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U concludes its second Constitutional Convention with a formal closing celebration

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 25, 2019

U, Pohnpei—Today, 200 people or more gathered at the U nahs as U Municipality held a formal ceremony at the closing of its historic Second Constitution Convention.

The 17 delegates to the Constitutional Convention proposed 17 proposed amendments to the Constitution after three months of intense and comprehensive review. The number of amendments proposed as compared to the number of delegates was coincidental.

In 1985, U Municipality ratified its Constitution to become one of Pohnpei's 11 municipalities. In March of 2018, the people of U amended the Constitution paving way for a second constitutional convention to be held in order to review and propose changes to the Constitution necessary to guide the government forward. 17 delegates



were elected and on November 1, 2018 the review process began. During the closing ceremonies the President of the Convention

Mr. Adelihno Lorens presented the 17 proposed amendments passed by the Convention which will be put to vote on March 5, 2019.

See "U Con Con" on page 5

Pohnpei's Auditor recommends centralization of local government financial activities to curb losses

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 21, 2018

Pohnpei, FSM—Based on continuing evidence from audits of municipal governments, Pohnpei's State Auditor, Ihlen Joseph has recommended, among other things, administration of the financial activities of the municipalities by the State Department of Treasury and Administration (DoT&A).

The letter said that POPA's audits had discovered systemic financial problems and even outright fraud and embezzlement.

His communication, dated January 15 was addressed to Pohnpei's Governor, the Speaker of Pohnpei's Legislature, and the members of Pohnpei's 9th Legislature. In it he said that the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) had issued audit reports on 10 of the 11 municipal governments operating in Pohnpei. The 11th audit for financial activities of Madolenihmw Municipal Government for fiscal years 2017 to 2018 is ongoing. POPA expects to issue that audit soon.

The review of the municipal governments found that since implementation of Section 3, Article 11 of the Constitution 30 years ago (essentially a 30% allocation of local revenue for use by the municipalities), the municipal governments had received \$60 million, which averages to just short of \$182,000 per year per municipality with a high standard deviation depending on population of a municipality.

See "Auditor's Recommendations" on page 5

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Sea Cucumber harvest will not proceed in Sapwuahfik despite efforts otherwise

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 31, 2019

Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei Assistant Attorney General Judah Johnny has cautioned Governor Peterson against proceeding with a six page Young Sun International work plan to harvest sea cucumbers in Sapwuahfik. The company had submitted a work plan to commercially harvest sea cucumbers in the waters off the atoll municipality beginning sometime after January 3.

His January 15 letter was in response to a phone conversation with Governor Peterson concerning two documents; the commercialization work plan and a proposed settlement for partial lifting of the Temporary Restraining Order issued by the FSM Supreme Court banning any sea cucumber harvest pending final ruling by the Court.

He said in his letter to the Governor that there was evidence that Pohnpei's Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) and Young Sun International had worked together on the proposed work plan for commercialization of sea cucumbers in Sapwuahfik.

The work plan first came to the attention of the Attorney General's office when OFA Administrator Albert Augustine presented it to the AG's office for consultation prior to a meeting between Augustine and the Mwoalen Wahu. Judah's letter said that he then cautioned Augustine not to sign the document. He said that the plan did not meet the law which requires OFA to conduct a feasibility study of the sustainability and profitability of operation for the marketing of sea cucumbers from the lagoons of Pohnpei Island and the outer islands of the state.

Johnny's letter said that Augustine is new to his position and may not have been fully knowledgeable of the issues of the case

before the court in which the court had issued a restraining order barring harvest of sea cucumbers pending the outcome of the trial. "But Young Sun is a party defendant in the case," his letter said. "Young Sun should know the conditions of the TRO, and understand that the Plan does not address the requirement of law and the order of the court."

He wrote that the Office of the Attorney General had held several meetings with Young Sun and their attorney. During those meetings the AG's office made it clear that a feasibility study must be conducted and a plan presented that provides for sustainability balanced with profitability. "The (Sapwuahfik) work plan is no better than the Plan that we present to the court in our defense, which the court found failed to accomplish the legislative intent of the law," Johnny's letter said.

The letter also addressed a proposed Settlement for Partial Lifting of the TRO. The document was drafted for signature by Isipau as Chairman of Mwoal En Wahu, the Iso Nahnken of Nett, and Governor Peterson.

After returning from a trip to China, the principal Plaintiff in the civil action against Young Sun International and Pohnpei State appeared to have changed his mind regarding the viability of sea cucumber harvests in Pohnpei. The Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) was one of the plaintiffs. Johnny pointed out that the proposed court filing for the partial lifting of the TRO does not include participation of CSP, nor of Young Sun International. The document proposes to be signed only by parties without counsel. "There is no indication that there has been consultation with Ramp and Mida Law Offices for the plaintiffs, Attorney Joseph Phillip for Young Sun, and the Office of the Attorney General for Pohnpei State and OPA," the letter said. "Whoever drafted the settlement does not appear to know the facts of the case and the

law and rules governing. For this reason, I doubt very much that the Settlement as is, is capable of invoking jurisdiction of the court. Further, even if the Settlement is capable of moving the court, the requirement of Section 7-401 cited here will still (need) to be met."

"This effort appears to have created dissensions among leaders in Sapwuahfik Government. The matter has risen to the attention of the Pohnpei Legislature, resulting in legislative hearing in which the OFA Administrator, this office and a representative of your office were involved," the letter to the Governor said. "The sentiments expressed were negative."

Indeed, in December, Meileen Albert, Chief Representative of the Sapwuahfik Municipal Government notified FSM Attorney General Joses Gallen of an attempt by Young Sun International and a Sapwuahfik resident to harvest sea cucumber there. "My concern is that we are a small community that depends highly on our coastal resources for our well-being," her letter said. "Ours is also a peaceful community with simple lives uncorrupted by the influence of the kinds of business proposition of mass harvest of our coastal resources for pecuniary gains of a few. I really am concerned that this foreign

national will irreversibly and irreparably harm both the peaceful and harmonious community that we are as well as the balance of the coastal resources that we have so depended on for our wellbeing for hundreds of years."

The settlement for the partial lifting of the TRO proposed by the Mwoal En Wau states as part of its reasoning for the motion that it was satisfied, based on Pohnpei State Government's assurance that it has conducted a wild stock assessment of sea cucumber on the reef flats of Sapwuahfik. It also pointed to the State's reseeded of approximately 300,000 hatchery produced surf redfish and black teatfish sea cucumber juveniles late last year as a sufficient basis to allow for harvest. It said that they had also received endorsement of the traditional leaders of Sapwuahfik, and Speaker Mentiensahpw reflecting Peiweileng, the Government of Sapwuahfik, and the people of Sapwuahfik's support for the commercialization of sea cucumber there.

This week, Augustine told The Kaselehlie Press that OFA currently has no plans for a sea cucumber harvest in Sapwuahfik, unless and until the restraining order banning it is lifted. Even if the TRO is ultimately lifted, the law would still require the State to provide a sustainable management plan before there could be a harvest.

Pohnpei Consumer Organization launches new project to strengthen a National Coalition for Disability in FSM



Mr. Stuard Penias, Treasurer of the CMF Board, Mr. Henry Phillip, President of PCO, Mr. Patrick Blank, Executive Director of CMF, signing an MOU to launch the Disability Rights Forum project.)

The Pohnpei Consumer Organization (PCO) has received a grant from the Disability Rights Foundation to help strengthen the recently formed National Coalition of DPOs (Disabled Persons Organizations) in the FSM, including funding to start a new DPO in Chuuk State. The funding will be used to increase the capacity of the four state DPOs to understand the recently ratified UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and to help review and update the current FSM Policy on Disability. Mr. Henry Phillip, President of PCO, signed an MOU with the Care Micronesia Foundation as the fiscal sponsor for the grant. The project will be last for two years and will see the translation of CRPD materials into local languages so that there is greater awareness in the general public about what the FSM and states need to do now to address needs of persons with disability. You may contact Pohnpei Consumer Organization at 922-4510 or 925-9711 or may email us at nperez@gmail.com and hphillip@gmail.com for more information.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: February 18, 2019

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Ambassador Fraser says Australia “a willing and able partner” at Australia Day address

The Kaselehlie Press

January 25, 2019

Pohnpei—The Australian Ambassador to the FSM, George Fraser, hosted this year’s celebration of Australia Day at Cupid’s Bar and Grill in Nanpohnmal during a dinner reception on the evening of January 25. Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs represented the FSM at the event which began with a traditional Pohnpeian sakau ceremony.

