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COM-FSM students get first-hand experience about where a small percentage of carelessly discarded trash goes

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 8, 2018

Pohnpei—On a rainy Saturday morning, students enrolled in COM’s “Literature of the Sea” course at the College of Micronesia FSM, their teacher, a COM staff member and several crew members boarded two Pohnpei Surf Club boats and headed out to sea. Their destination was Ahnd Atoll and their mission was to pick up trash on the seaward shores of the paradise atoll.

Pohnpei Surf and Dive Club business owner, Alois Malfitani conceived the idea to involve COM-FSM students in a trash cleanup on the shores of the Ahnd Marine Preserve. Ahnd is a paradise island but a fair amount of trash drifts onto its seaward shores from Pohnpei, from ships, and from other countries. Malfitani said that his goal with the project was to create awareness of all the plastic and other trash that is carelessly disposed of in the wrong way, particularly on Pohnpei’s main island. “The plastic is here to stay, so let’s figure ways to recycle, use substitute biodegradable materials instead of plastic, or simply not use it,” he said.

Denise Oen, Director of the Institute for Student Learning and Excellence in Teaching said that Resida Keller, the course instructor for the “Literature of the Sea” course



has been an innovative teacher at the College. “So often the literature of the sea is about white men and their adventures, but she has incorporated island culture and literature into her courses that makes more sense to her students.”

Oen said that asking Keller to consider including the project into her curriculum seemed like the ideal situation for her students and Keller quickly agreed.



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Philippines issues total ban on processing and deployment of workers to the FSM

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 14, 2018

FSM—On August 17, 2018, the Philippines’ powerful Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) issued a total ban on the processing and deployment of workers to the Federated States

of Micronesia. Though the ban immediately went into effect, the FSM Consulate did not receive a diplomatic note regarding the ban until September 7.

The POEA is part of the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment. The organization is the sole entity with the power to authorize or deny travel for Philippines citizens for purposes of work. Their purpose is to be sure that Filipinos are not abused by employers while working overseas. Currently, of the 195 countries in the

See “Ban on workers” on page 8

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Japanese Acapella group “INSPI” lives up to its name in Pohnpei - “Spiritual” and “Inspirational”



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 11, 2018

Pohnpei—The visit of the fabulous Japanese acapella group, INSPI is now just a memory and an extraordinarily pleasant one as well.

The Embassy of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia brought the band in from Japan as part of the celebration of 30 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and the FSM.

They had barely settled in after their flight to Pohnpei before they were scheduled to perform at a reception at Ambassador Ryoichi Horie’s home. Though there weren’t a lot of guests at the reception, after the first few notes, I looked around the room and nearly every mouth was hanging open, stunned at the quality of what they were hearing. They began with a beautifully

arranged jazz compositions complete with altered chords and rhythm section of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” all performed with no instrumental accompaniment. But if one closed one’s eyes they could imagine a drummer, a bass player and sometimes even a horn section. It was music to this musician’s ears; stunning and wonderful!

The next number was slower, the very famous Japanese song “Sukiyaki” which they used later during their visit to teach to participants in acapella workshops.

The crowd had not had enough when they had finished their planned short performance and after calls for more sang a version of the late 70’s disco hit, “Hot Stuff” by Donna Summer. From stunning deep bass sung by Keisuke Yoshida, who is also the arranger of their music, to shimmering lead vocals, their arrangement of the tune was captivating and

just flat out fun.

During the next day they conducted two workshops beginning with a workshop at the College of Micronesia FSM in the morning and another at Pacific Missionary Fellowship in the evening. As much as we wanted to, we could not attend all of their events but we did attend the workshop at COM FSM. The band members speak limited English which could have made communication difficult, but the language of music is truly universal and before long the 30 or so music students were singing INSPI’s arrangement of “Sukiyaki” convincingly. At a one hour concert at COM FSM the following day, the band called those students to the stage to perform it with them.

COM FSM music teacher Michael Mueller said that he was impressed with the ability of

the members of INSPI to teach the students somewhat complicated harmonies. He was impressed as each of the members took separate groups to different corners of the room and taught the group their parts and then brought them all together as a group to sing it together.

On the morning of the following day, the band gave another workshop, this time with students at Our Lady of Mercy High School. The COM FSM concert was in the afternoon which was open only to COM FSM students.

But the pièce de résistance of the entire short tour, in my opinion since I was unable to attend other performances was

See “INSPI” continued on page 11

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Legislature overrides Governor's veto of streamlined Foreign Investment law

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 12, 2018

Pohnpei—On September 6, the Pohnpei State Legislature overrode Governor Marcelo Peterson's veto of a bill on Foreign Investment regulations. In so doing, the bill became State Law 9L-84-18 over the objection of several local business leaders who showed up at the Legislative chambers to protest its enactment as well as the objections of the Governor contained in his veto and veto letter.

The Standing Committee on Resources and Development report on the initially submitted bill says that the purpose for it was to have a more simplified foreign investment law in place. It says that purpose is accomplished by deleting the provisions on the preferred joint venture sector and on the special investment sector of the previous law, and by dismantling the Discretionary Review Panel. Instead, the new law places all decision making power that the Legislature has not already declared as unallowable into the hands of one person, the Registrar of Corporations.

The report says that the aim of those provisions is to do away with unnecessary delays in the review process of foreign investment applications.

The report says that its first public committee hearing on the proposed bill was in 2016. One of those hearings was with the officers of the Pohnpei Chamber of Commerce and the Pohnpei Business Association. The report says that the witnesses at that hearing suggested that Pohnpei should only consider serious investors that would come in and help in developing the State's economy as opposed to those who would come and snatch what little money circulates among consumers and businesses. "They also expressed that a foreign investment policy needs to have clear guidelines before we rest all decision making under one authority, to provide direction to the implementers and be inclusive of the types of foreign investment that Pohnpei State needs," the report said.

"The witnesses who appeared before the Committee asked the Committee to give this bill a meticulous review and then requested that they be accorded time to submit their written comments on the bill after an internal meeting amongst themselves and their other members," the report said. "To date, the Committee never received any further inputs from these groups. Your Committee collectively agrees that the witnesses have been

given ample time to meet and submit any comments."

The report claimed that it sent out letters soliciting comments on the bill to the business community and to the local governments and that as of the date of the submission of the report on the bill hadn't received a single comment.

The Committee recommended passage though the bill underwent several changes before it was submitted to the Governor whose veto was subsequently overturned.

Since Pohnpei's foreign investment policies were revised in 2011, foreign investment applications have fallen into three categories. Green light applications were given nearly automatic approval. Amber light applications required approval by the Discretionary Review Panel that the Committee Report on the recent law said is disbanded under the new law and left to the discretion of the Pohnpei Registrar of Corporations.

Red light businesses were not allowed for foreign investors of any kind but few business types were listed in that section. That has changed under the new law. Red light businesses that foreign investors cannot own or operate in the FSM unless they have already been granted a permit to operate. If those "grandfathered" businesses have already been given a permit to operate they will not be allowed to renew their foreign investment permits when they expire. The business types now included as Red light businesses that the Legislature has determined local people "have enough capacity and resources for (and) it has been determined that they can definitely supply the market demand" include:

- Retail-General Merchandise
- Wholesale – General Merchandise
- Apartment Services
- Tour guides/dive tours
- Rental car services
- Barber/beauty shop
- Moms-pops stores
- Agricultural farming including livestock/poultry
- Bakery
- Gas stations
- Other business activities in which foreign investment is prohibited by State Law

The remaining red light businesses have built in exceptions for "hotel/establishments" with investments of a million dollars or less:

- Restaurants except for those affiliated

with and within the facilities of a hotel establishment

- Bar/night club with the same exceptions as above
- Gift shop except as above

There is a new temporary category for businesses that the Registrar of Corporations, in his or her discretion determines will be of significant benefit to the economy of the State and is requested in connection with a project undertaken by the FSM National Government, the Pohnpei Government, a local government or Pohnpei, and enterprise licensed to do business in Pohnpei, or a non-profit organization authorized to conduct religious or humanitarian services in Pohnpei. The term for such a permit cannot exceed 36 months.

On the open "Green List" category, no special criteria needs to be met before a foreign investment permit is issued to a preferred joint venture in which one or more FSM citizens hold an equity interest. Except as otherwise listed, for investment in any business with an initial capitalization of \$500,000 or more, or \$50,000 in the case of a professional service, no further equity requirements nor special criteria needs to be met before a foreign investment permit is issued.

There is a special investment sector under the "Green List" category of applications for a foreign investment permit for certain types of businesses with verifiable local partners. Under the new law, a foreign investor who holds 49 percent of the total equity of the business who can demonstrate that his FSM citizen partner in the business truly owns and fully controls by such means as voting rights of common stock, not less than 51 percent of the total equity of the business can operate certain types of businesses. The value of leased land by a citizen partner would be included in the equity calculation. Such an investor could operate a service industry that is not otherwise excluded under the new law.

Interestingly, such an investor could also own a business for "exploration, development and extraction of land-based mineral resources and of marine-based mineral resources with the marine regulatory jurisdiction of the State." They could also own a business for

the "exploration, cutting and milling of naturally occurring timber resources."

The remainder of the law sets down the processes for foreign investors to apply for a permit and for the single source decider to make the decisions regarding applications.

In addition to other objections, Governor Peterson's letter regarding his veto said that the cutting and milling of naturally occurring timber resources should be added to the "Red List" because the resource is so limited, and the need to protect our watershed in our effort to build resilience against the impact of climate change is vitally important.

The Governor also suggested that the Legislature should reconsider the allowance of gift shops, bars, nightclubs and restaurants for foreign owners as long as they are contained within a foreign owned hotel establishment, saying those businesses can and should be owned by local business.

His letter also said that the "Red List" for hotel establishments where the investment is \$1 million or less is not an adequate limitation.

The legislature overturned the Governor's veto and the Foreign Investment Act is now law.

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Pohnpei Fraud Awareness presentation at 2018 Annual APIPA Conference- Koror, Palau

On August 10, 2018, Ms. Sophia Pretrick, Investigative Advisor of the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) closed the APIPA 2018 conference in Palau by presenting a session on “Fraud Awareness and Prevention”. The session described and provided examples of the Federated States of Micronesia’s Fraud Awareness and Prevention program, included a video presentation on fraud prevention. The presentation provided a good opportunity for the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor to emphasize the value and benefits of the Audit offices not only to FSM participants but through this forum, POPA was able to share tips on common fraud issues and

related preventive measures with other Pacific Islanders from Guam, CNMI, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Fiji and Palau to name a few. It also provided an opportunity for POPA to relay the importance of Supreme Audit Institutions or Audit Offices’ role in promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability and good governance in the public sector. The internal functions of POPA’s Compliance Investigation Division (CID) complaint management process and methods of reporting were also briefly addressed during the presentation. For more information about Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor visit the POPA’s website: <http://opapni.fm/>



CSP workshop for Micronesia discusses strategies for the improvement of coastal fisheries management and policy

Kolonia, PNI—August 25, 2018 — Micronesia has seen a drastic decline in coastal fisheries over the past 20 years, negatively impacting livelihoods, food security, and cultural identity. As society shifted to a cash-based economy with modern technology such as new fishing gears and refrigeration, traditional

ecological knowledge and practices have degraded over time. This led to the rise of unsustainable fishing practices (e.g. night-time spearfishing), and overharvesting of resources, causing sharp declines in populations and reduction in sizes of many fish species. Non –State Actors (NSA’s) in Micronesia play an important role

acting as a bridge between communities and governments to support effective coastal fisheries management and address these problems. From August 20-22, 2018 a Micronesia NSA Roundtable for Coastal Fisheries Management and Policy was held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The roundtable convened leaders of non-state actors (NSA’s) from around the Micronesia sub-region. The roundtable enabled participants to explore the role of NSAs in coastal fisheries management and policy, develop a unified vision for the future of fisheries, and prioritize strategies to address the major threats facing coastal fisheries regionally.

to establish environmental courts focused on hearing environmental cases only; 2) Support rights based or co-management approaches that enable communities to legally engage in management of their local marine resources; 3) Expand and advance enforcement capacity through strategic trainings and innovative new technology approaches; 4) Provide political engagement capacity development for communities to help them get involved in policy making; and 5) Partner with airlines and governments to better understand and effectively control exports of marine resources. Micronesia NSAs plan to continue to work together and wit communities and policy makers to advance these strategies around the region.

