper and everyone else who helped with the weigh in. We had some pretty girls giving out the awards.

Once again, thanks to the sponsors, Mangrove Bay and everyone involved who helped out. Great tourney.

The Annual Tournament is coming up May 10 and 12. Get ready.

PRIZE AWARDED (CASH)

- \$1100.00
- \$850.00
- \$650.00
- \$450.00
- \$350.00

1ST & 2ND WAHOO

- \$250.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST SKIP JACK

- \$250.00
- \$150.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST MAHI MAHI

- \$250.00
- \$150.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST YELLOWFIN

- \$250.00
- \$150.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST BARRACUDA

- \$250.00
- \$150.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST DOGTOOTH TUNA

- \$250.00

1ST & 2ND LADY ANGLER

- \$250.00
- \$150.00

1ST & 2ND JUNIOR ANGLER

- \$250.00
- \$150.00

1ST & 2ND WAHOO

- \$300.00
- \$200.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST SKIP JACK

- \$300.00
- \$200.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST MAHI MAHI

- \$300.00
- \$200.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST YELLOWFIN

- \$300.00
- \$200.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST BARRACUDA

- \$300.00
- \$200.00

1ST & 2ND BIGGEST DOGTOOTH TUNA

- \$300.00

1ST & 2ND LADY ANGLER

- \$300.00
- \$200.00

1ST & 2ND JUNIOR ANGLER

- \$300.00
- \$200.00

ANGLER	SPECIES	WEIGHT
JUN HAWLEY	MARLIN	108.4
KONRAD ENGLBERGER	DOGTOOTH	59.7
NICK GILMETE	YELLOWFIN	37.2
STEVE FINNEN	BARRACUDA	30.6
MARIA SPEGAL	YELLOWFIN	25.5

SMALL BOATS

BERU MENDIOLA	WAHOO	15.2
---------------	-------	------

EUGENE KOHLER	SKIP JACK	18.5
WELBER DAVID	SKIP JACK	13.2

ROYLEE LOWE	MAHI MAHI	18.2
RENSONHELGENBERGER	MAHI MAHI	15.2

ANSPER GEORGE	YELLOWFIN	24
SPENCER MIKEL	YELLOWFIN	8.1

COSDAN AMOR	BARRACUDA	18.7
RODNEY PHILLIP	BARRACUDA	17.8

SNYTER BIZA	DOGTOOTH	9.2
-------------	----------	-----

MARIA SPEGAL	YELLOWFIN	11.9
NATASHA VICTOR	SKIP JACK	8.8

SANTRIGO IOANIS JR	WAHOO	14.7
HARLEN HENRY	BARRACUDA	10.3

BIG BOATS

NIXON DIKEPA	WAHOO	14.3
FELETI TEO	WAHOO	12.3

MARSON MARK	SKIP JACK	12.3
STANLEY PETER	SKIP JACK	8.6

DANE NIGHSWANDER	MAHI MAHI	13.4
ISAIAH HAWLEY	MAHI MAHI	12.7

MYLANI ALEXANDER	YELLOWFIN	9.9
LARA TROTT	YELLOWFIN	9

JORDAN ADAMS	BARRACUDA	12.1
ESPERANZA GUIUAN	BARRACUDA	12

NIXON DIKEPA	DOGTOOTH	8.5
--------------	----------	-----

TEMBY CAPRIO	BARRACUDA	14.9
MARY TRETNOFF	BARRACUDA	13.2

NOAH ADAMS	WAHOO	14.3
ISAIAH HAWLEY	WAHOO	12.3

“Read, Know, Grow” at this year’s Library Week

This year Pohnpei Public Library celebrated its 33th Anniversary with a “Library Week,” from Monday, April 23 to Friday, April 27. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Read, Know, Grow”. On April 24, International Organization of Migration (IOM) did a presentation on climate change that was participated by a group of students from Ohmine School called the Ohmine Environmental Club.

On Friday evening, the library held a special celebration to commemorate the anniversary and to recognize essay and art contest winners. This event began with a prayer by Wahnporon Bruce Robert followed by welcoming remarks by Head Librarian Lester Ezekias. This year, library was fortunate to have Mr. Atarino Helieisar, Chief Law Librarian for the FSM Supreme Court Law Library, to be the Keynote Speaker of the evening. On his speech, he shared the importance of reading and how it can lead to success.

