

Pingelapese women celebrate International Women's Day with a parade

By Bill Jaynes
 The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei—On Saturday, March 16, women's groups from Pingelap gathered in Mwalok, Sokehs for their own celebration of International Women's Day. The celebration began with a parade of three floats each displaying traditional weaving products followed by crowds of enthusiastic women dancing their way down the street culminating at the Pingelap community nahs.

Each of the three women's groups had decorated their floats and prizes were awarded for their efforts. Top prize was awarded to the women of Lih Sapwoahn representing Pingelapese in Sokehs. Second Prize was given to Lih Deke representing Pingelapese from the atoll. The third place prize winner brought their float in from the farthest away. Lih Mand represented the Pingelapese community in Madolenihmw.



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Pohnpei Supreme Court finds Rodriguez guilty of seven criminal charges

By Bill Jaynes
 The Kaselehlie Press

March 19, 2019

Pohnpei—Associate Justice Mayceleen JD Anson of the Pohnpei Supreme Court found Benjamin Rodriguez guilty of seven criminal charges filed against him by the State. Sentencing for those crimes is set for April 22.

Nearly two years ago, prosecutors of the Office of the Attorney General filed 13 separate criminal charges, each related to three separate incidents of theft of government funds.

The evidence was sufficient to prove that Rodriguez's trip to the Philippines on April 1, 2011 was not for official reasons. Therefore he was not eligible for the \$5902.58 Pohnpei State provided in cash advances and ticket fare for himself and his spouse. The trip was in fact for personal medical care and was fully covered by FSM Micare Insurance. In addition to collecting \$5902.58 in travel funds, the Rodriguezes returned

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Pohnpei Governor gives his "State of the State Address"

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 14, 2019

Pohnpei—This morning Governor Marcelo Peterson delivered the State of the State address in the chambers of the Pohnpei State Legislature. The speech was aired live on State radio station V6AH. A video of the speech as well as full English language and Pohnpeian language transcripts are available on the website of the State Government www.pohnpeistate.gov.fm. In the English language, the transcript of the speech spans 22 pages and is nearly 9000 words long.

He reminded his audience that three years ago the administration adopted a vision statement that says, "One Vision, One Community, and One State", their way of saying that they hope to create one vibrant and prosperous Pohnpei. He said that in line with the African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, then you must go as a group," his administration has led as a group. He said that his administration has tried to build a courageous team of leaders in order to overcome the ever-mounting challenges the State faces. "Challenges that come in the form of funding decrements for our social sectors; Challenges that come in the form of environmental threats, outmigration, etc.," he said.

His detailed speech outlined the accomplishments and challenges of each sector and department beginning with the Department of Health and Social Services. He said that based on the prior year's statistics, management is compelled to: 1) reinforce and enhance

the preventative and primary healthcare services to strengthen disease prevention, 2) maximize capacity of the secondary and tertiary/hospital care services to reduce the need for hospitalization and off-island medical referral cases caused by non-communicable and preventable illnesses/diseases, and 3) continue improving its facilities and support assets and resources which is a matter of record.

On the Environmental Protection Agency he said that the department continues to ensure that all projects taking place in Pohnpei's islands for public infrastructure and economic development purposes are properly carried without adversely affecting our environment and its resources. It also ensures that introduction of hazardous materials, diseases/illnesses and other undesirable contaminants are prevented.

He said that the Department of Education is the biggest Department and continues to provide learning opportunities to 10,251 students through secondary education. He said that the Educational Development Plan or a Restructuring Plan realigning all of the schools under four distinct school districts is within the bounds of the law. "Through this creative mode and the hard working efforts of our teachers and staff, we have raised the standard of our schools to meet the ever-increasing accreditation standards which have become the basis by which our schools are funded. Although, this may not sit well with some, it has delivered the results we had anticipated," he said.

Readers are encouraged to read the detailed statements the Governor made during his address, regarding the significant increase in response capabilities of the

Department of Public Safety (DPS). He said that the four divisions of DPS, including the new division of fire and emergency have distinct responsibilities to collectively enforce State laws to deter crime, ensure peace and order and traffic, protect persons, property, endangered natural resources and environment, punish and rehabilitate law violators and oversee and assist in time of emergency and disaster. The four Divisions of DPS are Police and Security, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Fish and Wildlife, and Fire and Emergency.