The Ambassador also used the occasion to introduce Takuro Steele, the Embassy’s new Second Secretary, and his wife Mariline to those who had not met them during the previous week’s reception farewelling Eliza Woolcock and her partner Jac Steiner and welcoming the Steeles to the FSM.

The text of Ambassador Fraser’s speech follows:

“The intent of Australia Day is to celebrate the unity, cooperation and achievements of the immensely diverse peoples in our country. Diverse in background, diverse in abilities and diverse in ethnicities, religions and views but by-and-large all choosing to work together for the common good. Putting aside the effect of a few would choose otherwise, Australia is one of a few really great places to live.

“Its people are productive, prosperous and generous, and importantly they wish the same for others. They take a strong interest in what governments do with their taxes and they support the desire of successive national governments that our Pacific island neighbours also be secure, stable and prosperous.

“To this end, Australia welcomes cooperation with all development partners working towards that goal.

The past two years have been brimming with announcements regarding Australia’s work and plans in the Pacific.

“Since Prime Minister Turnbull’s announcement of our ‘Step Up’ during the Forum leaders meeting here in 2016, there has been an unprecedented amount of thought and many activities applied across Australia’s Pacific missions to implement that welcome directive.

“Our work is many-faceted but my remarks tonight reflect on just one simple concept – and that is Australia

as a willing and able partner, here in the North Pacific and elsewhere.

“Together with national governments, Australia will continue to consult on their specific needs; consult on means to address those needs; and to consult on its own regional development programs.

“We are currently seeking input from Pacific countries on the design of our new Infrastructure facility, cyber security needs and more.

“Our country is fortunate to have a sizeable economy and an extensive government infrastructure. We would be happy to explore how our economies of scale can assist our partners – an example is our testing of therapeutic drugs purchased by Pacific health authorities.

“Australia is increasingly being recognised as an innovative and technologically advanced country; but we also sponsor innovation elsewhere. In 2016, Australian Aid partnered with Tata Group to issue the global Water Abundance X-Prize challenge, which was to extract a minimum of 2,000 litres of water from the atmosphere daily, using 100 percent renewable energy, at a cost of no more than two cents per litre.

“In 2018, a prize of \$1.5 million was awarded to the joint winners, and \$200,000 to another finalist so they can continue their development work to bring sufficient potable water to communities in need. A central pillar of our foreign policy is promoting human rights, especially those of women and people with disabilities. We do so now on the Human Rights Council, including on issues of importance to the Pacific. I am pleased to announce that Australia will also support the Marshall Islands’ candidacy for the Council in the 2020 to 22 term so as to amplify the Pacific voice internationally.

“I encourage people in the Pacific to seek to explore study opportunities in Australia, privately or under scholarship; and I undertake to continue to press for increased scholarship funding. Opportunities for post-graduate study in Australia for those already in the workforce can be flexible and they deliver valuable qualifications.

“People are the powerful renewable resource of the Pacific. It is imperative that this resource be developed. Australia has the system to do it well, and the experience to prepare for young people for business relations with your nearest neighbours in Asia, as well as the Pacific.

“Deputy Secretary, Australia stands ready to partner with regional countries in meeting the needs they identify and to join in development on their terms.

“We seek also to join or complement programs of other development partners in this task.”



...Auditor's Recommendations

Continued from front page

With such a small amount of average annual revenue, the municipalities could not afford mismanagement but auditors "discovered serious internal control weaknesses and deficiencies in the handling, management, accounting, recording, and reporting timely of the local governments' financial affairs."

The letter said there had been a lack of proper and close supervisory oversight over the local governments' financial management activities and unskilled and inexperienced financial support staff. There was such a systemic lack of documentary evidence to support collection and expenditure of municipal government funds that two of the 10 municipal governments so far audited were declared to be "un-auditable for complete lack of an audit trail". The problem was not limited to those two local governments. Though audits weren't always easy they uncovered abuses and mismanagement, some of which the State Auditor's letter outlined.

"Misappropriation, theft and embezzlement of governments' funds by Officials and employees of local governments" were uncovered by POPA audits.

"Unlawful and excessive salary advances (were) made and issued to officials and employees of the local governments," the letter said.

Checks were issued to municipal government employees for non-payroll related expenses without proper documentary evidence to support the expenditure of the funds. There were expenditures of local governments' funds without proper authorization and appropriation by law. Non-official trips were paid for with municipal funds by officials.

Development and project operations plans were either lacking or outdated, as were financial management regulations, policies and procedures to guide collection and disbursement activities of the local governments.

Based on the summary of the multiple audits, Pohnpei's State Auditor recommended significant changes beginning with the assumption by DoT&A for administration and management of the disbursements of local governments' funds. Those duties, if adopted would include the collection, fund certification, disbursement, and timely financial reporting of the funds in conformity with relevant Pohnpei laws and applicable laws and processes of each local government.

Under the auditor's recommendation, "each municipal government would retain full authority to plan, appropriate and spend their share of the 30% allocated according to their respective development projects and operation plan..."

He recommended that the "working relationship" should remain in force until such time as DoT&A can certify that:

"Adequate financial management regulations, procedures, and related instruments are in place and working to guide the administration and management of a local government's financial affairs in accordance with laws and best practices, and until qualified responsible finance/budget staff (members) are identified, recruited, and properly trained to assume the management and administration of the financial activities of a municipal government in conformity with appropriate laws and best practices," the letter said.

He suggested that the DoT&A could possibly consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with each respective municipal government to formalize the proposed working relationship in greater detail, "to ensure better understanding and proper implementation."

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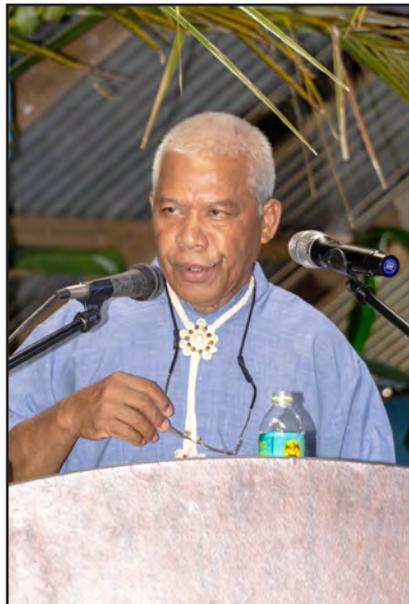
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...U Con Con

continued from front page

Organizers say that there will be a public awareness campaign prior to the election. They say that in conjunction with the awareness campaign there will be a public event on March 3rd that the public will be invited to participate in prior to the March 5 vote. Meanwhile, Mason Albert has listed all of the proposed amendments in his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mason.albert.3

In attendance to witness the closing ceremony event included His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; The Honorable Marcelo Peterson, Governor of the State of Pohnpei; The Honorable Fernando Scaliem, Speaker of the 9th Pohnpei Legislature. Other leaders of both the State and Local Governments were also in attendance to observe the event. The Mwoalen Wahu and other leaders of U Municipality joined its citizens to witness the monumental achievement in U's history.



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COM-FSM students documenting Nan Madol preservation study

By Denise Oen
The College of Micronesia FSM

January 30, 2019

Pohnpei—The United States Embassy Fund for Historic Preservation awarded a grant to the Cultural Sites Resource Management (CSRM) Foundation to respectfully enhance facilities at the ancient ruins of Nan Madol, which was recently named a UNESCO World Heritage site. The CSRM Foundation “develops, applies, and builds capacity among heritage preservation communities to apply advanced and emerging technologies to research, management, and development at natural and cultural heritage sites and living cultural landscapes.” (Cultural Site Research and Management Foundation)

Several students from COM-FSM are working on a documentary of this project. This opportunity grew from a cross-disciplinary course over the summer in both English and Micronesian History that drew the attention of the US Embassy in Kolonia. The students from the class were awarded a \$40,000 grant to buy filming and editing equipment, and to hire professional help for a documentary about CSRM’s project.