The program ended with the presentations of awards to the students who were selected as winners for the art and essay contest. Art winners were Naven Jay, ECE, Awak School; Gibson Sohs, ECE, Awak School; Lishallay Sanel, ECE, Sapwalap School; Marsha Amor, 1st grade, Awak School; Grace Rodriguez, 1st grade, CCA School; Frank Primo, 1st grade, Awak School; Jayne Hadley, 2nd grade, Awak School; Jared Castro, 2nd grade, CCA School; Ariel Alosima, 2nd grade, CCA School; Ahlai Ehmes, 3rd grade, CCA School; Vera Pelep, 3rd grade, Awak School; Melon Maya Helgenberger, 3rd grade, Palikir School; Cwissyella Elimo, 4th grade, Nett School; Lotoya Ladore, 4th grade, Awak School; Lavinya Ladore, 4th grade, Awak School.

Essay winners were Caroleen Eliam, 5th grade, Ohmine School; Mariza Mellan Hawley, 5th grade, Awak School, Aldred Rodel Tecson, 5th grade, Kolonia School; Beulah Tamani, 6th grade, Nett School; Faith Jewel Wynn, 6th grade, SDA School; Jayne Fredrick, 6th grade, Seinwar School; Isabella Kostka, 7th grade, Awak School; Keavae Adams, 7th grade, CCA School; Vanicka Oliver, 7th grade, Nett School; Jesian Lawrence, 8th grade, Ohmine School; Kekoa Apis, 8th grade, Nett School, Kacheana Tolenoa, 8th grade, Nett School; Theo Thiesen, 10th grade, SDA School; Shaquille Nimea, 10th grade, SDA School; Audrey Antreas, 10th grade, Our Lady of Mercy; Rhea Tisha Kephass, 11th grade, Our Lady of Mercy; Nick Raifmai, 11th grade, Our Lady of Mercy; Mermy Jeanette Yamada, 11th grade, SDA School; Gary Olter, 12th grade, Our Lady of Mercy; Kiana Edwin, 12th grade, CCA School; Alliyah Tecson, 12th grade, SDA School.

Pohnpei Public Library wants to express its gratitude to the following businesses, individuals and agencies for their contributions and support that made this Library Week successful one. Sponsors include Ms. Denise Oen, Ms. Maria Isabele Lojan, Ms. Catherine Allen, Mr. Lucas Cupps, Ms. Alsihner Kusto, MicroPc.fm, Pohnpei Rotary Club, Ocean View- West Wing, Ohmine Environmental Club, International Organization for Migration, Sea Breeze, Nihco Store, Joy Restaurant, Isamu Nakasone Store, FSM Development Bank, China Star Restaurant, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, Ace Office Supplies, Ace Hardware, 4-TY Enterprises, Kaselehlie Diner, Palm Terrace, Pohnpei Arts & Crafts, Pohnpei Hardware, Pohnpei LP Gas, and Pohnpei Service Station.



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3. Review Bank Cash, Due From and Fed Funds positions
4. Prepare Month End Financial Statements and Board of Directors Reports, including monthly Financial Analysis
5. Prepare Year End Statements, including footnotes for Certification by CPA firm.
6. Prepare Monthly and Quarterly Regulatory Reports for FDIC and FSM Banking Board.
7. Prepare all ALCO Reports for the quarterly meeting, including:
 - Interest Rate Risk Analysis
 - Interbank Liabilities Analysis
8. Prepare Annual Operating Budget
9. Other duties may assigned

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. College Degree with 2-5 years banking experience in the accounting department of an FDIC insured bank or equivalent.
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3. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
4. Excellent analytical and organizational skills.

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Fax. (691) 320-5359
Email: bofsmhq@bofsm.fm

OPEN/CLOSING DATE:

April 26, 2018 – May 26, 2018

Interested candidates may contact information above or email resume to:
Ralph Grubbs, SVP/COO
Email: rgrubbs@bofsm.fm

Merli Y. Weital, HRM
Email: mweital@bofsm.fm

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Pacific maritime leaders see community based approach as key to improving safety at sea

25 April 2018

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea-Participants at the Third Domestic Ship Safety Forum have recommended adopting a community based approach involving end users of domestic ship services to improve safety at sea.

The Third Domestic Ship Safety Forum was organised by the Pacific Community (SPC), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Government of Papua New Guinea. The forum was attended by representatives from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, along with regional and international partners.

The gathering provided an opportunity to examine challenges and discuss possible solutions for emerging and persistent issues in relation to domestic shipping safety in the Pacific as well as consider the responsibilities of ship operators and maritime administrations in this matter.