"For us Pohnpeians, land is life, livelihood, culture, identity and in this age, the economy. While it is a general policy direction to achieve sustainable economic growth via tourism, agriculture and fisheries, it is imperative that development of these economic sectors must be done in accordance with proper and strategic management of land to ensure economic development and preservation and conservation of natural resources coexist in tandem", the Governor said of the efforts of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. "As time changes, new needs and challenges emerge. The need to grow our economy in anticipation to elimination of US Compact funding assistance to Pohnpei, the desire of FSM citizens for self-reliance, increase globalization and economic activities interdependence and the inevitable trend of embracing modern lifestyle by the younger generations, it is incumbent upon this generation to be creative and perceptive in managing our most valuable resource, our land, to foster proper economic development activities and safeguard the natural beauty of our God-given land going forward."

The Governor outlined numerous

accomplishments of the Office of the Attorney General including the establishment of the White Collar Crime Investigation Unit whose primary objective is to seek private and public sector compliance with State laws and rules and regulations. The Governor said that the State government had filed civil complaints in order to remove trespassers at the public market area, government housing around the PICS area and within Kolonia Town, including the area around the State hospital. He said that ongoing negotiations are being conducted with the occupants of the government housing units and that some occupants have already volunteered to move out of government owned houses. "It is our plan to start renovation of these government units as soon as units become vacant and contracts can be awarded," he said.

He spent a few moments speaking about the public relations efforts of the Office of Public Affairs and the Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation. He also spoke about the efforts of the Office of the Election Commission saying that the office had conducted public awareness campaigns. The office is looking at electronic voting to help qualified voters have better access to the poll; however, the commission would have to be sure that such a system would be completely secure.

The Department of Treasury and Administration was next on the list for the Governor to discuss. He said that while the audit of 2016 activities showed a deficit of \$512,000, the audit of 2017 activities showed a surplus of \$4 million, not nearly enough to offset the impact

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Grant contract signing ceremony for the project for procuring recycling equipment in Chuuk State

Embassy of Japan

On March 4, 2019, the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony was held at the Governor's office for the Project for "Procuring Recycling Equipment in Chuuk State", which provided Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Chuuk State with US\$64,897 under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects.

This project will provide an Aluminum Baler and a Plastic bottle Baler which will assist in the implementation of a recycling system through Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Chuuk State. The same type of recycling system has already been implemented in the other three FSM states. The way the system works is that 6 cents charged per beverage container, when consumers buy a beverage. Consumers who bring empty beverage containers to the recycling center will get 5 cents back for each can and bottle as a refund. 1 cent is used for operation cost of recycling system. Chuuk EPA is planning to implement the recycling system this year, but without the provided machines, the system can't be implemented. Therefore, the provided balers will allow Chuuk State to implement the recycling system and as a result it is expected to reduce littering and improve the environment in Chuuk State.

Mr. Picho Cheida, the Legal Counsel at Chuuk EPA, commented on the project and stated that this project will help the efforts of the state to minimize the solid waste in Chuuk State. In his address, His Excellency, Ambassador Horie stated that it is his pleasure to assist the FSM and improve the environment for a better future. He encouraged a successful implementation of the recycling system in Chuuk State. The Hon. Johnson S. Elimo, Governor of Chuuk State, expressed his gratitude for the generous assistance from the Government and people of Japan.

The ceremony was witnessed by Hon. Mark Mailo, President of the Senate, Mr. Jason Poll, Acting Director of Chuuk EPA, Mr. Douglas Marar, Director of Chuuk Visitors Bureau, Mr. Season Jacky, Deputy Director of Transportation and Public Works, the staff of Governor's office, the staff of Public Affairs, the staff of Chuuk EPA and the staff of the Embassy of Japan in the FSM.