The Workshop succeeded in developing a collective vision for coastal fisheries (and communities who are dependent on them), as well as developing a brief roadmap that outlines five strategies to improve coastal fisheries over the next ten years, as prioritized by NSAs in the Micronesia sub-region. Strategies include the following: 1) Engage and build capacity within the judicial system

The workshop was funded through a grant received by Conservation Society of Pohnpei, funded through the European Union's 10th European Development Fund and implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.



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**First on the scene:
First aid at a road accident in Micronesia**

Marson Rosario is the Communication Officer at Micronesia Red Cross. This World First Aid Day, he is sharing his first aid story to encourage people to learn first aid to help reduce the number of deaths and injuries on the road.

A couple of months ago I was just woken up one morning at home by my brother-in-law. He ran into my house saying there was a car accident up the road, he knew that I was first aid trained.

I could see that from his face that it was bad, he looked scared.

I quickly went down the road with him to where the accident was. The car was a mangled mess on the side of the road, caught between the roadside bank and a bridge.

Everyone was gathered around, but no one knew what to do.

The driver in the car was stuck. He had big cuts and broken bones. I spoke calmly and told him that I was a first aider and there to help.

I used a trunk of a banana palm for a splint for his arm and made a sling from a piece of cloth. Using a blanket, we moved him and took him to hospital which was over an hour away.

I went with him to the hospital and explained to the doctor what had happened. He stayed in hospital for some time. I went back and visited him. He had broken an arm, ribs and both of his legs.

In 2013 I joined Micronesia Red Cross as a volunteer. One of the first things I did was a first aid course, before that I really did not understand what first aid was.

The first aid course changed everything for me, and I grew my knowledge, soon becoming a first aid instructor.

I realized that first aid something very, very helpful, it was more than a certificate for me; it was a way of helping by family and my community.

First aid is what fires me up. I love the way that it is simple and practical skills that can literally save a life. I love that we teach it in communities and in schools.

While I have used first aid at major incidents like this accident and when other people in my community have had health emergencies, I also use first aid in my home with my children everyday – when they bump and bruise themselves.

It is especially important here in the Federated States of Micronesia where our communities live across vast and remote islands, where healthcare is hard to access. Ensuring local people who are the first responders to any emergency are first aid trained is even more crucial.



On our island we only have three ambulances and limited healthcare; if people have a road accident like the one I attended and are first aid trained they will have the skills and training needed to respond quickly, and even save a life, if you're one of the first to arrive at the scene of an accident.

I encourage people to learn first aid, especially on World First Aid Day. First aid saves people.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting proposals from interested Individual or Businesses who are interested in leasing one of its properties designated as Track No: 71050-B-1 on the Public Lands Drawing No: 7002/87 for a total of around 20,204 square meters for seaport terminal and business including but not limited to receiving, delivering, shipping and storing of all types of cargo and ocean freight whether in shipping containers, in bulk or reefer cargo, the administration of such activities and the loading and discharging of vessels which berth at the sea transpiration terminals.

All proposal shall have detailed plans and specification based on the scope of work which should be in compliance to the ISPS regulations and security of the port. All proposals shall be received at the Pohnpei Port Authority's main office no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 31, 2018

All proposals shall be address to:

Mr. Pius Roby (General Manager)
Pohnpei Port Authority
Box 1150, Kolonia, Pohnpei State
Federated State of Micronesia
96941
Pohnpei No: 320-2793/2683
Email address: pbroy@mail.fm

All proposals must be received no later than the above designated time and address. Site inspection shall start from September 18, 2018 to November 30, 2018. For more information, please contact our Pohnpei Port Authority's marketing division manager Mr. Luciano Abraham at phone number 320-2793/2683, by emailing, address 1485sano1957@gmail.com, or contact us on our PPA website address: www.ppa.fm

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received in connection with this proposing announcement

Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc. Scholarship Award 2018-2019

The annual Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc., scholarship awards have been made.

The Rotary Club funds with the assistance of our sponsors and Vital Petroleum, a yearly scholarship program for deserving FSM students who are engaged in post secondary education.

This year we selected 14 winners, and awarded \$12,000.00 in scholarships. The scholarships have already been distributed, and the winners are all actively participating in their schooling. The winners and their schools are listed below. All students must be FSM citizens, and selection is based on scholarship, essays, participation in extra curricular activities, presentation in their applications, and financial need.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Beverly Ilemanglish | UOG |
| 2. | Bryan Tonga | Univ. Hawaii |
| 3. | Darla Raymond | UH Hilo |
| 4. | Darla Yatilman | Wheeling Jesuit |
| 5. | Darling Panuelo | COM-FSM |
| 6. | Giselle Giyetinag | Univ. Scranton |
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| 8. | Jesley Ferdinand | UOG |
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| 10. | Mitchell Johnson | UOG |
| 11. | Rockyner Hadley | UH Manoa |
| 12. | Renee Choorang | St. Peters Univ. |
| 13. | Serlyn Manuel | COM |
| 14. | Shania Felix | Park University |



The Rotary Club wants to thank all its supporters and sponsors. We cannot raise money for this project without the support of the community. We also want to encourage the public to support our fundraisers. We have a Chook Raffle coming up on September 28 at Mangrove Bay, and our annual quiz night fundraiser is set for November 17.

We want to wish all the winners good luck with their studies. We also want to thank all those who applied but were not selected. We had to make a number of hard choices and we encourage all students to apply again next year.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank

toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for an Electronic-Reporting/Electronic-Monitoring (ER/EM) Coordinator based in Pohnpei, FSM. The ER/EM Coordinator services include:

General Scope of Work

- Oversee and coordinate vessel and onboard electronic reporting of data and information for NORMA.
- Coordinate all work on video electronic monitoring activities of NORMA.
- Establish and implement e-reporting and e-monitoring procedures including implementation of standards in equipment, data collection and storage.
- Install and provide trainings or tutorials in use of hardware and software to observers and fishing companies in e-reporting and e-monitoring.
- Assist in implementation of e-reporting and e-monitoring trials and/or transitioning of NORMA to full programs when appropriate.
- Ensuring secure storage and accessibility of e-reporting and e-monitoring data from collection to data analysis/utilization.
- Work closely with NORMA staff and partners in the FSM, the Pacific region and internationally in areas related to e-reporting and e-monitoring and represent FSM interest in

meetings as may be assigned.

- Assist with other duties as may be assigned by the Chief of Research Division.

Minimum Qualifications and Short-listing Criteria

- Bachelors Degree in computer science or related field. An Associates degree could be considered if extensive relevant professional experience is proven.
- 1-2 years relevant professional experience.
- Relevant IT skills/experience with android based devices, operating database systems, Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Internet Browsers.
- Demonstrated experience in delivery of training.
- Good written and oral communication skills, especially report writing.
- Proven ability to work independently and under limited supervision.
- Project management experience and/or skills.
- A general understanding of the technical aspects of E-Reporting and E-Monitoring
- Experience working in Tuna fisheries sector and with Pacific Islands

Additional desirable qualifications

Experience in supervising staff and in and providing necessary guidance

Remuneration

- Salary will be within range of \$14,000 to \$17,000 but based on the Local Labor Market Payscale and/or depending on qualifications.
- This will be a 2-year full-time position under contract with FSM NORMA subject to renewal based on performance.

Application: The FSM NORMA invites individuals to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of a) Cover letter or Letter of Interest, b) CV or resumé, c) support Degrees/Certificates and d) three 3 reference letters to NORMA no later than SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition).

Full Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from: NORMA, FSM National Government. Attn: OKean Ehmes, PROP Coordinator, P.O Box PS-122, Pohnpei, FM 96941, Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181

Email: moria.joseph@norma.fm
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...Ban on workers

Continued from front page

world that are recognized by the UN, the Philippines has banned overseas work for its citizens in only just over 20 countries.

POEA has partially banned the Republic of Palau and so is not authorizing Filipinos to travel to work there as domestic employees. They can be authorized to work in other jobs. POEA has banned other countries including Afghanistan, Chad, Burundi, Libya, North Korea, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, Zimbabwe and several others for a variety of reasons including an unstable peace and order situation, and non-compliance with the Amended Migrant Workers Act.

The ban does not mean that the Filipino employees who already have contracts and permits to work in the FSM will be recalled but it does mean that any Filipino worker who returns home for any reason, whether it be for a family emergency or just for a mid-contract vacation will not be allowed to return. Already, several Filipinos who returned home for vacation have not been allowed to return to the FSM in order to finish their contracts.

It is estimated that approximately 2000 Filipinos currently work in the FSM.

The POEA resolution says that the ban is at least partially due to an unresolved report of maltreatment and abuse of

Overseas Filipino Worker in Chuuk. On June 15, 2017, POEA blacklisted Chuuk State Hospital. They say that situation has still not been resolved and until it is a full ban of the FSM will remain in place. The ban was recommended by Marciano De Borja Philippines Consul in Guam.

The FSM is at a loss as to why the whole country was banned because one reported problem at the Chuuk State Hospital.

Secretary Lorrin Robert of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs said that the FSM Department of Justice reports no cases involving complaints from Filipino workers at the national level. He said that the national government has written to each of the four State governors to see if any reports have been made at the State level.

The FSM is waiting for feedback to come from the State levels before deciding on a diplomatic approach to resolving the situation with the Philippines.

Since the announcement was made public the officers of the United Filipino Community of Pohnpei have been busy trying to understand fully what the problem is and how it will affect their citizens living in Pohnpei. They have also been in communication with their counterpart organizations in each of the other FSM States and are coordinating their efforts together.

Four of their officers visited the office of The Kaselehlie Press to discuss the matter. They said that they are not aware of any reports of abuse or maltreatment

of Filipinos in Pohnpei. They are trying to establish a unified approach to the situation from all of the Filipino community groups in the FSM and have already written to Philippine President Duterte to see what the possibility of an intervention on their behalf would be from his office.

The UFCP officers also issued Board Resolution 01-2018. "The United Filipino Community of Pohnpei strongly and vehemently deny the report raised by the office of the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam," it said. "Employees residing in Pohnpei stated that there are no maltreatment or abuse (cases) reported that have occurred throughout the duration and fulfillment of their contracts, as far (as) UFCP is concerned.

They sent a copy of their resolution to the Governor of Pohnpei and the FSM President asking them for "any and all assistance that may (be) deemed necessary and proper to achieve a mutually beneficial resolution of the matter."

FSM Peter Christian asked to meet with the leaders of the Filipino community. The officers said that he was empathetic and supportive regarding the situation. He told them that the FSM would do everything in its power to advocate on behalf of Filipinos who are already in the FSM. He also informed them that they should not be concerned if in the next few days he issues an executive order declaring a moratorium on new hiring of Filipinos in the FSM.

NOAA supervisor keeps an eye on the sky

US State Department

In March 2015, Typhoon Maysak was visible from space as it pounded the islands that are the Federated States of Micronesia. On the ground in Chuuk, the situation was bad. Very bad.

When storms roll into this area, Sanchez Salle is on full alert, helping protect fellow citizens. As a supervisor for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is a branch of the U.S. government, he helps gather temperature, wind speed and direction, air pressure, and more—all indicators of a system's danger. Storms like Typhoon Maysak show the importance of having a NOAA branch in Chuuk.

"We monitor conditions and relay information to others, including warnings by radio to citizens," he said. "People have called to ask about storms, and I

sometimes must speak stronger, telling them this is real and they should hurry!"

Such responsibility makes him feel like a parent at times, even worrying people will not find shelter in time.

"I have to remind myself I've done my part and now it's up to them," Sanchez added.