Speaking at the official opening of the Forum, the Hon Westly Nukundj, Papua New Guinea's Minister for Transport and Infrastructure said, "We acknowledge that this meeting with support from the regional and international maritime organisations plays an important role in facilitating discussions that are mutually beneficial to our countries. It provides an avenue to stimulate solutions to common challenges while identifying priorities for inclusive and sustainable development."

Domestic ship services are a major part of the transport system in Pacific Island Countries and while issues relating to ship safety in the region remain an ongoing challenge, the potential of adopting a more community based approach was proposed as a way to make significant progress towards safety at sea. Participants agreed to explore ways to promote a community-based approach towards safe, accessible, green and efficient domestic shipping that supports resilient development of Pacific communities.

Bekir Sitki Ustaoglu, Head Asia-Pacific Section of IMO Technical Co-operation Division highlighted the importance of ensuring maritime safety is seen as a common priority for both government and industry leaders saying, "This is a platform where we are trying to obtain direct input from all stakeholders in matters related to the safety of domestic ferries. The dependence of Pacific Islanders on inter-island shipping is of paramount importance and every effort must be made by government and industry alike to ensure that only safe ships sail."

Thierry Nervale SPC's Deputy Director for Oceans and Maritime, stressed his organizations support for a more community based approach and committed to providing the technical support required to implement this methodology. "Providing technical support to ship operators and maritime administrations is at the core of our programme.", said Mr. Nervale, "SPC will support the implementation of the forum activities and a new approach towards safer domestic shipping focusing on community needs requires improved maritime governance."

The Forum reiterated that all stakeholders in the Pacific, work towards ensuring that all vessels operate in a sound and safe condition, posing no danger to the lives of those on board or to the marine environment.



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More fish imports from Chuuk on Guam's SNAP days

By Gina T. Reilly

A research that looked at 12 years of commercial reef-fish trade data between Chuuk and Guam revealed a relation between increased exportation of fish products to government Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) disbursement trends on Guam.

The SNAP disbursement factor is just one findings in a University of Guam Marine Laboratory research called, "Disentangling Economic, Social, and Environmental Drivers of Coral-Reef Fish Trade in Micronesia" by Javier Cuetos-Bueno and Peter Houk.

The study covered commercial fishing trends from 2003 to 2014. As a federal program, SNAP provides nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families. Using their monthly SNAP allowance, those who are eligible can obtain food items such as meat, fish, and vegetables from retailers. Current data indicate nearly one third of Guam residents participate in the program.

According to the study, "SNAP recipients are believed to account for an important proportion of reef-fish demand in Guam, but no data are available to quantify their contribution." However, the study noted a relationship between commercial fish exports from Chuuk and SNAP disbursement patterns. When reef-fish exports from Chuuk "increased steadily between 2003 and 2010 due to consumer demand on Guam, it was at a time when SNAP disbursements also doubled.

After this period, the study said "a decoupling of SNAP issuance and annual exports followed the 2010 peak." Between 2010 and 2014, importation decreased by an average of 25 metric tons per year, at an overall decrease of around 48 percent. "This decline was driven by reduced profitability, as large increases in fish acquisition and airfreight costs reduced profits beyond sustainable thresholds," according to the study.

But looking at daily export trends, SNAP disbursement days also impact the amount of reef-fish exported to Guam. The study said "proximity to SNAP-days became the dominant predictor of modern daily exports, as larger proportions of Chuuk fish have increasingly been exported to Guam around these high-demand days."

"Daily exports were 30 percent and 18 percent higher than the overall monthly mean during the SNAP allowance days, and the days before-after respectively, with less variation on other days," the study said.

During the research period, export rates of reef-fish from Chuuk averaged at 148 MT per year, ranging from a minimum export rate of 108 MT in 2014, to a maximum of 206 MT in 2010. The fish imports had an average gross retail value of \$1.5 million. According to the

study, Chuuk and the other island had been a source of reef fish for Guam since local production cannot fulfil growing consumer demand. For the past decades, Chuuk has transported fish to Guam to support this need.

However, with less fish importation from Chuuk, Guam's local fish markets are now moving outside the Micronesian region to source out frozen reef-fish products. The study noted that evidence of similar expansions is "becoming increasingly noticeable

across the tropics, highlighting growing concerns for small-scale fisheries in remote locales."

The research captured both inter-annual and intra-annual trends on reef-fish trade between the two locales by examining different economic, social, and environmental drivers. From a global perspective, the study said that looking at these drivers would help understand and manage coastal fishery resources in the area.