The students in the summer course, who continued to meet regularly after the course had ended, collaborated on the budget and decided to again seek the guidance of Dan Lin, their film instructor from the summer course. The equipment was ordered and Dan and his filmmaking partner, Nina Blanco, were hired as consultants.

The young filmmakers had several days with Dan and Nina to do preproduction such as upgrading their skills as filmmakers using new equipment including the GoPro 7 and a drone. They improved their interviewing expertise with the expert guidance of Delihna Ehmes, a sociologist who teaches several course in Micronesian studies at the college. The group created a digital storyboard using their knowledge of Nan Madol as Micronesians but then created updated versions as their narrative intersected with the work of CSRM and as their interactions with stakeholders increased through interviews and community meetings.

The filmmakers spent two days at Nan Madol, one on their own and another with members of the CSRM team. The filmmakers attended and filmed a Sakau ceremony with the Nahmwarki of Madolenihmw to receive his blessing on CSRM’s project before the scientists began their fieldwork. In addition, the students spent two afternoons filming a

drone named “Olivia” which carried the Lidar technology that provided the CSRM team with data to create 3D models of the Nan Madol site. This technology fits in well with CSRM’s philosophy to create as little physical disturbance as possible. The filmmakers have held six interviews and attended several community meetings regarding the project. They have become true professionals.

There have been challenges, of course. Making this documentary has required our young filmmakers, who are also students, to be flexible with their time. Faculty at the college have been supportive of students missing the occasional class but it was understood by all that school was the priority and that the students were responsible for the material they missed while in the field. The filmmakers often “tag teamed” with some coming in the morning when they were free and then attending classes in the afternoon while others went to their morning classes and rushed to the shoot after they were finished. Some shoots took place on the weekend and the filmmakers took care of their chores, attended church, and youth group activities before heading out to hold a camera or a microphone for hours on location.

They filmed when it was hot and they filmed in the pouring rain. They carried cameras on top of their heads to wade out to Nan Madol during a king tide. The hiked across coral, swam in the surf, and climbed up hills. They packed camera equipment into vans, small cars, and boats. And then the filmmakers unpacked all the equipment, downloaded the data cards, and readied everything for the next shoot.

Throughout, however, the community has offered lots of support. COM-FSM has been very helpful with resources and expertise: transportation, meals, and technology and media know how. Families have trusted that we would take good care of their children while they were with us. And in the field, the graciousness of the landowners was continual as they offered treats like pancakes, sandwiches, and coconuts just when they were most needed.

And the students themselves are a family



and they supported each other in so many ways by providing rides, sharing snacks in the van (orange slices with chili and kool aid!), and writing encouraging words on the group chat and our Facebook page. As an educator who specializes in curriculum and instruction, I am always asking myself about the learning that is taking place in any experience especially those considered “educational.” Over the course of the last few weeks, I have observed our filmmakers solve problems effectively, synthesize information quickly, and incorporate new concepts and vocabulary learned in the field into their academic work. I have also seen them become more confident as they interacted with community leaders and scientists on a personal level. They have truly become filmmakers with a passion for using their voices as Micronesians to tell the story of this particular moment in the history of Nan Madol.

There is a public Facebook group to follow the adventures of these talented students at Filming Our Journey’s: History of Micronesia to Contemporary Island Topics. Please also feel free to reach out to Dr. Denise Oen, Director of the Institute of Student Learning and Excellence, at doen@comfsm.fm for more information.

APOLOGIES!

In the January 21, 2019 issue of The Kaselehlie Press we ran a confusing story about an audit conducted in Pohnpei, entitled “Pohnpei auditor recommends changes in PTA employee leave and allotment implementation”. The audit was for the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) and not the Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA). We understand the confusion our error may have given some readers and apologize for our mistake.



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EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Mr. Hiroki Noda is a faculty member at Kosrae Campus teaching in the area of electronics. Born and raised in Kosrae, he went on to attend Kosrae High School and graduated in 2000. He immediately enrolled at COM-FSM/Kosrae in the same year and graduated in 2005 with his first Certificate of Achievement in Electronic Engineering Technology. He would go on to achieve additional academic credentials in the same field leading to up his current position as a Faculty.

- Associate of Applied Science in Telecommunication Technology, Summer 2006.
- Associate of Applied Science in Electronic Technology, Summer 2010.
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Fall 2016 (CSU-Global Campus).

Hiroki was initially hired as an IT Technician in 2012 and while an employee, he was taking courses online with support from the college including financial assistance toward his bachelor's degree earned in 2016. Then in January 2018, he filled a vacant instructor position teaching courses leading up to these programs:

- Certificate of Achievement in Electronics Engineering Technology; and
- Associate of Applied Science in Electronic Technology.

When asked how he chose his field and to study at the home campus, he said his reasons are simple; "I am always fascinated by electricity. When I was in junior high, I was introduced to the basic fundamentals of electronic circuits and through research and a friend, I learned that COM-FSM offers much more in-depth learning on electronic technology; so why looking for distant education when we already have one here on the island that offers what I am most interested in?"

During his employment he received a number of awards;

- Staff of the Year award (2017)
- Professional Recognition award (2017)
- Professional Recognition award (2018)
- 5 Years of Service award (2018)
- Information System Management & Architecture award (CSU-Global Campus, 2016)
- Network & Information Security Analysis award (CSU-Global Campus, 2016)

As one of the employees who completed a degree while working full time, he was asked the usual question about his own experience with this successful endeavor. He told us, it was kind of hard and time consuming at first, but once he started planning his time better balancing work and school, everything started to fall into place and related this quote that helped him; "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail".

Having started at the college in an administrative position and now assumed a faculty position where he provides direct services to students, he pronounced these as the ways and means in which he contributes to students' success at the college and the future of the FSM.

- Encourage my students about what can they do after graduating from electronic technology and how the field relates to the advancement of today's modern world.
- Provide daily feedback about their performance and progress in class as we go along in each semester.
- Show them that I am proud to work here because I was once sitting on their side of the table and know how they feel.
- Nurture and assess them on a daily basis using simple/basic questionnaires regarding what we study.

He feels that students relate to him better in his current role as a faculty because he once was a student himself at the college. He also seems to enjoy his new assignment.

His advice and encouragement to students to be successful include these.

- Respect your teachers. Teachers/instructors love to be respected. You can only earn their respect if you respect them.
- Joy of reading. Reading is the basic foundation of learning.
- Values of studying. Study helps you learn new things in life. "If you always do what you've always done you will always get what you always got" (Henry Ford). No improvement to your skills and knowledge. It will stay the same.

When Hiroki is not teaching, he can be found fishing. And as someone who chose to remain home and study at the home campus, he related these benefits for students who may have to make that kind of decision after high school this year or later.

1. COM-FSM is already an accredited college under WASC and it offers most of what we need to ensure the development, prosperity, and sustainability of our nation.

2. Much easier and fun studying at COM-FSM because you get to stay close to your family, relatives, and friends.

3. Easy to make new friends here since we are micro-islanders and we are known to many for our hospitality and friendly faces.

4. Affordable tuition compared to other accredited institutions around the world. You don't have to pay an extra \$10.00 just to buy yourself a sandwich.