Besides providing a forecast people can trust, he also likes training young people, which includes giving tropical storm presentations and encouragement to study science, mathematics, and language. His own daughter is graduating from college thanks to his encouragement and FAFSA [Free Application for Federal Student Aid], and Sanchez is incredibly proud.

"We live on my salary, but there isn't much to spare for education," he explained. "Without that help, I probably

could have only paid for one semester. I am happy for her! She will become a productive member of society more quickly with her degree."

He appreciates what his employment with NOAA has provided his family, and Sanchez is thankful for the visa-free travel associated with his work.

"It helps all Chuuk residents because I can leave to learn new things and then bring that knowledge back home to help improve our state and keep us safe."

You can learn more about NOAA at www.noaa.gov.

For information about the relationship between the FSM and the U.S.A., go to <https://fm.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/progress-through-partnership/>.

World First Aid Day 2018: You don't need a license to save lives on the road, says Micronesia Red Cross Society

On World First Aid Day (September 10, 2018), the Micronesia Red Cross Society is encouraging people to learn first aid to help reduce the number of deaths and injuries on FSM roads.

Traffic accidents kill around 1.25 million people worldwide every year.

Mr. Isao Frank Jr. /Executive Director of Micronesia Red Cross Society said: "We're all road users, whether we are pedestrians, riders, drivers or passengers.

"The risks of road travel can never be eliminated completely, but there are ways to reduce them and give people a better chance of survival. One of the best ways is to learn first aid so that you have the skills and training needed to respond quickly – and even save a life – if you are at the scene of an accident."

In addition to the death toll from road accidents – estimated at 3,500 deaths every day – tens upon tens of thousands of people are injured in crashes each year, often with life-changing outcomes. To raise awareness of these dangers, the theme of World First Aid Day 2018 is "First Response to Road Crashes".

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are a leading provider of first aid and first response training in nearly every country in the world. The Micronesia Red Cross Society has been providing classes and training across Federated States of Micronesia, teaching the techniques and actions necessary for preparedness and immediate response to assist road crash casualties.

Such training enhances first response knowledge and skills amongst the general population, drivers, passengers and pedestrians, enabling them to provide immediate assistance to people injured on roads.

Mr. Isao Frank Jr. /Executive Director of Micronesia Red Cross Society said: "Even one death on FSM roads is a tragedy. Our first aid training is open to all, and we look forward to working with individuals, groups and communities to help make our roads safer for everyone."

Pohnpei Women with Disabilities

By Nikisha Smith
Disability Support Officer

On Friday the 31st of August, Monique Panaligan represented women with disabilities in Micronesia. She is the President of the Pohnpei Women with Disabilities organisation, also known as PWWDO and represents the only women's disability support group in Micronesia.

Pohnpei Women's organisation was established in 2010 and works as a support group for women with disabilities.

Women with disabilities are one of the biggest minority groups in the world and face double discrimination for both gender and disability. She expressed the point that all the topics raised during the women's conference affect women with disabilities on a larger scale. Women with disabilities are more likely to face discrimination, harassment, and sexual or physical abuse.

Monique stood up and shared the importance

of having a support group to share your experiences and challenges with, "When people call you names or put you down you start to believe them, but with support group, you find strength".

Through the disability organisation Monique and many women have been able to advocate for their rights, share common interests and connect with each other. They work with other organisations and government vocal points to establish the facilities needed and strengthen services. "It is by working together, that we can work to remove the daily barriers faced by women with disabilities".

Monique expressed the importance for individual states to develop their own disability organisations to build better support networks and create positive changes for the future.

People without disabilities are also encouraged to join and support, as disability is often viewed negatively in society but is very common. Anyone can be born or develop a disability and the PWWDO is working towards

acknowledgement in the community.

Monique encouraged the women of the conference to take this idea back to their states and share these values because people with disabilities are often forgotten about but they make up more than 13% of FSM's population. This statistic is broad and does not include people with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. With this number included, the percentage would be much higher.

If you would like to hear more about the work Monique, PWWDO and her partners are doing please join the Facebook group 'Pohnpei People with Disabilities' for updates.



Money Continues to Grow on Trees in Yela, Kosrae State, FSM

Micronesia Conservation Trust

On Saturday, September 01, 2018, William Kostka, Executive Director, Tamara Alefaio, Conservation Program Manager, of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), and Ricky Carl, Director of External Affairs for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Micronesia Program, met with the owners of the Yela Conservation Easement at Bulley's restaurant in Kosrae. Representing the landowners were former Vice-President and current FSM Senator, the Honorable Alik Alik, Chairman of the Yela Environment Landowners Authority (YELA), Lanson Alik, Executive Director Dr. Tholman Alik and several other landowners. The purpose of the meeting was twofold: 1) to meet with the landowners to discuss how management of the Yela conservation easement is progressing, and to learn how MCT, TNC and other partners can continue to support the Yela landowners with their management efforts; and, 2) to disburse annual dividends from the Yela Conservation Easement Endowment Fund to the ten (10) landowners.



private landowners to put their land under a permanent conservation easement, an arrangement by which landowners forgo certain land development rights in exchange for annual payments – this program is supported by the US Forest Service. In the case of Yela, it's a partnership between the ten (10) landowners; the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) who owns the easement; the Micronesia Conservation Trust which is responsible for managing the endowment associated with the easement; The Nature Conservancy Micronesia Program and the US Forest Service, which provided technical assistance and financial support to establish the program and the endowment. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation provided the 25% matching requirement that secured the 75% grant from the US Forest Service. Similar efforts are being discussed and studied in other parts of Micronesia.

A conservation easement is a public-private partnership that allows

Partnerships For A Stronger Pacific highlighted at 49th Pacific Islands Forum

Strengthening regional security and resilience was the focus of the 49th Pacific Islands Forum meetings between Pacific Leaders, Dialogue Partners, and Forum Observers in Nauru today.

"Nauru's theme for the 49th Pacific Islands Forum is: "Building a Stronger Pacific – Our People, Our Islands, Our Will". It recognises that the future of the Pacific will be determined by its people," said President of Nauru and Forum Chair President Baron Divavesi Waqa.

"While the Pacific region must drive and forge its own development future – Our People, Our Islands, Our Will – we cannot do this in isolation. In our ever growing globalised world and given the transboundary nature of many of the challenges we face – climate change, marine pollution, unsustainable fishing, transnational crime – partnerships and cooperation are vital to for building a strong and secure Blue Pacific continent."

"Building a Stronger Pacific means maintaining our collective focus on achieving a region of peace, security, social inclusion and prosperity while realising opportunities to collaborate with likeminded partners – both traditional and new – in support of this vision."

Two dialogues took place across the second morning of the Forum. The first was with the eighteen Dialogue Partners to the Forum. The theme for the discussion was Building a Strong Pacific – Strengthening regional security to ensure safety and wellbeing for all. The second dialogue was with the Forum's Associate Member and Observers and focused on the theme of Building a Strong, Resilient and Sustainable Blue Pacific.

Forum Dialogue Partners engaged with Pacific Leaders on a range of approaches

for enhancing regional security, from greater cooperation, to addressing climate change as a security risk, as well as strengthening regional maritime security.

It was emphasised that Pacific Leaders will strengthen regional security cooperation, supported by partnerships to enhance capability and enable greater dialogue, analysis and information sharing.

Forum Associate Members and Observers focused on opportunities for collaboration and action towards a region that is more resilient to the effects of climate change and disaster risk. As part of this discussion, Forum Leaders sought support for the proposed Pacific Resilience Facility, which will be used to co-finance and leverage additional funding for resilience investment of new or existing infrastructure projects in the region.

There are currently 18 Dialogue Partners to the Forum – Canada, People's Republic of China, Cuba, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

The Forum's Associate member is Tokelau and Observers include American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, Timor Leste, Wallis & Futuna, ACP Secretariat, Asian Development Bank Commonwealth Secretariat, International Organisation for Migration, United Nations Secretariat, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the World Bank.



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...INSPI

Continued from page 2

the concert at the Pacific Missionary Fellowship. For two hours the five guys from INSPi bounced around the stage making such a beautiful noise, if you will, that there was not one moment of boredom despite the fact that many of the songs were in the Japanese language. They were alternately beautiful and lively. The textures in the music created by five gentlemen only with their voices were compelling and impossible to ignore. At times we heard the sound of Tibetan overtone singing where a singer is able to produce more than one note at a time. In one number, I could have sworn that the Taiko performers had taken the stage, their voice imitations of those Japanese drums was so convincing.

INSPI's voices were tightly harmonic, nearly symphonic with only very few slightly missed notes that were nearly instantly corrected, a sign that these musicians were clearing listening carefully to each other. I was quickly a fan both of their music and of their high energy personalities.

Because I was covering another story at Ahnd Atoll on Saturday, I couldn't be present at the two hour concert they gave at the Our Lady of Mercy High School gymnasium on Saturday but if Friday night performance was any indicator, the audience had a very special treat.

On Sunday they participated in the service at St. Joseph Catholic Church in U. Afterward they held another workshop.

On the morning of their last day on island they presented another workshop at Pohnpei Catholic School before attending some of the Liberation Day games at the PICS track.

Atsushi Sugita who is the lead vocalist founded INSPi in 1997. In 2001 they began their professional career, though all of them also have "day jobs".



Keisuke Yoshida, the amazing bass singer who also showed his upper range chops during their concerts is the arranger for the band. He says that he uses Cubase software to notate his amazing arrangements full of colorful chords and tight harmonies.

Takafumi Watanabe is the vocal percussionist that helps to drive the band forward and keeps it always in the pocket. Yoshida and he constantly interacted together to keep the beat moving on.

Takehiko Kita holds up the next to the bottom part on baritone. Tomoyuki Akura provides the shimmering high end on tenor.

As INSPi, the band had previously visited 10 countries before coming to Pohnpei where they conducted similar workshops.

It is rare for me to write a review with quite the number of superlatives as are contained in this one, but despite my inability to attend everything they did, I couldn't get enough of their excellent showmanship, personalities, and musicianship.

In all of their workshops they said that the principal goal of music is to have fun and demonstrated the Japanese characters for the Japanese words for music that clearly show that. As a musician, I couldn't agree more with them.

Sugita-san says that INSPi, is a name they derived from the words "spiritual", and "inspiration". They were both and I'm happy to have spent some time basking in that inspiration no matter how limited that time was.



Above three photos provided by the Embassy of Japan

U.S. Embassy hosts dinner reception in honor of FSM Women's Conference participants

US Embassy

On August 27-31, 2018 Pohnpei State hosted the 8th FSM National Women's Conference with a theme of "Working Together for Progress". Over 300 women from all FSM's states attended the event. The Conference's goal included increased support for social development that is inclusive of women across FSM. The dialogues ranged from Women's Political Participation, Women's Economic Empowerment, Gender Based Violence & Health Related topics.

"No country can get ahead if it leaves half of its people behind. This is why the United States believes that gender equality is critical to our shared goals of prosperity, stability, and peace" said Ambassador Riley during his welcoming remarks on Wednesday at a dinner reception in honor of participants of the FSM Women's Conference. The dinner served over 220 Conference attendees, and several FSM and state government dignitaries which

included the Honorable FSM Vice President Yosiwo P. George, the Honorable Deputy Secretary FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick, the Honorable FSM Postmaster General Ginger Mida, the Honorable Pohnpei State Lt. Governor Reed B. Oliver, the Honorable Pohnpei State Senator Dahker Daniel, the Honorable Pohnpei State Attorney General Dana Smith, the Honorable Chuuk State Senator Wisney Nakayama and the Honorable Chuuk State Senator Gardenia Aisek. The Honorable Secretary Magdalena Walter, FSM Health & Social Affairs spoke on behalf of the government and expressed the FSM's commitment in continuing the dialogue to advance some of the issues that affect women in the FSM.

Ms. Myjolyne Kim, PHD candidate at Australian National University who presented "I am a mother and that makes me a leader: Indigenous-articulations on Chuukese women", and Ms. Dion Bernard Assistant Secretary, FSM Department of

Justice (Human Anti-trafficking Program) who presented "Human Anti-trafficking" contributed interesting and helpful information. At the end of the presentations, the Embassy also featured a film presentation

by Micronesian Productions entitled "FSM Women Pioneers." This list of women included many successful FSM women who are forerunners in their professions.