Visiting cardiologists impact Pohnpeians' lives

C. Becket Mahnke, MD
Pediatric/Congenital Cardiology
Honolulu, Hawaii

At the request of Dr. Payne Perman, the pediatric cardiology team visited Pohnpei State from March 12-16. The team consisted of Dr. Mahnke (cardiologist) and Ms. Inafuku (cardiac sonographer). Mahi International and Pohnpei Echo Lab graciously co-sponsored our trip. This was this team's third trip to FSM (prior trips to Yap in 2016 & 2017), but our first to Pohnpei state.

Our first day consisted of Cardiology consultation in the outpatient department. We evaluated 31 patients who had been selected due to disease complexity and/or prior recommendation for off-island referral.

Key findings:

-13 patients had congenital/structural heart defects. None required urgent surgical intervention. One is a good candidate for consideration via the Pacific Island HealthCare Program at Tripler. Two were unfortunately not good surgical candidates and as such I would not pursue aggressive surgical intervention given the disease complexity and resource limitations. Several others will likely require surgical intervention in the future, but can be followed for now.



-The remaining 18 patients were seen for issues related to Rheumatic Fever. Three of these have severe disease despite maximal medical treatment and should have surgical intervention if possible. Two would be good candidates at Tripler Army Medical Center (one is actually a US Army veteran). The other is too complex for surgery at Tripler so other options should be entertained. The remaining RHD patients must of course continue on Penicillin prophylaxis and attend routine surveillance visits with Dr. Perman. I am happy to review difficult/complex cases as requested.

The remaining days on Pohnpei were dedicated to Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) screening of school children. Dr. Perman has been leading these efforts since 2016 and has done a remarkable job. Our team's primary role was to help train the non-physicians (Wefonne and Jade) on the use of the two new handheld echocardiography machines (GE Vscan device, graciously donated by the Rotary Club of Pohnpei).

During 4 busy days we screened approximately 800 children and discovered over 30 undiagnosed cases of RHD. These numbers are consistent with Dr. Perman's findings at other schools in Pohnpei. These new cases can now receive monthly penicillin treatment, which will prevent progression of RHD (and thus avoid the need for costly surgery). In addition, Wefonne and Jade were trained and are now fully capable



of doing RHD screening on the new devices!

We also enjoyed several wonderful meals and great conversation with Secretary Walter, Director Capelle, Dionis Saimon and several local Rotarians who contributed to this work. And of course we cherished the mangrove crab feast with Dr. Perman's family!

We were honored to participate in Dr. Perman's RHD screening program, and very pleased to have helped train the local staff on the new devices. Wefonne Billen is a wonderful resource and I am so pleased to learn she will be dedicated to the RHD program full time. We are also indebted to John Schroer who not only facilitated the trip but also facilitated the many logistical details required to make school screening successful.

Dr. Perman and I discussed next steps, and I will send a separate report soon regarding my recommendations (for both RHD and the care of congenital heart disease patients). Please reach out to me at CBecketMahnkeMD@gmail.com or 808 780-8835 for any questions.



Pacific Community adopts its first Social and Environmental Responsibility Policy

25 April 2018

Nouméa, New Caledonia – A Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER) policy applies to all the work of the Pacific Community (CPS) since 3 April 2018. On that date it was approved by SPC Director-General, Colin Tukuitonga. The SER policy aims to manage the social and environmental risks and impacts inherent to all SPC activities in an ethical and sustainable way, along three key areas: people, operations and programs.

The SER policy was developed by Aude Chenet, Coordinator of Environmental Sustainability, under the supervision of Sylvie Goyet, Director of the Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Program. The specialized technical expertise has received financial support from USAID-Climate READY.

The Social and Environmental Responsibility Policy will have a positive impact on individuals, enhancing the fulfilment of the staff and others involved in its activities, with SPC promoting diversity and inclusion, ensuring equal rights and forming a safe, healthy and dynamic work environment; it will also apply to operations, with SPC committing to environmental protection with a focus on carbon neutrality and zero waste; finally, SPC commits to supporting programmes and projects to

deliver activities that maximise benefits while minimizing social impacts and environmental degradation.

The policy is now entering a "test phase".

In SPC Divisions, practical activities will be implemented and evaluated; in the programs, three projects will apply it as a pilot. A SER practice group will be established to exchange knowledge, build capacity and cooperate in implementing the policy. This group will work in conjunction with the Regional Human Rights Education Team and the Social Development Programme, with an ultimate goal of

systematically integrating SER into the overall functioning of the Organization.