Employment Opportunities

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement
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Values

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

Positions	Location	Annual Salary	Closing Date
Instructor-Mathematics	Career & Technical Education Center (Pohnpei)	\$16,131.00 - \$17,819.00	February 02, 2019
Instructor-Natural Science	Kosrae Campus	\$19,880.00- \$20,482.00	February 03, 2019
Student Services Coordinator	Chuuk Campus	\$16,124.00	February 07, 2019
Instructor-Education	Yap Campus	\$16,131.00 - \$17,819.00	February 16, 2019
Instructional Coordinator	Chuuk Campus	\$16,643.00	February 16, 2019
Instructor-Navigation	FMI Campus	\$17,643.00 - \$19,488.00	February 16, 2019
Agriculture Agent I	Career & Technical Education Center (Pohnpei)	\$8,586.00 - \$9,675.00	February 20, 2019
Computer Lab Monitor	Career & Technical Education Center (Pohnpei)	\$5,955.00	February 20, 2019
Farm Laborer	Kosrae Campus	\$5,248.00	February 20, 2019
Extension Assistant (Nutrition)	Career & Technical Education Center (Pohnpei)	\$6,075.00	February 21, 2019
Instructor-Accounting	National Campus	\$16,131.00 - \$17,819.00	February 21, 2019
Extension Agent I (Home Economics)	Yap Campus	\$8,586.00 - \$9,675.00	February 23, 2019
Instructor-Engineer	FMI Campus	\$17,643.00 - \$19,488.00	February 27, 2019
Instructor-Mathematics	Yap Campus	\$16,131.00 - \$17,819.00	February 28, 2019

****Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 179, 180, 181 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm.**



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SUMMARY OF DUTIES: An experienced and qualified Regional Laboratory Program Specialist (RLPS) is being sought by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) to assist in the coordination and implementation of the activities under PIHOA's Regional Laboratory Strengthening Initiative, including but not limited to: 1) coordination and implementation of CDC's Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) program; and 2) provision of laboratory technical support to US-affiliated Pacific Island (USAPI) laboratories as assigned by the PIHOA Regional Laboratory Strengthening Coordinator (RLSC). The RLPS will liaise and communicate directly with the PIHOA RLSC and consult with USAPI laboratory management to ensure proper joint coordination and information-sharing for the effective ongoing progress of the SLMTA initiative and other assigned tasks for laboratory capacity development in the USAPIs. The RLPS will work closely with the non-regulated laboratories in the freely-associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia – FSM (Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap), Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The overall primary objective of this consultancy will be to work in close consultation with the PIHOA RLSC and USAPI laboratory management to improve USAPI quality laboratory management systems through the provision of technical assistance and trainings, with main focus towards laboratory accreditation should it be desired by the USAPI laboratory concerned.

The position is funded by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) through its partnership cooperative agreement with PIHOA, and is subject to US federal guidelines and regulations. Additional technical advisory support will be provided by relevant staff at CDC associated with the SLMTA initiative. Position will be co-located at the Pacific Community's (SPC) Northern Pacific Regional Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei State, FSM.

SCOPE OF POSITION:

1. Reports to: PIHOA Regional Laboratory Strengthening Coordinator (RLSC)
2. Geographic Areas of Responsibility: US-affiliated Pacific Islands
3. Supervision of Staff: No
4. Fiscal Responsibilities: Yes, but no approval authority; any and all fiscal transactions must have prior approval from the PIHOA RLSC and Executive Director
5. Signature Authorities: No; all vendor and other contracts will require prior approval and be signed off by the PIHOA Executive Director and/or assigned PIHOA Technical Staff
6. Level of Interaction: Must be able to work independently and in collaboration with other team members and diverse project stakeholders across the USAPI laboratory managements, USAPI health leadership, CDC, office of the Pacific Community (SPC), and PIHOA.
7. Special Requirements: May be exposed to vector-borne diseases and local infectious diseases, rough terrain, inclement weather conditions, high humidity, intense heat and sun, vicious animals, poisonous plants/sea creatures, and travel in small prop planes and/or small boats over rough seas. Must be willing to travel from duty station for long periods of time, as required. Must be able to work in resource-limited, rural environments with limited public infrastructure and communications/IT capabilities. Must have valid passport to travel.

MAJOR DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Set up a schedule for laboratory audits in Palau, FSM (Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae), and RMI



PACIFIC ISLAND HEALTH OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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JOB TITLE:	Regional Laboratory Program Specialist (RLPS)
JOB STATUS:	Short Term, Full-Time Consultant
JOB PERIOD:	March to June 2019, with possible extension to June 2020 contingent on available funding
DUTY STATION:	Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia – Northern Pacific Regional Office of the Pacific Community (SPC)

(Ebeye and Majuro) using the WHO's Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) Checklist;

2. Compile audit reports and share audit findings with supporting recommendations with the relevant USAPI laboratory management and their respective health leadership;

3. Develop a workplan in coordination with the PIHOA RLSC for the continuation of the SLMTA Initiative in Yap, FSM and other USAPI laboratories that plan to embark on the SLMTA Initiative;

4. The RLPS will assist in all project tasks as directed by the RLSC and/or PIHOA Executive Director including, but not limited to the daily administration of program-related functions and tasks, assistance with coordination/implementation of program activities and stakeholder planning meetings, and administrative monitoring and procurement of SLMTA project supplies/equipment;

5. Work closely with USAPI laboratory management and their respective health leadership, assigned PIHOA technical staff, and other advisors to plan, implement, monitor and report on all SLMTA tasks and assigned PIHOA Regional Laboratory Initiative activities to ensure program objectives, activity timelines, and performance indicators are met in a timely and quality manner. This includes the development of a program implementation plan and performance monitoring framework for the 2019 calendar year;

6. Assist the PIHOA RLSC to provide additional technical support to USAPI laboratories for the following, as required: diagnostic rapid testing support/training for outbreak-prone diseases; support logging, packing, and shipping of clinical specimens related to potential outbreaks for off-island confirmation, including quality assurance and lab assessments to ensure adherence to IATA/ISO requirements;

7. Provide trainings to maintain certification of IATA Shipping Trainers for each USAPI lab;

8. Assist in on-going trainings and quality assessments to maintain biosafety levels and engage in continuous quality improvement in each of the USAPI labs, and to ensure USAPI labs maintain the ability to properly pack and ship food, environmental, chemical and radiologic specimens for testing (i.e. shipment to CDC Fort Collins, or Guam Public Health and Environmental Health Labs);

9. Work with the RLSC, relevant PIHOA technical staff, and regional partners (e.g. CDC, SPC, WHO, Global Strategic Solutions for Health, and Association of Public Health Laboratories) to continue to support the build-up/expansion and quality improvement of Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services Public Health and Environmental Health Laboratories as BSL 2+ diagnostic reference labs for outbreak-prone/infectious and other emerging diseases to interested USAPI labs;

10. Support the RLSC to plan and coordinate activities to improve infection prevention and control status in the USAPIs;

11. Support RLSC to engage and coordinate with USAPI Laboratory Managers and regional technical partners to ensure USAPI laboratories have effective and efficient mechanisms, systems and capacities to support lab-based testing and timely public health alerts/surveillance of outbreak-prone/infectious/emerging diseases;

12. Collate and submit periodic reports to the concerned USAPI laboratory managements and health leadership and RLSC that provide qualitative and quantitative summary progress against agreed program tasks, timelines, and milestones;

13. As needed, may be required to travel to the Honolulu PIHOA office to work with PIHOA management, finance and technical staff in support of the SLMTA initiative and related PIHOA regional laboratory activities (next meeting will be in Palau in March 2019);

14. Plan and coordinate mid- and end-of-project evaluation/after-action review efforts in consultation with the USAPI laboratory management concerned. Such report will be shared with the health leadership concerned, PIHOA Executive Director and the RLSC; and

15. Perform any other duties as assigned in accordance with the PIHOA regional laboratory initiative objectives.

REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Submission of monthly invoices for payment and programmatic progress reports outlining activity and performance indicator completion status, including additional Duty Travel/Trip/Training Reports, and other relevant documentation providing evidence of work progress.

2. Submission of allowable travel reimbursable receipts as needed (calling/internet cards, airport tax, excess luggage, car rental fuel, etc.).

3. When completed, submission of all final and approved deliverables and reports.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT OUTPUTS (DELIVERABLES):

1. SLMTA Initiative Training Reports
2. Regional Laboratory Initiative Training Reports
3. Lab Quality Assessment Reports
4. Duty Travel Trip Reports

PRIMARY QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Education: Minimum of Bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science or microbiology/infectious diseases. A postgraduate diploma and/or Master's degree in the relevant area of health sciences or public health is desirable (equivalent professional experience will also be assessed).