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Community Service by COM-FSM Students at Ant Atoll



" We believe that alumni are the extension of this institution and that their success and the institution's success are intertwined. Any good that we do they benefit from, and any good that they do we benefit from " .
- Jeff Johnson



COE Staff Yuuki Omura, MRA Senior Executive Kasio Mida, COM-FSM President & CEO Joseph M. Daisy, COE Director Timothy Mamangon, National Campus Student Tokamarewe Kau'ikehaulani Taasu, and College Alumnus Brandon Taiwermal

The college's Center for Entrepreneurship (Center) received its fifth installment of funding from the Micronesia Registration Advisors (MRA). President Daisy and associates from the Center met with MRA Senior Headquarters Executive, Kasio Mida, to accept the donation. Mr. Mida remarked on the Center's accomplishments and its impact to the college and local communities.

The Center began in 2015 with the mission to identify and foster entrepreneurship and innovation within the college's students and staff. The original source of funding came from MRA to cover the Center's operational costs for a five-year startup period. Over the past four years, the Center has established a culture of dedicated students within the college who actively seek solutions to community needs through entrepreneurship and innovation.

MRA pledged \$250,000 to the college four years ago, and gifted an additional \$30,000 to fund the Center. The Center used this funding to provide resources for student operated businesses, host regular community markets, entrepreneurial competitions, and technical skills workshops. Among the Center's notable

achievements is the creation of eleven student-operated registered businesses, the awarding of a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to support its operations, the awarding of a \$36,000 technical assistance grant to 2 greenhouse projects to test hydroponic farming in Pohnpei, the hosting of large events such as the Friday Food Fashion Festival (F4) that showcase products from students and the community, and its partnerships with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Small Business Guarantee and Financing Corporation (SBGFC) for community projects. Although the Center is primarily educational, its reputation has led to many partnerships within the local community and includes several large-scale projects focused on food security, economic development, and technical training.

The Center plans to devote more of its time to larger projects and events related to entrepreneurship by utilizing the momentum built by its students. With the continued support of MRA, the Center will work to improve the businesses it has established, identify new businesses, and work with its students on tackling larger, complex problems related to entrepreneurship within the FSM.

Tell us how the college helped you become successful! Share your story by emailing us at alumnisuccess@comfsm.fm. We want to hear about your achievements.

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Employment



Opportunities

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement

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

Values



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

Positions	Location	Annual Salary	Closing Date
Grant Writer	National Campus	\$22,625.00-\$25,242.00	September 23, 2018
Student Services Assistant [2 Positions]	National Campus	\$5,955.00	October 4, 2018
Instructor-Business/Accounting	National Campus	\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00	October 4, 2018
Student Services Specialist III	CTEC, TSP	\$9,436.00-\$10,633.00	October 11, 2018
ACE Mentor- English	Kosrae Campus	\$10,889.00	October 12, 2018
Extension Assistant (Nutrition)	CTEC, CRE	\$6,075.00	October 12, 2018

Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm for application, details, and requirements.

...Literature of the Sea

Continued from front page

None of the students who participated in the project had ever previously been to Ahnd atoll. Keller said that she hoped that the experience would give her students inspiration for the essays they each were required to write after the trip.

After the students explored the island for approximately 30 minutes, Malfitani briefed them on what he expected. With the briefing completed and armed with trash bags, they hiked through the center of the atoll to the eastern shore and hit it hard, digging above the high water mark for treasure of a not so wonderful nature. Each of the participants brought back at least two full bags of washed up garbage, along with a boatload each of knowledge about where carelessly discarded trash can end up, whether it is on the outer shores of Ahnd or deeper into the ocean and on other islands.

Rohsa Willy Hawley, owner of Ahnd Atoll told the volunteers that he had recently taken a group of people to the bird sanctuary island on the outskirts of Ahnd lagoon. He said that he had noticed that birds from that island had been dying at Ahnd because they had consumed plastic. That group scoured

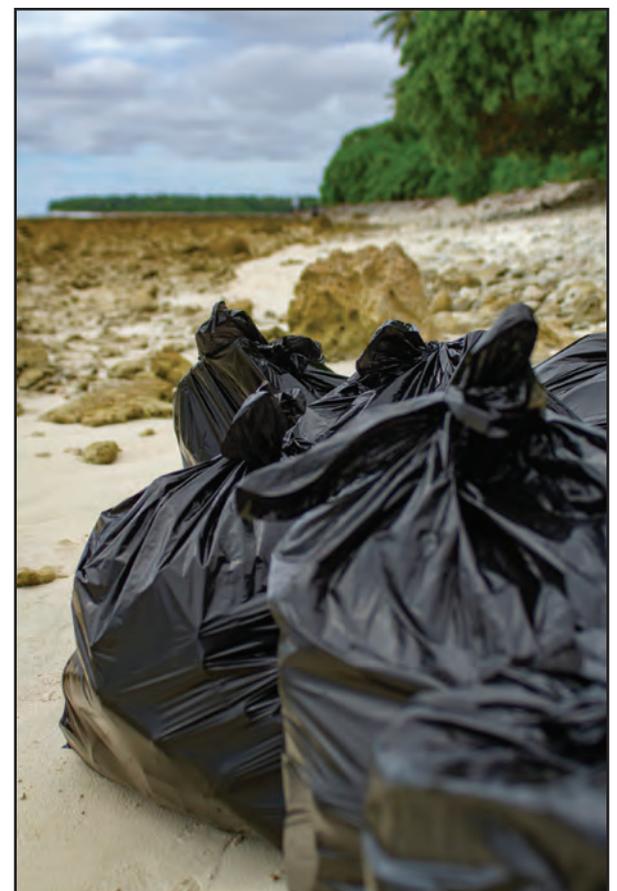
the entire bird island and brought back a boat load of washed up trash.

COM President, Dr. Joseph Daisy made his first visit to Ahnd on the Saturday of the cleanup and also challenged the students to think about their experience that day the next time they are tempted to carelessly discard trash. He also had brief discussions with Rohsa about potential future joint ventures between the college and the owners of Ahnd Atoll.

A magnificent barbecue of chicken and ribs was later served and the students also had opportunity to swim and explore before loading nearly an entire boatload of trash for transport to Pohnpei's landfill. The event was organized by the Pohnpei Surf and Dive Club with the support of the College of Micronesia, The Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Mangrove Bay Hotel, and fully sponsored by Congressman Ferny S. Perman. Malfitani also thanked Rohsa and the Nanpei Family for hosting the students.

"It was never about the cleanup," Malfitani said. "Cleanups don't really work. Trash just keeps coming if minds don't change, but education about where carelessly discarded trash goes helps. That's the point."

"It is very hard to fix the plastic and trash problem in bigger cities and countries but Pohnpei is a small island where, with some awareness and education, we can totally eradicate this problem," he said. It was the goal of the project.



The Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America



DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S.A. provides assistance to the FSM to support education, health care, infrastructure, and other essential needs.

- Education:** The U.S.A. supports child-centered early education programs, quality primary, secondary and post-secondary education programs, and vocational training.
- Health Care:** A variety of public health activities are funded by the United States to meet critical health needs in the FSM.
- Business Development:** The U.S.A. provides funds to foster private sector development and to develop business and entrepreneurial skills.

The Federated States of Micronesia and the United States – working together for the future



**PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT**

Vacancies

Regional Security Officer

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Forum Secretariat) is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation, with a vision of helping to create a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The international organisation works to achieve this vision by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members - including directly engaging with community members in order to identify pressing needs of the region.

The Forum Secretariat has undergone an organisational restructure, with a view to achieve greater consistency across the organisation in the way workforce capability is developed, and capability gaps are identified and addressed. As such, the organisation has produced a highly professional workforce that is capable of creating and delivering high quality outcomes for the people of its member countries.

About the Opportunity

The Forum Secretariat is now looking for a Regional Security Officer to join the team in Suva, Fiji.

Reporting to the Director Policy through the Regional Security Adviser, this role is to strengthen regional security cooperation and coordination and drive implementation of Forum regional security priorities including the expanded concept of security. Some key areas of responsibility will include (but will not be limited to):

- Production of policy advice and analysis in the area of regional security;
- Coordinating implementation of regional security priorities;
- Develop professional partnerships and relationships; and
- Representation of Forum Interests.

The Forum Secretariat is seeking an engaging and proficient individual who holds a tertiary qualification in a relevant discipline with substantial experience working on implementation

and coordination of security policies and programmes at national, regional or international level. The candidate should also have an understanding of existing security/law enforcement projects, policies and programmes within the region and had demonstrated success in a representational role in inter-governmental security/law enforcement meetings and discussions.

About the Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR 29,526 to SDR 44,289 per annum. At the 1 July 2018 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD87,046 to FJD130,569. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. To be eligible for these positions, the applicant must be a national of one of the following Forum member countries*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 5 October 2018.

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Senior Technical Adviser - EU

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

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About the Opportunity

The Forum Secretariat is now looking for a full-time Senior Technical Adviser - EU to join the team in Suva, Fiji.

Reporting to the Secretary General, this role will be responsible for ensuring the smooth management and coordination of the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP), by providing technical assistance to the Regional Authorising Officer (RAO) on all aspects related to the management of the PRIP in terms of programming; identification/formulation; implementation; monitoring and evaluation; and by maintaining constructive relations and dialogue with development partners, and especially with the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific.

The Forum Secretariat is seeking a strategic thinker with diplomacy skills with a Masters degree in Economics, Project Management, Public Policy Management, Social Science or a related discipline. Additionally, you will have significant demonstrated experience in related positions, with a minimum of five years spent working in developing countries, and a minimum of ten years' experience in total.

You will have extensive knowledge of EU development policy, and a broad understanding of development and sectoral issues in the Pacific

Region, as well as hands-on application and management experience in EDF rules and procedures.

With exceptional communication, interpersonal and stakeholder management skills, you will be able to build and maintain strong relationships across diverse member countries and at all levels from Ministers, politicians, technocrats, and PIFS, PIFS member countries, and EU bureaucrats and civil servants. Additionally, you will be well versed, and highly competent, in drafting policy and other effective communications.

About the Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR 41,064 to SDR 61,597 per annum. At the 1 July 2018 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD121,061 to FJD181,595. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free.

To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of one of either Forum member countries*, EU Member States, Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP), or Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

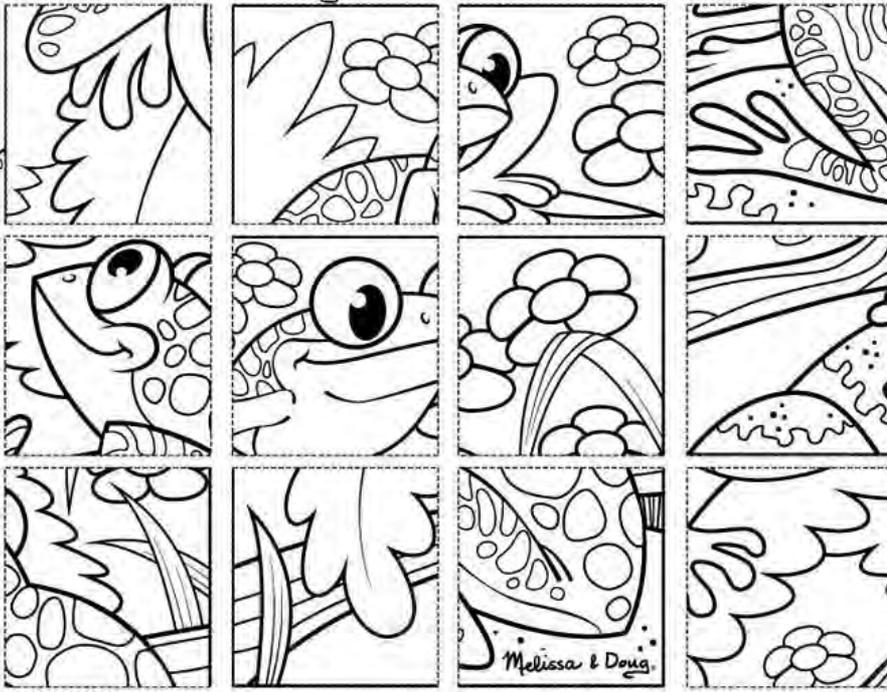
Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 5 October 2018.