“SER policies have been successful for two decades. They strengthen organizational cohesion and provide the social and environmental responsibility basis for sustainable development. For more than five years, SPC has been working to strengthen its environmental sustainability in its operations. By extending this logic to its programs, it is part of a dynamic that aligns perfectly with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to climate, equality and renewable energies”, says Aude Chenet at SPC.

FSM Congress leads geopolitical group at 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

Yap Congressional Delegation Office

April 24, 2018

GENEVA, Switzerland — On March 24, 2018, at the 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland, the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) assumed the chairmanship of the IPU’s Asia-Pacific Group (APG). This geopolitical group represents two thirds of the world’s population, including countries as diverse and populous as China, India, Indonesia, Japan and Iran, in addition to Australia, Canada and New Zealand. The APG is one of six geopolitical groups in the IPU, and is comprised of 34 national parliaments.

Speaker Wesley W. Simina presided over the APG meeting at which major issues of policy were discussed, including the possibility of changes to the Statutes and Rules of the IPU. The APG also agreed upon endorsements for a number of high-level positions in the various standing committees of the IPU.

As Chairman of the APG, Speaker Simina ensured fair representation of the APG member countries on the IPU’s Executive Committee and other groups by reviewing and coordinating with the member parliaments the nominations of candidates on various committees and groups. He also coordinated the APG’s positions on key issues on the agenda of 138th IPU Assembly, as well as attend a number of bilateral meetings with the IPU President, the Secretariat, and other geopolitical group Chairs on matters

internal to the IPU.

The Asia-Pacific Group was also honored by the presence of Madam Gabriela Cuevas Barron, the new President of the IPU, at the group’s meeting. At the invitation of Speaker Simina, Madam Cuevas Barron addressed the APG on her visions for the IPU.

The FSM Congress will serve as chair of this geopolitical group for the entire year, convening the next Asia-Pacific Group meeting at the 139th IPU Assembly in October 2018.

Aside from chairing the APG meeting, the FSM Congress delegation was also heavily involved in other activities during the 138th IPU Assembly which ran from March 24 – 28, 2018.

During the Governing Council meeting, the FSM delegation and a substantial number of other countries strove to put on the agenda an emergency item on Violence Against Women Parliamentarians. The FSM believes this is an issue of great importance upon which an IPU resolution could make a great impact. Unfortunately, the assembly could take up only one emergency item, and it chose during a late night vote to consider another important resolution.

This particular resolution speaks to the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in light of the recent UN Charter and resolutions on the subject matter. Although adopted by the majority of countries, nearly 30 countries, while in support of peace

and the two-state solution on Israel and Palestine, expressed its reservations due to some texts in certain parts of the resolution.

In addition to voting on this and other resolutions and reports during the 138th IPU Assembly, the FSM delegation also engaged in a number of bilateral meetings with other national parliaments represented at the IPU. These included meeting the Speakers and Members of Parliaments from other Pacific Island countries including Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, and Vanuatu. This joint meeting primarily focused on common concerns and ways of addressing Pacific regional issues through the IPU. Other bilateral meetings, which mainly focused on enhancing parliamentary relations, included a meeting with the Speaker and Members of the Advisory Council or Majlis al-Shura of the State of Qatar, and a meeting with the Members of the Viet Nam National Assembly.

Speaker Simina was also appointed to serve twice as President of the Assembly during the 138th IPU Assembly general debate, which revolved around the theme: “Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions”. Senator Isaac V. Figir, former Speaker of the FSM Congress and current Chairman on the Congressional Committee on Ways and Means, addressed the Assembly on behalf of the FSM delegation during this debate.

Through its membership on the IPU, the FSM Congress has addressed a number of matters of national concern through such international parliamentary dialogues including, among other issues, migration and refugees, climate change, and nuclear disarmament. The FSM Congress has also deepened and expanded its bilateral relations with other national parliaments around the world. Through the IPU, it has also obtained access to information, data, and guides on improving local legislations on matters of national concern.

Under the leadership of Speaker Wesley W. Simina, the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia continues to play an active and leading role in the world’s oldest national parliamentary organization – The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The IPU is an organization comprised of 178 countries, represented through their national parliaments, and 12 other associate members. The IPU also works closely with the United Nations and other international organizations sharing common goals. According to the IPU website, the IPU works with the world’s parliaments “to safeguard peace and drive positive democratic change through political dialogue and concrete action.” For more information on the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), please visit www.ipu.org.

For more information on the FSM Congress’ participation in the 138th IPU Assembly and on other activities of the FSM Congress, please visit www.c fsm. fm.



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