2. Job Experience: 3 to 5 years or more of work experience in a diagnostic/clinical laboratory, microbiology or infectious diseases and/or public health microbiology. Experience working as a clinical laboratory quality assurance manager is preferred.

3. Job Knowledge: Advanced knowledge of the lab quality management system, CLSI and ISO laboratory standards, US CLIA regulations,

laboratory accrediting institutions, biosafety and shipping of hazardous materials (especially infectious substances), and principles of infection prevention and control.

4. Abilities and Skills: Must have excellent English and written communication and report-writing skills. Must possess skills and experience as a training instructor/facilitator. Current driver's license and passport to be able to work and travel in the USAPIs. Must have intermediate to advanced computer literacy, and be proficient in Microsoft Office applications, especially MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Must understand vague and implicit instructions and react favorably and in an open and diplomatic manner in all work situations. Must be able to communicate in a positive and professional manner. Must be mentally adaptable and flexible in dealing with a variety of people from a variety of different circumstances, languages, cultural beliefs and practices, and health knowledge. Must be proactive, and able to work in an intense work environment with multiple competing tasks and deadlines and possess excellent time management skills.

5. Travel: Must be willing and able to travel in the US and internationally, when required, with possible long durations away from home duty station.

6. Citizenship Requirements: Candidate must possess a valid passport that enables work and residence in the FSM, and travel to the US and other USAPI sites, preferably a US passport, US Green Card, or other relevant visa type. Please note that PIHOA does not cover expenses related to acquiring a work visa or passport.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL DEMANDS: Requires prolonged sitting and some standing, walking, kneeling, and bending, requires eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity sufficient to operate computer keyboard and office equipment, and to travel in infrastructure and resource-limited environments. Requires normal range of hearing and vision to perform job duties. Requires occasional lifting up to 45 pounds. Must be able to drive a vehicle. Duties require extensive traveling.

COMPENSATION: Commensurate with qualifications and experience. Relocation travel airfare, per diem, and associated transit travel lodging between home base and duty station may be covered by PIHOA if candidate not currently in Pohnpei, FSM at commencement and conclusion of consultancy period. Fringe and other benefits are not covered under PIHOA employment policies for short-term consultancies.

APPLICATION: Submit the following electronically with attention to Andrea Whitt (andrewa@pihoa.org), Office and Program Support Officer and Regie Tolentino, Office Administrator (regiet@pihoa.org), with cc copy to Dr. Vasiti Uluiviti (vasituu@pihoa.org), Regional Laboratory Strengthening Coordinator, no later than February 8, 2019, Guam Standard Time:

- 1) **Letter of Interest** that outlines your overall qualifications and professional experience in response to the Primary Qualifications and Major Duties and Responsibilities;
- 2) **Curriculum Vitae or Resume;** and
- 3) Minimum of **two (2) work references** from supervisors current to the last 5 years.

For any enquiries related to this vacancy, please direct them to vasituu@pihoa.org. Pacific Island Health Officers Association, 737 Bishop Street, Suite 2075, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Office Telephone: 808.537.3131. Office Fax: 808.537.6868. Website: www.pihoa.org

POPA conducts fraud awareness at the Postmasters Training

Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor

Kolonia, Pohnpei- On January 16, 2019, the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) started the New Year right by presenting a Fraud Awareness Briefing (FAB) at the FSM Postal Services, Headquarters. It was part of POPA's proactive efforts to promote good governance and outreach to the public to be aware of the values and benefits of POPA in relation to fighting fraud and corruption. The training attendees include all the Postmasters from Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae with the FSM Postmaster General and FSM Customs & Tax Administration. It was the Postmasters Annual Meeting. Although it was a small crowd, the presentation was a success because of the active involvement and discussions from the participants.

POPA will be able to achieve their goal on their awareness program which is to leave a great impact among the participants. It is also good to hear that the FSM Postal Services are aware of the importance



of management oversight, internal controls and enforcing their policies and procedures in their respective offices. As Postmaster General Ginger Porter Mida said "It is time to stop fraud and corruption, management plays a key role in preventing it."

For more information about POPA and/or about the Fraud Awareness program visit the POPA's website: <http://opapni.fm/>

Yap Living History Museum receives donation of historical artifacts for new building

Yap Visitor's Bureau

Colonia, Yap- Art Mergist, a former Peace Corps Volunteer and teacher in Yap during the 1970's, has donated his collection of historical artifacts including yearbooks from the school where he taught, paintings and a string of traditional shell money to the Yap Living History Museum in Colonia. "We are very excited that construction of the new climate-controlled building will begin the first week of



Atilana Rambayon (Art Mergists friend who gave the collections to the FSM Consulate Office-Guam) Teresa Filepin, FSM

February," said Don Evans, general manager, Yap Visitors Bureau. "When completed, Mr. Mergist's collection will be displayed along with historical photos and other educational materials. We are looking forward to having not just visitors to Yap and residents, but also local schoolchildren visit the new addition to the museum to learn about Yap's culture

and heritage." Until then, the collection has been loaned to the FSM Council General's Office on Guam where it will be on display until the completion of the new building later this year. Visitors are welcome to stop by the FSM Consulate office at, 1755 Army Drive Harmon, Dededo Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm to view the artifacts.

Enimwahn Development Association- Improving the sustainability and diversity of home farming activities

Back on May 24th, 2016, the President of the Enimwahn Development Association (EDA), Mr. Stuard Penias, signed an MOA with the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), which is implemented by United Nations Development Program (UNDP), for a planning grant given under the Small Grants Programme for the project entitled "Improving the sustainability and diversity of home farming activities in Enimwahn". This started the two-and-a-half-year project where the people of Enimwahn have been working to increase their food security and grow more banana and yam varieties. Now, as the project is concluding, they are reaping the fruits of their labor – literally.



The Enimwahn community used this grant to educate themselves on the issue of climate change and biodiversity and planted different varieties of bananas and yams to improve the diversity of crops that they grow. In addition, they created nurseries, a tool shed and a greenhouse to continue to grow planting materials for the community. Not only was this project successful in improving the sustainability of community's resources, it now produces enough crops for the families to eat and sell the excess to the local markets to increase the availability of local food in Pohnpei.



A site visit was held by the FSM SGP Programme Assistant, Mrs. Laverine Pretrick, on Sunday, December 9, 2018 where new planting tools were given out to community members so that they can continue to plant and take care of their new farms.



The Enimwahn community would like to thank all the stakeholders in Pohnpei that assisted with them with their project such as the Pohnpei State Agriculture Office, COM-Land Grant, USDA-NRCS, State Forestry, the Madolenihmw Municipal Government, Senator Shelten Neth, Micronesian Productions, and the Island Food Community of Pohnpei.

Through their collaboration they held meetings and workshops and helped implement the project in Alohkapw, Ipwitek, Kinakapw, Malewe, Elenieng, Areu and Ohwa villages in Madolenihmw municipality. Also, a big KALAHNGAN to the UN GEF FSM Small Grants Program for giving us this opportunity to improve our lives and our livelihoods.

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TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client, DALAN KIMYA ENDUSTRI ANONIM SIRKETI, a company organized in Turkey with an address of Umit Mah. Kemalpaşa Cad. No:325 Pinarbaşı- Bomova 350060 Izmir, Turkey, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade Mark:



The Trade Mark will be used in connection with the following goods:

Non-medicated cosmetics and toiletry preparations; non-medicated dentifrices; perfumery, essential oils; bleaching preparations and other substances for laundry use; cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations in International Class 3.

Further, take notice that DALAN KIMYA ENDUSTRI ANONIM SIRKETI attaches singular importance to its above referenced trademark and will immediately take the strongest legal actions to protect its intellectual property rights against any person(s) or business(es) found to be infringing those rights. Note that any infringing or unauthorized use of this mark while be met with civil and criminal action including injunctions, orders to seize, audits, full damages and costs.