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Picture Mix-Up

Cut out the squares below. Then put them in the correct spaces in the grid on the previous page.

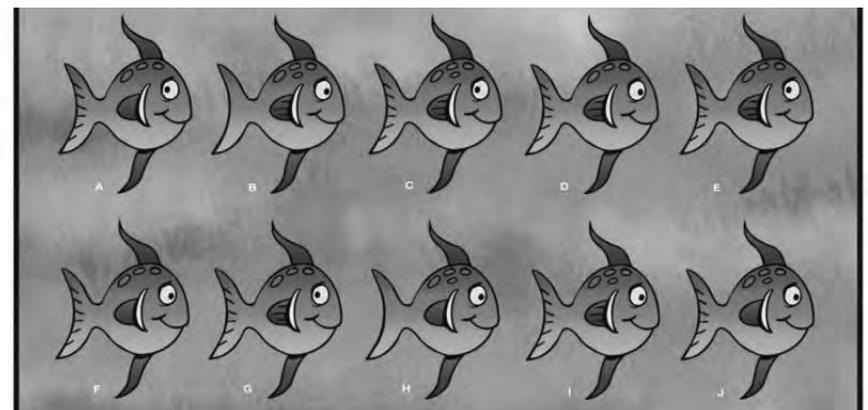


Which Two Are the Same?

by Ron Wheeler



Which two are the Same?



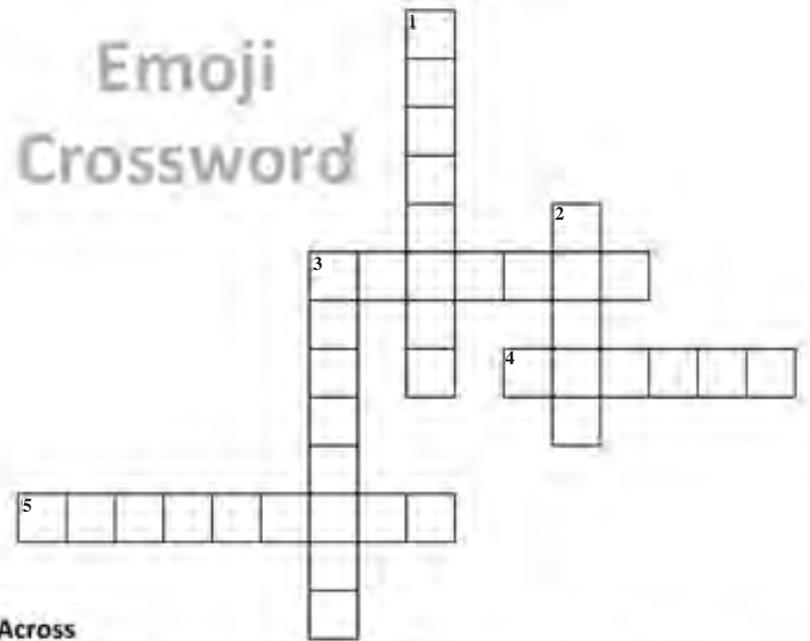
FRUIT AND NUTS

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

P D E E R A E P X S A C C P U P H M
 E P N P R U N E A P G C I C O C J Y
 A W I T Y W O T R R R S Q M A G I F
 N B R N T Q S I A A T N E E A X N C
 U L A O E U C P N A I G P G U A V A
 T A T M M O E B C S R B R A Z I L S
 M C C A T C E H I A C N O M E L P H
 E K E E H R I A N A A O R A N G E E
 L C N E R O R A Y Y N D U M Q U T W
 O U R Y U Q T J A R H A Z E L N U T
 N R Y R R E B P S A R T N J N N N A
 Y R R E B W A R T S F E O A S A T N
 Z A T G A P M A N G O T B R B C S G
 E N O B L A C K B E R R Y E O E E E
 M T M G M P N I R A D N A M S P H L
 I W A Y O P E N I R E G N A T O C O
 L R T U N L A W G Z N M U L P Z O I
 B M O M D E V I L O A N A T L U S G

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| ALMOND | DATE | NECTARINE | POMEGRANATE |
| APPLE | FIG | OLIVE | PRUNE |
| APRICOT | GOOSEBERRY | ORANGE | RAISIN |
| BANANA | GRAPE | PAPAYA | RASPBERRY |
| BLACKBERRY | GUAVA | PEACH | SATSUMA |
| BLACKCURRANT | HAZELNUT | PEANUT | STRAWBERRY |
| BRAZIL | LEMON | PEAR | SULTANA |
| CASHEW | LIME | PECAN | TANGERINE |
| CHERRY | MANDARIN | PINE | TANGELO |
| CHESTNUT | MANGO | PISTACHIO | TOMATO |
| CRANBERRY | MELON | PLUM | WALNUT |

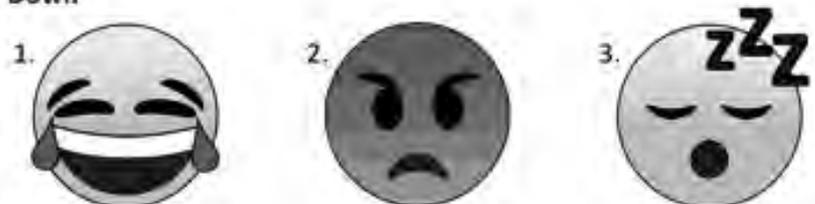
Emoji Crossword

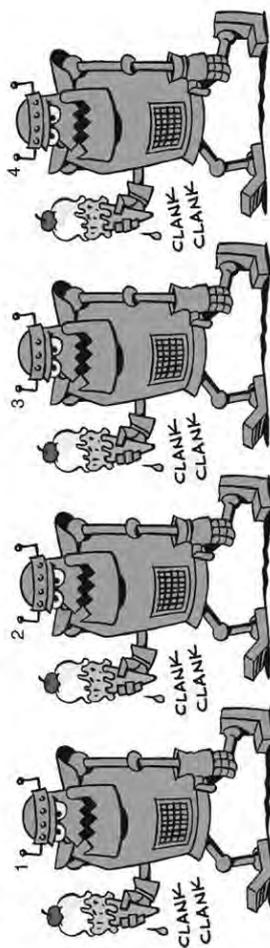


Across



Down

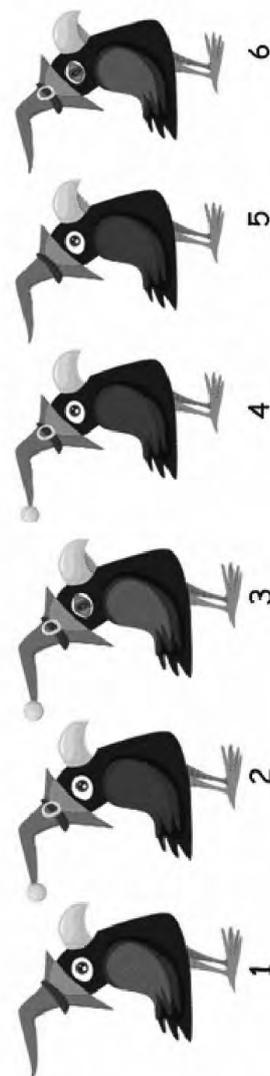




Which two robots are exactly alike?

COUNTING DOWN ACROSS

- 1 Nothin' at all
- 4 Got on board
- 12 — Hill (Theodore Roosevelt's home)
- 20 Altar promise
- 21 Quiche —
- 22 Zealous campaigner
- 23 With 39-Down, business for attorneys
- 24 Dreams up
- 25 Enrobing
- 26 Thorax
- 28 Cloister resident
- 29 Native Americans of Oklahoma
- 31 See 69-Across
- 32 Lena of "The Wiz"
- 33 Gal at a ball
- 34 Big fashion inits.
- 35 Blue shade
- 37 Haul to court
- 38 "Time — the essence!"
- 40 Wagged part
- 42 Closest to nil
- 46 Verizon competitor
- 49 Artificial hair
- 51 Skier Tommy
- 52 Ali or Frazier
- 53 Klutzy type
- 54 Radon, e.g.
- 55 Indian "Mr."
- 56 Dangerous way to skate
- 58 Haglike
- 60 Darkened
- 62 Uprightness
- 63 Like radon
- 64 Actress Courteney
- 65 Alluring West
- 66 Kanga's son
- 67 Pitched shelter
- 68 "— knew?!"
- 69 With 31-Across, start to enjoy
- 70 Snooze site
- 71 Like sexist jokes and such, for short
- 75 Mai —
- 76 Ring official
- 77 "Piggy"
- 78 River of Grenoble
- 79 Like much hemp fashion
- 83 Actress Cuthbert
- 85 Was deeply agitated
- 86 Air impurity
- 88 Battle (for)
- 89 Favorite
- 90 "— -haw!" ("Whee!")
- 91 Bicolor snacks
- 92 Slender fish
- 93 Polar laborer
- 94 Hit into from behind
- 96 1988 Olympics city
- 97 Is in a hole
- 99 Film scorer Schifrin
- 101 Sportage or Soul maker
- 102 Clairol products
- 104 Gibbon, e.g.
- 106 — -relief



Which two crows look exactly alike?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20			21								22								
23			24								25								
26			27		28			29		30					31				
32					33			34			35		36						
		37			38			39		40		41		42		43	44	45	
46	47			48			49		50		51			52					
53			54				55			56			57						
58			59			60			61			62							
63					64				65			66							
67				68			69				70				71	72	73	74	
				75			76			77				78					
79	80	81	82				83			84			85						
86						87		88				89				90			
91					92			93				94			95				
96					97			98		99		100			101				
			102		103			104		105		106			107			108	109
110	111	112			113		114				115			116					
117				118					119	120				121				122	
123									124									125	
126									127										128

- 107 White wader
- 110 Enthusiasm
- 113 Soup legume
- 115 Dandy fellow
- 116 Full of cheek
- 117 Rift-causing
- 119 Least near
- 122 Sci-fi gift
- 123 Hand-thrown weapons
- 124 Scottish beef animal
- 125 Scrabble 4-pointer
- 126 Right to use another's land
- 127 Opera text
- 128 Scrabble 1-pointers
- 15 "... so far — know"
- 16 * Helicopter of the U.S. president
- 17 Major Norse god
- 18 Sublet, say
- 19 Therefore
- 27 Ignore rudely
- 30 Trendy
- 36 Typical lab rat, e.g.
- 39 See 23-Across
- 41 It has a charge
- 43 Pivotal line
- 44 Split-off group
- 45 Deuce follower
- 46 Specifically
- 47 Neighbor of Quebec
- 48 Place (down)
- 50 * Request for a hand slap
- 57 Engine cover
- 59 LCD alternative
- 60 Ski- —
- 61 Consume
- 64 * Group of defendants that included Abbie Hoffman
- 68 "Hold on!"
- 69 Styling stuff
- 70 Furry scarf
- 71 Consume
- 72 Occasion to shout out the ends of the answers to this puzzle's starred clues (from left to right)
- 73 Dress fussily
- 74 Handed over
- 75 In this way, informally
- 76 Withdrawal
- 77 * "She Loves You" band's nickname
- 78 * Tangoing truism
- 79 Lofty poetry
- 80 Heart
- 81 Toast topper
- 82 * A state of bliss
- 84 Window area
- 85 View
- 87 Rustic denial
- 89 View
- 95 Capital of Latvia
- 98 Helical form
- 100 Taoism founder
- 103 Omit in speech
- 105 Nicholas Gage memoir
- 108 City in Germany
- 109 Styles
- 110 Knife feature
- 111 Old Italian currency
- 112 Bird class
- 114 Bird hangout
- 118 Snead of golf
- 120 Classic British sports car
- 121 Hard drinker

DOWN

- 1 Nothin' at all
- 2 Gem State
- 3 * A thousand and a googol, e.g.
- 4 * March Madness quarterfinal teams
- 5 Family member
- 6 Slivovitz and kirsch
- 7 Has a debate
- 8 * 1998 Tom Clancy novel
- 9 Family members
- 10 Adversary
- 11 Cease's partner
- 12 Flimflam
- 13 * Part of the Constitution establishing the judiciary
- 14 Very nervy



USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUBJECT: Solicitation for a Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contractor (CCN PSC) under Local Compensation Plan

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO. :** USAID-2018-12

2. **ISSUANCE DATE :** 10 September 2018

3. **CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS :**
09 October 2018 / 11:59PM

4. **POSITION TITLE :**
USAID Project Management Specialist (Resilience), FSN-11

5. **MARKET VALUE :**
USD 25,304.00 – USD 40,484.00 gross p.a. equivalent to FSN-11, in accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan (LCP) of the U.S. Embassy Kolonia. The salary offer will be based on a combination of the candidate's salary history and of the U.S. Embassy Kolonia's LCP, and will be within the annual range listed above.

6. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE :**
The position is based in Kolonia, Federated States of Micronesia.

7. **STATEMENT OF DUTIES :**
The USAID Project Management Specialist (Resilience) serves as the primary staff for the USAID Pacific Islands sub-office in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) which covers the following countries: FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau. The Specialist performs a variety of research, analyses, reporting, coordination, monitoring, outreach and administrative functions in support of USAID's Pacific Islands Main Office located in Manila, Philippines. The Specialist supports and closely advises the General Development Officer (GDO) and USAID/Philippines technical and support offices to help achieve the following objectives in the Pacific: to support the U.S. Government's (USG) broader foreign policy objectives in the region; to address regional and country priorities; to complement other donor efforts; and to report on the latest news, developments, and perspective from the field and advise on how the portfolio can be adjusted accordingly.

The USAID Project Management Specialist (Resilience) is expected to fulfill the following major duties and responsibilities, as elaborated below:

Program/Project/Activity Implementation (30%) – Serves as Contracting/ Assistance Officer Representative (C/AOR)/Activity Manager for key programs/projects/activities through contract, cooperative agreement, or grant. Provides administration and oversight for disaster readiness activities, with focus on adaptation strategies as they relate to water supply and sanitation, natural resources management, regional climate change and water networking, and environmental governance activities, including monitoring programs/projects/activities through site visits and the review of work plans and progress reports; tracking expenditures and accruals against obligations; making recommendation to implementing partners (IPs) to increase program/project/activity impact and enhance sustainability; and the reporting of results. Drafts official communications for reporting the status of programs/projects/activities, such as the Congressional Budget Justification, Annual Reports, Action Memos, and Acquisition documents. Ensures program implementation achieves planned results, documents developmental impacts, and resolves implementation issues in an efficient and professional manner; provides

strategic direction to contractors and grantees, in order to ensure activities support the USAID Mission Development Objectives (DOs) consistent with the climate change and environmental strategy; guides and monitors activities of contractors and grantees to ensure compliance with established USAID guidelines, policies, and procedures; and, coordinates the work with appropriate personnel at the USAID/Philippines, USAID/Washington, other USAID Missions, U.S. Embassies, and other USG agencies.

Strategic, Representational and Outreach Support (30%) – Works with various sections within the U.S. Embassies in the northern Pacific and USAID/Philippines, encouraging and reinforcing development issues of the U.S. national security strategy and recognizing the important contributions of development and diplomacy in the Pacific Islands. Develops contacts and networks of development specialists in the Pacific Islands, especially in FSM, RMI and Palau, cultivates relationships and identifies opportunities and points of interface with private sector, non-government organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, and public sector organizations. Assesses and advises on development assistance issues and trends, conducts analyses, and presents summaries of development challenges and opportunities in support of USAID development programs and activities. Establishes dialogues with key governmental, non-governmental, private sector, faith-based organizations and other key stakeholders, provides analysis and advice on USAID programs and development strategies and activities. Advises on whom to meet to obtain appropriate information, secure approvals and clearances for the effective and efficient management and implementation of the USAID portfolio. Represents USAID, under the direction of the GDO, at meetings and among U.S. Embassy planning groups, international donor groups and technical coordination working groups, and bilateral program heads. Prepares power point presentations, press releases, briefing materials and other outreach products to assist in meeting with USG stakeholders and other development partners in the region. Develops a tracking mechanism to ensure all programmatic tasks are monitored, accomplished, and reported.

Program Planning and Design (10%) – Assesses and identifies vulnerabilities in priority sectors important to the economic growth of the all of the above countries, and determines policy, institutional, financial, socio-cultural, and other constraints to implementing programs/projects/activities designed to reduce the vulnerabilities of the priority sectors from the negative impacts of climate change. Develops strategies to improve the capacity to implement resilience measures, including for adaptation to climate change; to effectively apply science and technology to collecting, analyzing, and disseminating climate data, in order to inform planning and decision-making for investments in improved resilience to disasters, alternative livelihoods, and natural resource management; to identify challenges in water resources management, including the impact of Global Climate Change (GCC) on resources in the above host countries, and advises the USAID Mission on actions to address these challenges – including taking the lead in preparing country assessments and strategy development to address water resources management issues, including drinking water supply and quality, irrigation and watershed management. Designs activities in support of public awareness campaigns to promote a greater understanding of resilience issues, and to encourage individual as well as collective actions towards disaster readiness; formulates strategies for collaboration with donors, governmental counterparts, NGOs, and the private sector, in order to identify possible areas for cooperation towards resilience; and, prepares studies, concept papers, scopes of work, program/project/activity design documents, and bilateral agreements related to the design of adaptation activities and other climate change related programs, requiring ongoing and regular contacts with national governments, NGOs, the private sector, and international donor agencies to ensure conflict and/or duplication between planned USG and other assistance is eliminated or minimized.

Disaster Assistance (10%) – Serves as a resource and liaison person for USAID Mission disaster assistance in all of the above countries. Liaises with international organizations and other donors during disaster situations

SOLICITATION NO. : USAID-2018-12
PIID# 72049218R10012

ISSUANCE DATE : 10 September 2018
CLOSING DATE/TIME : 09 October 2018 / 11:59PM

to ensure efficient coordination for external assistance. Maintains regular communication/contact with the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) officials during disaster situations, and files disaster situation reports as appropriate. Liaises with American voluntary agencies which are capable of responding to disaster situations and which have programs operating in all of the above countries. Provides periodic updates and reports on disaster situations.

Management and Coordination Support (10%) – Performs full oversight responsibility to provide administrative, office management, program and procurement-related support for the USAID Pacific Islands sub-office in Embassy Kolonia. Ensures all administrative and financial operations are carried out appropriately and in coordination with the USAID/Philippines support offices. Determines appropriate levels and maintains inventory of equipment, furniture, and all office supplies. Supports various USAID team visits to the northern Pacific, arranging and managing the development of substantive agendas and contacts with public, private and non-governmental sectors. Provides logistical support for official USAID visitors, such as issuing country clearances and arranging accommodations and making appointments for USAID officials. Supports and coordinates Pacific programs with USAID/Philippines, provides input for technical materials, briefings, speeches, and special analytical papers to support presentations, public outreach newsletters, and other communication products and responds to “quick turnaround” requests from Washington, Port Moresby and Manila for information about program developments. Maintains files and reports of development assistance assessments, strategic assistance alliance meetings, temporary duty reports and follow-up and collaborative assistance projects.

Financial Management and Procurement (10%) – Manages the petty cash revolving fund in the amount of \$1,500 and makes prompt payments for bills such as transportation, representational expenses, telephone bills, etc. Obtains funds from the financial accounting office in USAID/Philippines to replenish the petty cash revolving funds. Monitors and maintains records of expenses; plans and formulates budget for USAID activities in Embassy Kolonia; assists with relevant procurements for USAID

activities; purchases and maintains all office equipment such as laptop computers, fax machines, printers, etc. Determines the type of office equipment needed; identifies available vendors and processes purchase order.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIP: The Specialist works under the general supervision of the General Development Officer, assignments are made orally and in writing. Supervision of other staff is not contemplated.

8. AREA OF CONSIDERATION: Open to all interested individuals who are FSM citizens or non-FSM citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the Federated States of Micronesia, and who also have the required work permits. USAID Pacific Islands does not sponsor work permits.

9. POINT OF CONTACT: Human Resources Division via aidmnlhr@usaid.gov

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

a. Education – Bachelor’s Degree with a focus on subjects such as environmental engineering, environmental management, water and sanitation management, economics, and international development and governance or a similar related degree is required. Note: Additional education may NOT be substituted for Experience.

b. Prior Work Experience – Minimum of five years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in the development field is required. Three years of this should have been in development assistance or related work with the USG, FSM government organizations, other donor agencies, or the private sector. Experience should include project design, program planning and implementation, performance monitoring, and/or the analysis and interpretation of large amounts of complex program/project/activity information. Note: Additional experience may NOT be substituted for Education.

c. Language Proficiency / Communication Skills – Must have excellent communication skills in English, both in oral and written forms, in order to communicate effectively with USAID Mission staff and external contacts at various levels. Writing skills are required to prepare regular and ad



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

hoc reports, project documentation, and briefing papers.

d. Job Knowledge – The Specialist must have a demonstrated knowledge of priority sectors that are important to economic growth and demonstrated expertise in designing activities that effectively applies science and technology for informed planning and decision-making. Knowledge and understanding of the economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics of all of the above countries; and, their economic development problems, resources and resource constraints, and development prospects and priorities, is required. Knowledge of all of the above countries’ disaster response policies and capabilities. The Specialist must have a good knowledge, or the potential to quickly acquire such knowledge, of USG legislation, policy, and practice relating to development assistance; USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation; and, of the objectives, methodology, and status of assigned activities. Knowledge and understanding of the organization and respective roles of local governmental institutions and the host country governments.

e. Skills and Abilities – The demonstrated ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate programs/projects/activities is required. The Specialist must have good verbal communication skills, tact, and diplomacy. Analytical ability is required in order to interpret public policies, and to assist in the development of revised policies, as required; and, to develop and monitor the performance of budgets, and the development of periodic work plans. The ability to work independently with minimal supervision. The ability to work effectively in a team environment, and to achieve consensus on policy, program/project/activity, and administrative matters is required. Good computer skills are required, in order to manage activity goals and achievements, both technical and financial.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education (10%) 2. Prior Work Experience (30%) 3. Language Proficiency / Communication Skills (10%) 4. Job Knowledge (30%) 5. Skills and Abilities (20%)
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USAID reserves the right to reject any and all applicants; - Only short-listed applicants will be notified; - This position will be filled subject to funds availability.

IV. HOW TO APPLY:

1. Interested applicants are required to submit an **application letter** and a **comprehensive resume**
2. Applications must be received by **09 October 2018 / 11:59PM**, and submitted via email to aidmnlhr@usaid.gov
3. All applicants are requested to **prominently** indicate the following:
 - a. solicitation number (**Solicitation No.: USAID-2018-12**) in the subject line of their email submission;
 - b. **source** of the vacancy announcement (e.g. name of newspaper, website, social media)

V. BENEFITS/ALLOWANCES

The compensation package includes life insurance and supplementary retirement plan.