Any inquiry regarding said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for DALAN KIMYA ENDUSTRI ANONIM SIRKETI as follows:

Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
2875 Michelle Drive, Suite 170
Irvine, California 92606
United States of America
Telephone: (714) 283-1155
Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

NOTICE TO FSM CLERICAL SEX ABUSE SURVIVORS

This is a Notice to those individuals who may have been victims of sex abuse while a minor and while attending any of the following:

1. Pohnpei Agriculture and Trade School (PATS) in Pohnpei;
2. Pohnpei Catholic School (known as Misiohn) from the 1950s until its closure in the late 1970s;
3. Saint Cecelia in Weno, Chuuk;
4. Xavier High School, Weno, Chuuk; and/or
5. From any of the Catholic parishes in Pohnpei and Chuuk from the 1950s to the present.

If you would like to receive legal advice concerning your legal rights and remedies concerning the sexual abuse you suffered, please contact:

Michael J. Berman, Esq.
Berman O'Connor & Mann
Suite 503, 111 W Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910
Ph: (671) 477-2778
Fax: (671) 477-4366
Email: mjberman@pacificlawyers.law

Salomon Saimon, Esq.
Law Offices of Salomon M. Saimon, P.C.
P. O. Box 911
Pohnpei, FM 96941
Tel: (691) 320-1007/(691) 922-2542
Email: salomonsaimonpc@gmail.com

President Christian meets with students, shares his experiences

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On January 30th, 2019 at the Pohnpei Catholic Mission, His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met the students and staff of Pohnpei Catholic School (PCS). Having been invited by Principal Bernie Helstrom, the President answered students' questions about himself, Government, and the FSM for over an hour. Beginning with a song and a prayer, President Christian said "I won't make a speech—I will sit down and let you ask me as many questions as you would like to ask." One student asked about cultural greetings, to which President Christian responded "In our custom, rahn mwahu is very important—if you meet someone on the road...always say hello! Don't worry if it's a stranger: say hello."

Another student asked if President Christian graduated from PCS, which was formerly called Our Lady of Mercy School. "Yes, I graduated but not in the top class...I was persistent. [Life] is not about the school. It's about you. You can get an A+ but if you don't work hard and have no destination, you won't get anywhere."

Continuing, the President said "You know the difference between a man digging a ditch for a living, and the President? Not much. They're both people. It's the person who gives the job the dignity. It's not the job that gives the person dignity. So if you're a plumber or a farmer and you're supporting your family—that's an honorable job. But if I'm the President and I'm not sending my kids to school, I have dishonored my job."

One standup young lady asked "What is

your job as President?" President Christian replied with "One of my jobs is to receive foreign dignitaries and explain what our Government is trying to do. And sometimes, y'know, I feel...proud that I am the President, that I am an important person. But then I'll get home, put down my government briefcase, and my wife says Peter can you take the trash out? So that brings me back to Earth, and makes me remember that first and foremost I am a Christian, a husband, a father.... [And I also] have a responsibility for the Nation. As President, I try to make sure that all the four states of the FSM want to remain united. That's part of my job: the constitution calls for unity, people to be one.... And that's a very important part of the job, far more important than money, because money is nothing if people are not united. For me, that's the most important part of my job."

One student asked "What was your goal before becoming President?" President Christian said "I'm here by mistake! I never dreamt to be a politician, never did... one evening I was with a friend, and there was an election two months away, and my friend said why don't you run for office? It seemed like a good thing to do to serve the people.... So in 1979 in the first election to pick members for the Congress of the FSM, I ran and was fortunate enough to win and I became a member of Congress since 1979 until 2006, when I lost the election to a very great man, Mr. Resio Moses. It was so good losing to such a great man."

Another student asked "What year did you get married?" In response, President Christian said "Actually, I forgot...that's why I got married: so [my wife] can remember all the dates for me."

One young boy asked "What advancements do you see for the future in the FSM?" President Christian answered with "I want to see the education system improved so that the college doesn't tell us that elementary and high school preparations aren't adequate....I'd also like to see our ability to support ourselves, instead of relying on money from the US, to improve. Don't get me wrong: we're close friends with America. And there is no such thing as a truly independent country—whether its economics or politics, all countries depend on one another to help them improve. But the FSM is not a rich country. Nor is the FSM a poor country, either. There should not be any people here who are hungry...there should be no reason to say that there is poverty. What there is, at least here in Pohnpei, is some people are pwang....they don't want to work, they'd rather walk down the road and eat breakfast with the uncle and go with the uncle to somewhere else and eat dinner. Pwang is an attitude—pwangada is when you sweat, but pwang is an attitude. You can wake up in the morning and say today I'm pwang—but then you've already set the mood, set the mood for failure. But if you say today I'll go to school, and study hard...what do you do when you get home? I sweep the house, too. I cook food, I wash dishes. Taking care of your brothers and sisters, that's important. Feeding the pigs, that's important. So a healthier attitude towards unity and each other, based in respect."



"Respect is something I want you to write down in your notebook," President Christian said. "Because respect is the foundation of democracy. Respect for yourself. Respect for one another. When you respect your body, your body is strong. When you respect your soul, your soul is strong. When you respect your family, your family is strong. When you respect the people and communities in your country, your country is strong."

One of the last questions asked was "What is your goal as of now?" President Christian replied with "There is an election coming up in March...I'd like to serve another four years at your at-large member of Congress. If I go to Congress I have an obligation to ask that Pohnpei be President. And that's my aim right now...for the opportunity to continue in my current post as President."

President Christian thanked Principal Bernie Helstrom, Father Ken Urumolug, and the students and staff of Pohnpei Catholic School for their time and the invitation.

FSM Government to review tuna fishing access concession practices

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— During a recent Cabinet meeting in Palikir, His Excellency President Peter M. Christian ordered an official review of current FSM tuna fishing policy and practices, as a component of ongoing internal tuna fisheries development policy review. The President expressed particular concern that concessions may have been granted without tangible proof of full performance by the concession grantee of agreed business investments and the delivery of benefits to the Nation and its people. Officials were instructed to ensure a proper and fair balance between maximizing revenues from licensing foreign fishing boats and promoting greater national participation in on-shore services and investment.

President Christian was explicit: the FSM Government must not grant concessions until fishing investors and operators can demonstrate genuine on-shore business investments and tangible results that show an overall net gain to FSM's economy and the well-being of its people and

communities. The President called for more robust enforcement of concession trade-offs to be established by 2020.

"Genuine investors and partners should have no fear about a tightening up of FSM policies and practices," President Christian said. "They will understand that delivering genuine and equitable two-way benefits provide the best assurance of long-term business viability and the sustainability of the tuna resource."

While the first twelve nautical miles from land is considered territorial waters i.e. the surface water and everything below is officially part of the country it's near, an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is the sea zone stretching 200 nautical miles from the coast. While the surface water is considered international (i.e. ships can travel through it) everything below the water, including its fish, is for that country's use. The value of tuna fishing access in the FSM's EEZ has grown steadily since 2007, resulting from the implementation of the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission

(WCPFC) fishing effort restrictions. The FSM is poised to benefit significantly from restructuring and transforming its tuna fishery from foreign-based fishing operations to domestically-based fisheries.

The FSM, like most other Pacific Island Countries, has granted fishing fee concessions, or discounts, to fishing companies that are nationally owned or based in the Nation. Since 1987 the FSM has provided incentives to help offset initial high establishment costs that companies might face in order to invest in or transfer their operations to FSM. This concession policy was based on the understanding that those investments and activities would generate clear and tangible socio-economic benefits to the FSM economy and community, within an agreed timeframe, that would offset the fishing access revenues given up by the Government when it grants the concessions.

The FSM's fishing industry has grown from just two fishing companies with five purse seiners to 23 purse seiners in 2019. The growth is primarily attributed to the

practice of granting concessionary VDS rates for domestic-basing that creates jobs for FSM citizens and enables the FSM's full participation in the fishery and its development. FSM's goal is to maximize the contribution of the fishery industry toward socio-economic development of the FSM and maximizing benefits to the resource owners (the people of the FSM). With larger values at stake in the fishery, the FSM Government is reviewing and tightening up its investment and fishing access concession policies to ensure that they achieve the level of benefits that they seek within its national development aspirations.

FSM Government officials emphasize the importance of full compliance by fishing concession holders to prove, as much as possible, the level of benefits they had promised to deliver in return for the concessions they have received. "NORMA management," said NORMA Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan, "will implement robust monitoring of concessions to inform annual FSM VDS allocations to its fishing industry as called for by the President."

FSM & World Bank partner to improve electrical reliability, access, & efficiency

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The 20th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) completed its sixth regular session on January 24th, 2019, and among the good news in their recent work for the benefit of our Nation was Congressional Resolution 20-162 wherein the FSM has acquired SDR 21,600,000 which is just over \$30,000,000 USD from the World Bank for, the Resolution says, "...the purpose of funding projects in the Federated States of Micronesia to improve reliability of electricity supply, expand access to electricity, and scale up renewable energy generation...."

"The FSM has an Energy Master Plan that was completed in 2018—we have individual State Master Plans and a National Plan identifying our priority projects, including the effort to provide reliable electricity services," said Hubert Yamada, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Resources & Development in a meeting held on January 24th, 2019. "This is the second cycle of World Bank funding to the FSM.... The whole effort here is the continuation of energy project developments. We're not just starting now—we're continuing to scale up to develop and maintain reliable services throughout the FSM."

Citizens can take heart in knowing that our Nation has big plans already in progress for using this funding effectively. About \$11,800,000 is slated for Pohnpei State to finance the renovation of its power plant and to finance new generators to increase capacity by 7.5 megawatts. "Within the funds are intentions for peripheral upgrades as well, so it's not only to provide increased power capacity but also to increase the reliability of electricity services," said Assistant Secretary Yamada. A contract has been developed for a consultant to assist Pohnpei State in this project. The project will require approximately two years for completion. "The [WB Grant] provides for villages' expansion of access, for example in Satowan in the Mortlocks and Udot in the Lagoon islands of Chuuk," Assistant Secretary Yamada continued. About \$3,450,000 is to assist Chuuk State in expanding citizens' access to electricity and another \$9,900,000 is to increase Chuuk's photovoltaic (PV) or solar

power system by an additional 2.0 megawatts. A consulting firm has been selected to begin work on this project.

Yap State will benefit from an additional 600 kilowatt generator which should offer better efficiency for the power plant there. However, citizens should not be concerned that the small size means Yap is being forgotten—on the contrary, Yap's electrical system is, broadly speaking, one of the healthiest in the FSM. "They've got a combination of wind generation, solar, and diesel at the moment," said Ralph Karhammar, Energy Adviser at the Department of Resources & Development. "But they do have a bit of a problem—when the winds quiet down and the sun doesn't shine, there can be frequent calling up of the diesel generators to come online...[the additional generator] should address this issue to make it more comfortable."

As for Kosrae State, the bulk of their assistance will be in investing in solar battery banks. It may seem obvious that, long after the sun has set, solar panels don't produce new electricity—so in order for power to be available during the night, battery banks store power generated during the day. Investment in battery banks—"We're talking about a container full of them," said Energy Adviser Karhammar—will allow Kosrae the capacity to substantially expand its network of solar panels, increasing the efficiency of its electricity services.

"National Energy Policy calls for secured, clean, and reliable electricity," said Assistant Secretary Yamada. "And of course added to that is the aim to bring on more renewable sources of energy so that our reliance on imported fuel is lessened. At the same time, the effort is to try and provide to the communities reliable service at the least cost possible—really, that's the goal right there."

Citizens interested in learning more about these projects can visit the Department of Resources & Development website, located here: <http://www.fsmrd.fm/>, visit the Department of Finance & Administration's website, located here: <https://dofa.gov.fm/>, or visit the World Bank's collection of documents related to this project located here: <http://projects.worldbank.org/P165183/?lang=en&tab=overview>

FSM & Asia Development Bank plan closer partnership



Vice President George (right) and ADB Executive Director McDonald (left)

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On January 17th, 2019 the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with the Honorable Anthony McDonald, Executive Director for Asian Development Bank (ADB). The meeting discussed Strategy 2030 (ADB's strategic plan and objectives to be met by that year) and how ADB and FSM can expand their partnership.

"One of the things that will be especially useful," said Exec. Director McDonald, "is how members will receive assistance from ADB...[Strategy 2030] maps out the big picture challenges of what's happening in Asia and the Pacific. And what it sees is that there's increasing diversity in the nature of challenges facing countries.... We are trying not to forget Pacific Island States and Small Island Developing States...our Annual Meeting this coming May will be in Fiji, the first time it will be held in a Pacific Island State."

While discussing how this recognition of Pacific Island interests reflects reality, Exec. Director McDonald advised that in November 2018 the minimum allocation agreement has increased from \$6,000,000 to \$13,000,000 per year—meaning the baseline level of assistance provided by ADB to FSM (and other member countries) will more than double.

There are two significant steps forward in our relationship that citizens will wish to be informed about. Perhaps the biggest change citizens will appreciate is that FSM is eligible for grants with ADB—not just loans. It was noted in the meeting that not all projects in the FSM originally funded by ADB loans reached the intended level of success.

"How do we improve the working relationship between FSM and ADB?" said Exec. Director McDonald. "I've seen this in media reports sometimes—it says ADB funds a project. And you look into it and ADB is providing a loan...and so the public commentary can be, well, what is the national government doing then? When these are actually government projects

using government funds—it's just the initial capital that's the loan...and sometimes we don't always provide the level of scrutiny [one would hope for]...."

Continuing, Exec. Director McDonald said, when it came to grants, "There are so many needs amongst countries and there's not enough funding to meet them all...and there's a double-cost if we don't spend it well. The first is obvious: we could have gotten better outcomes to improve the lives of the people—but it also undermines the case for us getting further support in the future." Exec. Director McDonald noted that if the FSM is clear and direct in its grant requests that they are more likely to be realized.

"Our shared objective is the same," said Vice President George, "to maximize benefits to our country.... While it's unfortunate we've failed, we meaning FSM, in achieving the goals and objectives for previous loans, they also taught us all an important lesson: to be very serious with our projects and our desires going forward."

The second step forward between the FSM and ADB relationship is that the latter, through cooperation with country members, is constructing country-level offices. "I can report that, when I was in the Solomon Islands," said Exec. Director McDonald, "that they've had their country office since 2017...the impact it's having is just really, really good. It helps...to have a continued presence, and a strong feel for how an individual country operates."

ADB, once it completes the necessary logistics and planning with FSM, hopes to have an FSM country office by the end of 2019. "I'm hopeful that will happen this year," said Exec. Director McDonald. "And if it doesn't then it will be because something has fallen through."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Vice President George thanked Exec. Director McDonald for visiting the FSM and government agencies to discuss the renewed role ADB can play in our economic development.

Hong Kong's divers and marine conservationists target of Yap's tourism representatives

Yap Visitor's Bureau

Colonia, Yap- Ruud Van Baal, General Manager of Manta Ray Bay Resort and Yap Divers, attended the Diving & Resort Travel Expo in Hong Kong recently where he joined the Yap Visitors Bureau's booth with Jan Mok, public relations representative in Asia for the Yap Visitors Bureau.



Two Ladies (visitors), Ruud Van Baal, Manta Ray Bay Resort, General Manager, Jan Mok, Asia Public Relations Rep, at the Yap Visitors Bureau Booth in Hong

“The DRT show is an excellent tool for us since it brings together the largest gathering of diving enthusiasts, marine conservationists and those who simply have a passion for the underwater world,” said Van Baal. “We’ve seen an increase in inquiries and bookings from that market since we first began participating in the show in 2017.”

With attendance estimated at 50,000 visitors, Mok added that they “talked to many visitors, dive operators and the

media.” Follow-up after the show included sending digital booklets about Yap’s many options for adventure travelers who requested more information.

The Shanghai DRT Show is next on YVB’s 2019 schedule on April 12-14 followed by the Taiwan show on May 31-June 2.

The Supreme Court of the FSM hosts gender and family violence Workshops

FSM Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI) hosted local Gender and Family Violence Workshops in Pohnpei from 7-11 January and Kosrae from 14-18 January, 2019.