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NISSAN TIIDA
Year 2007 AT 1,490cc PETROL
Mileage 55,000km Color Beige



Ref.0100031135 **PRICE: \$2,180**
DAIHATSU TERIOS KID
Year 2001 AT 650cc PETROL
Mileage 96,000km Color Silver



Ref.0100030862 **PRICE: \$2,900**
NISSAN BLUEBIRD SYLPHY
Year 2007 AT 1,990cc PETROL
Mileage 14,000km Color Silver



Ref.0100031106 **PRICE: \$2,950**
TOYOTA GAIYA
Year 2001 AT 1,990cc PETROL
Mileage 19,000km Color White



Ref.0100031084 **PRICE: \$3,560**
TOYOTA BELTA
Year 2007 AT 990cc PETROL
Mileage 52,000km Color Silver



Ref.0100031095 **PRICE: \$3,110**
HONDA HR-V
Year 2000 F 1,590cc PETROL
Mileage 70,000km Color Silver



Ref.0100031053 **PRICE: \$4,490**
NISSAN MURANO
Year 2004 AT 3,490cc PETROL
Mileage 99,000km Color Gold



Ref.0100030868 **PRICE: \$4,660**
TOYOTA RAV4
Year 1995 AT 1,990cc PETROL
Mileage 91,000km Color Green



Ref.0100031134 **PRICE: \$2,250**
SUZUKI CARRY TRUCK
Year 1997 F 650cc PETROL
Mileage 85,000km Color White



Ref.0100030837 **PRICE: \$4,810**
NISSAN ATLAS
Year 2007 MT 1,990cc PETROL
Mileage 156,000km Color White



Ref.0100031173 **PRICE: \$5,700**
NISSAN DATSUN TRUCK
Year 1997 C 1,990cc PETROL
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*Price Include Car Cost & Freight up to Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae or Chuuk

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YCC goes Google It

Yap Chamber of Commerce

Learn how to find anything and everything on the internet! GOOGLE IT! is the title of a two-hour workshop on Wednesday, September 19 at the Yap Chamber of Commerce.

Participants will learn about different online search tools and how to use them to find information, news, documents, videos, websites and much more with just a few key words. The workshop will be held twice on the same day -- the first workshop will begin at 10am and end at noon. A repeat of the workshop will begin at 2pm and end at 4pm.

Cost is \$10 per person. Chamber of

Commerce members may send two employees free of charge. Space is limited to 6 participants in each workshop so sign up at the Yap Chamber of Commerce no later than 12 noon on Tuesday, September 18 to guarantee your place in this informative class that will be taught by Joyce McClure. Laptops will be provided by the Small Business Development Center, or you may bring your own laptop or tablet.

For more information, call the Yap Chamber of Commerce at 350-8990 or stop by the Chamber office on the 2nd floor of the SBDC building in downtown Colonia. Co-sponsored by the Yap Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center.

COMMUNITY:

Free Pacific Women Growing Business counselling sessions

Looking to start or JUMP start your business? Free one-on-one business/entrepreneur counselling sessions, funded by Australian Aid through SPC.

Call the Pacific Women Business Counsellor at 320-7523/3160 or email herolynm@spc.int.

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4. Email (reports@raiseyourtext.com) or text 925-8880 when your teacher is absent. "No teacher today for [class / period]"



Raise Your Text to see videos (ni lokaiahn Pohnpei) about how to sign up.

FREE TO SIGN UP ANY TIME.
YOUR INFORMATION IS ALWAYS SECRET!

Opinion Editorial

Chuuk Northwest region sends open letter to leaders and petition on secession

September 11, 2018

Statement of re-affirmation of support for the unity of Chuuk with the FSM

We present our sincere greetings unto you in your collective role as the "Fathers of Chuuk." Similarly, we express our best wishes for your fine health, happiness, and continued success.

Please favor us with indulgence to present our concerns to you as the Fathers of Chuuk. Our wish is to present our concerns to you directly, rather than going behind your backs, in a manner that is respectful and mature reflecting the essence of our time-honored Chuukese culture.

The heart of our concern relates to the movement that Chuuk is rapidly pursuing which we strongly believe is apt to imperil the Unity of Chuuk with the FSM. Unity of Micronesia is an unparalleled historic achievement and gem of pride for the Chuukese leadership and people since the very early stages of the endeavors that brought us together today as a nation.

Yet this profound achievement and quiet but enduring source of inspiration for Chuuk is now at its darkest hours, being exposed to imminent and maximum danger of permanent break-up or collapse. We call upon you as the Fathers of Chuuk to uphold the Unity of Chuuk with the FSM. We strongly believe that the exercise of enlightened leadership is once again descending upon Chuuk, and it does so pre-eminently upon you as the personification of the leaders of the Chuukese people. Very few Chuukese have had the grand opportunity as you do to exercise the litmus test of leadership by mobilizing and unifying our people in warm embrace and with renewed confidence for our collective future. We believe that the longer the delay in averting the course of the secessionist movement, the greater the adverse consequences will be on the Chuukese people and government; hence our fervent and kind appeal to you to change the course and unify your people with our brothers and sisters in the other three states.

This wish to bring our concerns to you started upon the initiative of a group of voters from the Northwest region of Chuuk which is exploring the possibility of organizing itself as a NW support and advisory caucus which is comprised of ordinary citizens, traditional leaders, educators, custodians of community norms, and local activists. Our

initial desire was to conduct an informal grassroots survey to gauge the support of maintaining the unity of Chuuk with the Federated States of Micronesia in the light of the movement to take Chuuk out of the Micronesian Federation.

Our respect demands that we be just as frank with you: insofar as we lack the professional credentials and resources, our intention was less ambitious than it would have been otherwise. Yet there is desirability for some indicative barometer of a general position of the NW voters as to the question relating to the proposed secession of Chuuk, an issue of enormous concern for all of us, by conducting the informal or non-scientific survey during the two-week period from 25 Aug to 10 Sept 2018. We apologize that our survey may not meet the standards of your scrutiny, but our aspiration to provide you a barometer focusing on our region where there has not been one as far as we know is done in good intention for your consideration and, hopefully, with utmost benefit.

Here are other highlights of the survey that we would like to share:

- 1) Our original intention was to conduct the survey within a two-week span, from 25 Aug to 10 Sept 2018, with a target of 1,000 persons indicating their views of the question of the proposed secession of Chuuk. The benchmark was more than reached when nearly 2,000 people voters within the time-span indicated their support for Unity. What's more, we are still counting – upon popular demand for extended time for other people to indicate their views on the burning question.
- 2) The survey led to the creation of a (so far incomplete) Master List of Supporters of Unity of Chuuk with the FSM. It is our intention to share our Master List and other working papers upon the completion of the survey.
- 3) The two primary sources of our "tabulation" were the survey form referred to earlier, copies of which were circulated among our survey population, and the "Lotowafeng on Chuuk Secession" website where others registered their support for Unity, which is another way of expressing their opposition to the proposed secession of Chuuk from the FSM. In other words, the survey was Internet-based, and it also used the postal service.
- 4) In the course of the two-week

survey the objective or the survey became known to fellow Chuukese from the other regions. It would be a breach in Chuukese etiquette, if not cultural norms, for us to refuse the support generously extended to the NW so we welcome aboard our friends and supporters from across the State of Chuuk. Noteworthy is that there are friends and supporters from the other three FSM states who came on board and extended a hand to the NW in this time of great confusion and potential danger ahead of us as a people and as a state. The Northwest is very much aware of our tradition not to refuse help and to extend rescue measure in times of crisis. We are sincerely grateful to those who share similar concerns and aspirations of the Northwest.

- 5) We invite your attention to our letter of 25 August addressed to the three of you; it served as the basis of our survey.
- 6) We are obliged to assure you that

August 25, 2018

Gentlemen:

We, the people of the Northwest region of Chuuk who sign this Statement of Re-Affirmation in support of the Unity of the Federated States of Micronesia, respectfully call on your good offices to cease and desist this secession movement to take the State of Chuuk out of the Unity and Friendship of the Federated States of Micronesia. Let it be known that some of those who join us in signing this Statement are our friends and families from the other regions of Chuuk.

With this secession, Chuuk is readying itself to sail straight into the eye of a gigantic storm. It is never in the culture of our Lotowafeng people to refuse to welcome on board those who wish to help us to sail in times of great troubles, or to extend a helping hand for those who might be left behind stranded on a desolate beach. In other words, we are not only exercising our civic rights and duties, we are gratefully appealing to you as well to honor and respect our cultural heritage. In doing this, we are also maintaining Lotowafeng's tradition of contributing, in whatever small amount, to the Unity and Friendship of our Nation since its birth.

Chuuk has its own challenges. In fact, there are many of them that deserve collective attention. But we believe strongly that Secession is not the right course to address our problems, as we are at the stage of "etakin kenna" – that is to say, when the dreadful year 2023 is within sight or only a short distance away when we must put our best foot forward under very difficult circumstances. Again, we

our "Statement of Re-affirmation of Support for the Unity of Chuuk with the FSM" is done in the spirit of the positions expressed by our NW Leadership Conferences, including statements by the NW representative in the FSM Congress. It is also cognizant of the assurances by the NW Delegation to the Chuuk State Legislature that the positions that the Delegation reportedly made on the floor of the Legislature are consistent with the position of the NW Leadership Conference. The underlying objective of our Statement of Re-affirmation and the grassroots survey is to further support, and not to divert or detract attention from, the official positions expressed by our leaders aimed at maintaining and strengthening the Unity of Chuuk with the FSM.

Respectfully submitted,
James A Naich
On behalf of the
NW Support and Advisory Caucus

respectfully beg leave to differ: we do not believe Secession is the correct sailing star for our fellow citizens of beloved Chuuk.

Besides our individual reasons for advancing Unity by opposing the proposed Secession, we support the position taken by the 1st NW Leadership Conference on Polowat in 2015, which was recalled and reiterated during the 2nd NW Leadership on Pollap in 2017. The position of the NW Leadership has been plain, concise, consistent, and unequivocal: to oppose the Secession and to put it to peaceful rest.

Our Statement of Re-affirmation of Unity also reflects the statements by other NW officials, including our representative in the FSM Congress, who took the stand to declare his opposition to Secession and to call on his colleagues in the FSM Congress and the Chuuk State Legislature to join him doing the same.

We urge you to support our Statement of Re-Affirmation of Unity. In the same spirit, we request that you make sure that: 1) the public education program on the proposed Secession of Chuuk be comprehensive -- that is, both pro and con sides of the Secession question, and not only one side, ne presented to the voters; and 2) that an independent team of electoral observers be present in Chuuk to observe and certify that the plebiscite is conducted fairly and orderly.

We sincerely appreciate your support of the Statement and its related requests, so made in the name of the people of our beloved Northwest region and our equally beloved State of Chuuk as a whole, of which we are enormously proud as well.

Letters to the Editor

The PDOE restructuring plan puts students first

By Richard Clark

I once heard that the Pohnpeian proverb *kenen ohl mwenge sarohdi* means shame is a man's food. Whether accurate or not, I've chosen to interpret this to mean that—as a man—I am powered by shame like gasoline powers a car. Let's suppose my interpretation is correct. I would add, then, that while the gasoline of shame drives me forward, my engine is oiled by hope—*koapworoapwor*, I believe.

Although I finished my service with US Peace Corps several years ago, I've remained in Pohnpei working for the Pohnpei Department of Education (PDOE). My host dad, Francisco Rosario, told me that Pohnpei, and

Education in particular, needed help. I promised him—and by extension all of Pohnpei—that I'd remain here until people either kicked me off the island or until every child who graduates from a public school knows how to read.

That's the shame—the gasoline—that drives me forward: Education does need help. Our children, more often than not, struggle to read in both English and Pohnpeian; our teachers are simultaneously underpaid and overworked; resources inside and outside of the classroom are limited. But I have plenty of hope—the oil—in my engine. You see, if it can be measured then it has improved.

Student attendance has increased by 5% over the past three years. COMET results at PICS have increased from ~25% of students becoming degree-bound to ~32%. The average score on the national test in 10th grade English has increased from 50% in 2013 to 60% in 2017. Starting in 2017, all teachers

in PDOE are evaluated annually. In 2016, the average teacher attended 10 hours of professional development per year; now it's 40 hours in summertime alone, augmented by our Lead Teacher program. Our textbook shortage is being addressed—Dr. Richard Womack has written our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Social Studies books—and, starting in 2017, our annual Education Day event began recognizing and awarding students based on their academic performance and attendance. In 2016, no public high school had a complete computer lab; now they all do.