The two Gender and Family Violence Workshops were attended by National, State and Local court staff, FSM Health, National and State law enforcement officers, Micronesian Legal Services Corporation, women organizations, faith-based organizations and civil society representatives.

The aim of the workshops were to enhance awareness of issues surrounding family violence in the Federated States of Micronesia and across the Pacific. Some of the topics that were discussed included gender-based violence and its causes, gender inequality, victim-focused services and perpetrator accountability. The workshop discussed how the Courts could reflect and make incremental changes to improve its response to family violence following discussions around

the Gender and Family Violence Toolkit. Contextualising issues in the Pacific the two weeks also looked at how to address specific challenges around cultural perspectives and religious interpretations on the work towards gender equality and addressing family violence.

“I am a perpetrator and I am ashamed about it. I grew up seeing domestic violence in my family. I am grateful and thankful to be invited to this workshop as I now understand that culture does not condone domestic violence. I’ve learnt that witnessing domestic violence should not be used as an excuse for a person who chooses to perpetrate domestic violence” said one of the Kosrae male participants.

“I am glad I attended this workshop as I can use what I learned to teach the youth in my church” says a Pohnpei participant. The Gender and Family Violence Workshop is one of the many workshops held by the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative within the Pacific. The initiative is funded by New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which has supported promoting the rule of law across the Pacific over recent years.

NORMA & fisheries sector learn about biodegradable FADs

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Our Nation, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), relies heavily on fish for cultural, nutritional, and economical reasons. While the FSM has taken the lead in many areas when it comes to simultaneously maximizing revenue, protecting the environment, and ensuring the sustainability of our fish populations—such as the Technology for Tuna Transparency (T-3) Challenge initiated by His Excellency President Peter M. Christian at the fifth Our Oceans Conference in October 2018—there’s still much our country can do to improve. It was with this in mind that, on January 23rd 2019, representatives of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), Pohnpei State’s Department of Public Safety’s Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), National Fisheries Corporation (NFC), Caroline Fisheries Corporation (CFC), Diving Seagull, and Dongwon Industries, attended an International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) workshop on biodegradable fish aggregation devices (FADs). The workshop’s goals included educating the fishing sector on new regulations from the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) on FADs, producing buy-in on how the sector can use biodegradable FADs, and scientific projects in our part of the Pacific.

Citizens unfamiliar with FADs (Micronesians frequently call them “payao”) may appreciate the definition from ISSF: FADs are “man-made floating objects specifically designed to encourage fish aggregation at the device. They can be anchored to the ocean floor or set to drift in the open ocean.” Aggregation means putting together, so a FAD essentially attracts lots of fish together. Historically FADs are useful insofar as they can gather lots of fish together in one place, but in recent decades FADs have been made of synthetic materials (like nylon) and they have relatively negative publicity from being associated with problems such as bycatch (i.e. when you’re looking for tuna but you accidentally get sharks and turtles instead), reef damage, and overfishing.

The discussions in the morning focused on the history of FADs and their relationship with countries and fisheries, including in the FSM. Standout observations included multiple local fisheries advising that

approximately 80% of their FADs are variously lost, stolen, or drift beyond the legal boundaries of their fishing area—and worldwide approximately 10% of all ocean pollution is from lost fishing gear, and 640,000 tons of fishing gear end up in the sea every year (including FADs). Citizens will recall that the aforementioned T-3 Challenge that NORMA and The Nature Conservancy are implementing intends to use electronic monitoring to quash the overfishing problem, and in conjunction with fishing fleets using biodegradable FADs ideally ocean pollution and bycatch issues from entanglement (i.e. when a fish gets stuck in a net) will become less pronounced.

Matthew Chigiyal, Assistant Director of NORMA, advised that “It’s...in your interest that there is some authority to see what is happening with your FAD... register your FAD per NORMA’s requirement.”

ISSF has been conducting numerous experiments in the past several years in countries such as Ghana (in Western Africa) and the Maldives (an island nation in the Indian Ocean) with biodegradable FADs, and has determined that natural materials like raw twisted cotton perform similarly to contemporary synthetic materials like nylon. (Banana fiber is also potentially useful, though there isn’t presently the industrialization necessary to support its use in large-scale development of FADs). By the end of the discussions in the afternoon, NORMA, the local fishing companies, and ISSF were discussing what a long-term scientific project in the Western Pacific might look like.

The countries in the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), where more than 90% of purse seine fishing occurs, are developing a biodegradable and non-entangling program to reduce the adverse impacts of non-biodegradable materials, as well as the destruction, loss, or abandonment of fishing gear.

The FSM Government is dedicated to protecting its ocean resources while simultaneously maximizing their use for the development and well-being of our people. Partnerships between the public sector (i.e. NORMA) and private sector (e.g. CFC, NFC, Diving Seagull) augmented with support from scientific leaders (i.e. ISSF) will help ensure a positive future for both our fish as well as the citizens of our Nation.

FSM & Japan relations: already strong, to be even stronger

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are close friends; as His Excellency President Peter M. Christian noted at the 30th anniversary of FSM-Japan relations, our history goes back more than 100 years. 20% of FSM citizens have a Japanese ancestor, and Japan International Cooperation Volunteers (JICA) are commonly seen on the ground assisting our people. Our relationship is already strong, but there are signs of it becoming even stronger.

On January 18th, 2019 President Christian and members of his Cabinet met with the Honorable Kentaro Sonoura, Special Adviser to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and a delegation of public and private partners. President Christian and Special Adviser Sonoura discussed issues of mutual interest, ranging from the FSM's needs in cracking down on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in our oceans to Japan's commitment to permanently join the United States in future iterations of Operation Christmas Drop. (Japan, and Australia, joined the U.S. in December 2018.)

On January 11th, 2019 President Christian and members of his Cabinet met with the Honorable Masanao Ozaki, Governor of Kochi Prefecture, and a delegation of officials representing their legislative branch, environmental protection, healthcare, and more.

"We want to see if we can learn from your

experience," President Christian said to Governor Ozaki, highlighting our Nation's vulnerability to climate change and gaps in our capacity to provide cutting-edge healthcare. Governor Ozaki discussed how Kochi is similarly prone to climate-changed related disasters, such as flooding and earthquakes, and confirmed that just as much as the FSM may wish to learn from Japan that Japan, too, wishes to learn from the FSM.

"Then we will share," said President Christian, who told a story about how it was Micronesians who taught the Hawaiians how to navigate by the stars again. "We still have them, traditional navigators...they go to Osaka, Okinawa...we sailed our canoes, tied with fiber from coconut which is strong and flexible." President Christian gifted Governor Ozaki an example of such fiber, and in return President Christian received both a painting and, in a moment that genuinely moved the President and the other attendees, letters written by the principal and students of Kochi Prefecture's Misato Elementary School.

The President couldn't resist: he began to read the letters out loud, starting with Principal Osamu Tagashira's. "Dear Mr. President," the Principal's letter began, "thank you very much for visiting Misato Elementary School when you came to Japan in January of 2018. I remember it like it was yesterday, waving the small Micronesian flag with the students to greet you. As I watched you and the students interacting with each other, I was reminded of how much I love children."



President Christian & Governor Ozaki and his delegation pose for a group photo

President Christian suggested to Governor Ozaki and the Japanese delegation that perhaps each FSM state should have a people-to-people partnership with a Japanese Prefecture. Also discussed were broad thoughts processes on how FSM and Japan can maximize conservation efforts in our oceans, and how Kochi Prefecture and Japan at large might be able to assist the FSM with specialized medical equipment, e.g. containerized mobile equipment for mammograms and other diagnostics.

The people and Government of the FSM

are thankful for their close relationship with the people and Government of Japan. Our relationship is already stronger than can be measured, and we're committed to making it even stronger.

FSM citizens residing in Pohnpei State and wishing to engage with Japan's unique history and culture may wish to be aware of a Japanese Film Festival to be held on February 5th and 6th at 5:00pm at the Pohnpei Cinemas, and a Japanese Cultural Festival to be held on February 9th at the Our Lady of Mercy High School Gymnasium.

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