In 2016 we had three bus systems—one for ECE, SPED, and high school. Now we have one bus system, serving even more students, to include elementary students. In 2017 we started our annual Summer Job Corps wherein vocational education students are given paid summer jobs, working with PDOE staff, to maintain our schools. It's how virtually every school has gotten their new doors, windows, fences, and more. This past summer we offered summer school across the entire state—if we ever did that before, it was before I arrived on the island.

Let's talk about what all these big changes mean using a specific school. If you went to Kapingamarangi School in 2016, you'd find a broken solar system; you'd find broken toilets and no drinking water; you'd find an absence of school data; you'd find no evidence of the Pohnpei State curriculum being used; you'd find no evidence of an emergency plan in case of a typhoon; you'd find a library with books to the ceiling, all covered in mold. The school nearly lost funding—there was even talk of closure! But if you go to Kapingamarangi School today, you'll find the new solar system powering the new lights and fans in every classroom; you'll find clean toilets and plenty of water; you'll find incredible school data, including evidence of weekly meetings and staff development; you'll find full use of the Pohnpei State curriculum and its scope & sequence; you'll find an emergency evacuation plan, that's actually used multiple times per year; and you'll find a renovated library with titles organized by grade and genre. State-wide, these kinds of successes are why our aggregate FSM Accreditation score was 2.675

in 2018 as opposed to 2.275 in 2014.

Why are these positive changes happening? It's because commitment is an act, not a word. It's because students are why we do every single thing we do. It's because of the PDOE Restructuring Plan developed under the collaborative spirit and leadership of Director Churchill Edward.

The Restructuring Plan is simple. Instead of having a separate Division of ECE, Division of Elementary, and Division of Secondary, each with a Chief, these divisions are merged together into the Division of School Support, with the three Chiefs becoming four geographically-based Superintendents. These Superintendents are allies—they have the same title and responsibilities, and so can support each other just as they support their schools. This helps principals, which helps teachers and by extension helps students.

In addition to the Division of School Support, the PDOE has developed an Office of Auxiliary Services dedicated to school maintenance, food, and transportation needs; we've developed an Office of Administrative Services dedicated to financial management and the hiring and evaluating of staff; and we've developed an Office of Quality Assurance dedicated to data management, standardized testing, and FSM Accreditation. The Division of Curriculum & Instruction, meanwhile, is improved by the addition of the Student Support Specialist.

Although PDOE began piloting this plan last year, and is fully implementing it this year, the sustainability of the PDOE Restructuring Plan is contingent upon the Pohnpei State Legislature passing amendments to the Education Act of 1999. For the education system, these amendments would ensure that we continue to put students first. If you're a mother, a father, a son, a daughter, a student, an alumnus, I humbly ask you to please support the PDOE Restructuring Plan.

And, for the Pohnpei State Legislature itself, allow me to quote Albert Camus. "Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend." *Kenen ohl mwenge kamarain*, enlightenment is a man's food.

Open letter to Mayor San Nicolas

Dear Mayor San Nicolas,

Iheng oh keipweni pahn kupwuren samatail koht.

I write on behalf of my sister Mihner Lorrin, her kids, family members and friends of the late Wahu en Wahnpoaroan Dais Lorrin, to extend our utmost appreciation to your office and the Kolonia Town Police for your superb performance on the funeral and burial services for the late Dais Lorrin. I simply cannot find the right words to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding manner in which you and your police force performed the task at hand. It exceeded our expectations.

We have grown so accustomed to believing that our municipal governments are inept to serve their people simply because of inadequate resources but you Honorable Mayor have proven us wrong on this perception. Your office is directly connected to the people at heart and therefore you know exactly what is needed in situations like this, especially when grief-stricken families have lost all hope to go on. Keep up the great job and God bless Kolonia Town!!

Kalahngan lap on Ni Wahu,
Marstella E. Jack



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Letters to the Editor

Sabino Asor responds to John Haglelgam

KPress, for the sake of balanced journalism, please print my response to Mr John Haglelgam's Letter to the Editor in your August 20, 2018 issue, in which the former FSM President, reported, among other things, that: (1) "I am the principal strategist behind the Chuuk State Independence Movement,"; (2) alleged that I reportedly claimed "in response to a statement by former FSM Speaker and former Chuuk Political Status Commissioner, Jack Fritz, that 'the establishment of the Chuuk State Political Status Commission is not unconstitutional because it was created by the Chuuk State Legislature' just like the Chuuk State Board of Education;" and (3) that in a reported Independence Movement Timeline I posted on the internet, "that I proposed to include in such a Timeline 'negotiations between the Chuuk Republic and the FSM on boundary lines...without realizing the FSM Constitution Article I Section 2 already delineated FSM state boundaries..."

I came across Mr Haglelgam's August 20 Letter at the Truk Stop Hotel Coffee Shop on August 31, 2018. I believe that in knowingly misquoting my internet article, Mr Haglelgam has committed what Newsweek Syndicated Columnist Geroge Will called "intellectual laziness" and Speaker Newt Gingrich had elevated as "intellectual dishonesty!" A person who eagerly makes a journalistic allegation without taking the necessary factual verification commits "intellectual dishonesty," and, in journalism, such a person is risking what Alabama Police Commissioner Sullivan once raised against the New York Times as "malicious disregard for the truth!"

First of all, Mr Haglelgam should know by now that I am not "the principal strategist behind the Chuuk Secession Movement." The Legislature created the law, the Commission recommended "Secession" and the Legislature approved the recommendation. I initially did not even know the law existed. I was only selected subsequently as the Commission's Chairman for Public Education, and as such, I now have my duties.

Second, Mr Haglelgam misquoted my response to Mr Jack Fritz on the constitutionality of the Chuuk Independence Movement. He said I "justified my defense of the constitutionality of the Chuuk Independence Movement by claiming the Commission is a creation of the Chuuk State Legislature just like the Chuuk State Board of Education."

I did post a statement on the internet, on

both the "Chuuk Isle of Paradise" and "Ran Anim News Chuuk" websites, responding to Mr Fritz' criticism of the Commission and also defending the Commission's decision to expel Mr Fritz from the Commission as a result of his criticism. Mr Fritz was a member of the Chuuk Political Status Commission, but he decided to question on the internet the constitutionality of the Commission's recommendation for Chuuk's political Independence. As a result of his criticism, the Commission expelled him as disloyal to his oath to the Commission's work. (I have now forwarded a copy of my post to KPress on hotmail and posted one on Micronesiaforum.org for reference since it is too long to include here).

Unfortunately, my post was in the Chuukese language, intended primarily for the Chuukese audience. In defending the Commission's expulsion of Mr Fritz as "legal," I used the analogy of the Commission's authority to expel members just like any other Chuuk State boards or commissions created by the Chuuk State Legislature, including the Chuuk State Land Commission or Board of Education. That was why I referred to the boards and commissions created by the Chuuk State Legislature that Mr Haglelgam referred to in his referenced Letter.

If Mr Haglelgam did not fully understand my post in the Chuukese language, I QUESTION why he rushed to print instead of ascertaining the meaning of my Chuukese internet article. Mr Haglelgam could have asked his Chuukese wife or his Chuukese COM students to help translate the article for him before he made the serious misquotation! That is why I consider Mr Haglelgam's referenced August 20 2018 Letter an "INTELLECTUAL DISHONESTY," in Speaker Gingrich's words!

(Moreover, I am insulted by former President Haglelgam reckless allegation! As Chuuk AG, I would not be so stupid to base my assessment of constitutionality of the current Chuuk Secession Movement on the act of the Chuuk State Legislature instead of on evaluations of relevant provisions of the FSM Constitution!! IN FACT, as Mr Haglelgam and most critics of the Chuuk Independence Movement have already learned, the Chuuk Status Commission's Legal Research DID FIND that Chuuk's Secession will not violate any current provision of the FSM Constitution, because (1) the provision about upholding FSM Unity that most critics base their objections on, Article XIII Section 3, is "not self executing" to have any legal consequence against a seceding state; (2) the legislative

provision regarding states' representations in the FSM Congress is not state specific, that the national Congress in fact could go on without Chuuk or any other state being represented anymore in the congress; and (3) the provision on national territory or state boundaries likewise was left deliberately flexible based on the history of the convention to enable subsequent geographic reconfiguration of the federation!)

That brings us to the last point in Mr Haglelgam's referenced Letter about my Independence Timeline point that a Chuuk Republic may have to negotiate boundary issues with the FSM. Of course, we know the FSM Constitution currently defines boundaries between current FSM states, and members of the Chuuk Status Commission also understands the Law of the Sea Convention principle of Equidistance (having a Chuuk own EEZ is one of the principal objective of the Secession Movement); AND SO in the event of a seceded Chuuk Republic, the Commission understands that international law like the Law of the Sea Equidistance Principle will cover the demarcation of the boundaries between the FSM states and the new Chuuk Republic! And since the state boundaries in the FSM Constitution will no longer be applicable against a seceded Chuuk Republic, the Chuuk Status Commission envision that boundaries may have to be established by nation-to-nation agreement, like the boundaries between the FSM and the republics of Palau and of the Marshalls Islands, instead of by the current language of the FSM Constitution.

President Haglelgam's referenced August 20 Letter to the KPress Editor is his third public statement to date on the Chuuk State Independence Movement, showing a curious hostility toward the Chuuk Independence Movement.

In his first post on social media, the former President called the Chuuk State leaders and status commissioner "delusional and incompetent to say the least," suggested the Chuuk Independence Movement is some kind of a treasonous act or an act of sedition, and called on the FSM Department of Justice to arrest and prosecute the Chuuk State leaders and Status commissioners (despite the fact that nothing about the Chuuk Independence Movement fits any of the definitions or requirements for treason or sedition in the FSM Criminal Code). I therefore suggested to some people not to ignore Mr Haglelgam's reckless legal conclusions because he is engaging in unauthorized practices of law issuing legal opinions when he is not a licensed attorney.

In his second statement also on social media and quoted by Radio New Zealand,

Mr Haglelgam called the Independence Movement "crazy." Now in his third statement, a Letter to the August 20 2018 KPress Editor, the former President and current COM Social Studies teacher has misquoted my article with Mr Jack Fritz regarding constitutionality of the Chuuk Independence Movement knowingly or maliciously.

President Haglelgam's bitter hostility toward Chuuk's Independence Movement is both understandable and laughable. It is laughable because he keeps accusing the Chuuk Independence Movement as inimical to the FSM's Principle of Unity enshrined in Article XIII Section 3 of the FSM Constitution, and yet he forgot that his 1987 election to the FSM Presidency was the first violation of the FSM Constitution's Principle of Unity called "a Gentlemen's Agreement to rotate the Presidency among the FSM states." Mr Haglelgam seized the FSM Presidency when it was supposed to be Pohnpei's turn because Pohnpei held the Vice Presidency at that time, thereby creating a bitter fight in the Congress Chamber that a member of the Chuuk Delegation had to throw a coffee cup across the Chamber to quiet down the opposition. The opposition was so real that some Pohnpeian young men tried to burn down the Congress building. His hostile opposition to the Chuuk Independence Movement also obscured that fact that he became the second FSM President on the shoulders of the Chuuk Congressional Delegation. Talk about ungratefulness!

It is possible that Mr Haglelgam's hostile opposition to Chuuk's Independence Movement is rooted in a fear that he is going to be "A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY" so to speak. For in the middle of his only term in the Presidency, his people of Yap disowned him, reportedly for being disrespectful against Yap's traditional leaders. He was taken out of the Yap Congressional seat, and he probably does not feel welcomed back to Yap anymore. On the other hand, he is married to a Chuukese, but has not grown sufficient Chuukese roots to be a full fledged citizen of a Chuuk Republic! Currently, he continues to live in Pohnpei but has not really been accepted into Pohnpeian societies, not even in the sakau bars or church congregations! If he is not a welcomed citizen of Yap nor a Chuuk Republic, Mr Haglelgam fears he might end up being a national citizen without a home state, like Hillary Clinton!

Mr Haglelgam does have reasons to fear a Chuuk Secession from the FSM, but he does not have to resort to "Intellectual Dishonesty" to express his fears. Speaker Gingrich considers such people as outrageous scums!

Sabino Asor



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