Embassy says goodbye and hello at cocktail reception for DCM

Pohnpei—On Sunday evening, March 24, the Australian Embassy held a cocktail reception at Orchids Restaurant to say goodbye to Deputy Head of Mission, Katherine Grant and to welcome the Deputy Head of Mission, Vy Duong.

Present at the reception were the diplomats of each of the embassies in the FSM, members of the FSM and State governments and members of the business community.

Katherine served in Pohnpei for two years and now has begun her journey to Canberra along with her husband Peter for a new assignment within DFAT.



...Rodriguez

Continued from front page

from the Philippines two days early but failed to return all of the per diem and airfare the State had advance to him.

For that theft of funds, the court found Rodriguez guilty of "Cheating", "Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds Received," and "Misconduct in Public Office". Rodriguez was Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court at the time where he remained in office until he resigned in 2017.

The Court also found that on July 28, 2011, he requested and authorized a check to be issued to Genesis Pharmacy and Clinic in the amount of \$322.20. The money belonged to Pohnpei State and was used to pay for his personal medical expenses. The Court again found him to be guilty of "Cheating", and also found him to be guilty of "Petit Larceny" in that matter.

of 2017 said that from 2011 to 2017, Rodriguez attended trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences. Rodriguez's travel, lodging and stipends or per diems for those events were paid for by the sponsoring entities for each of the events. Among the sponsors were the U.S. Court Pacific Island Education Program, the Pacific Judicial Council, the Federal Court of Australia, and AusAID. At the same time, Rodriguez also received full per diem from Pohnpei State for travel to the events though his living expenses were already covered by the sponsoring entities for each event. The originally filed criminal information did not provide a dollar figure for the total amount of money Rodriguez wrongly received from the State.

For that crime, the Court found Rodriguez guilty of "Cheating" and "Misconduct in Public Office".

Hearings on two other separate sets of criminal charges filed by the State against Rodriguez are ongoing. A separate civil action filed by the State is on hold until all of the criminal matters are heard.

The criminal information filed in March

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: April 15, 2019

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

St. Patrick's Day run supports Rotary club projects



Rotary Club of Pohnpei

March 16, 2019

Pohnpei—The Rotary Club of Pohnpei had its annual fun run in the early morning hours of March 16 in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Registered runners wore the green T-Shirts that Ambros Inc. of Guam donated.

The exuberant crowd participated in a pre-run warmup led by the Zumba group until the power went out. The power outage didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the runners whose entry fees went to support the many good causes that the Rotary Club of Pohnpei supports.

Along with many other community projects, last year the Pohnpei Rotary Club awarded \$12,000 in scholarships. They provided two hand held scanners to the hospital to assist in diagnosing rheumatic heart disease in children. The club is expanding that program to include a rheumatic heart disease awareness

campaign next year.

The club contributed to the cause of eradicating non-communicable diseases when it purchased some of the exercise equipment on the causeway that has seen heavy usage since its recent installation.

The Club also supported the Pohnpei Spelling Bee that sent winning students to Guam to compete in the next round.

Though many participated in the Fun Run/Walk just for pure satisfaction of

contributing to a noble cause, prizes were awarded to the top 20 finishers in the race. Prizes were provided by Moylan's Insurance and Village Travel. They also received a calendar from the Rotary Club. The top 20 finishers and their times are listed below:

1.	Kota Murasato	
	19:49:34	
2.	Alex Brencht	
	20:44:10	
3.	Alex Rodriguez	
	24:10:17	
4.	Josh Gallen	24:12:24
5.	James Crosby	24:57:08
6.	Ryo Shibahara	25:03:61
7.	Dana Lee Ling	26:13:43
8.	Kayzee Foy	26:37:51
9.	Gregory Enas	26:37:51
10.	Tom Mache	27:08:95
11.	Garcia Mitchell	27:42:35
12.	Marcelles Mizard	27:42:35
13.	Zachary Penias	28:51:44
14.	Franky Donre	30:26:00
15.	Diana Shigeta	30:29:45
16.	Rayhard Rio	30:29:45
17.	Antony Wilson	30:55:54
18.	Rene Merencillo	32:25:00
19.	Joseph Ortega	33:70:00
20.	Mae Shalane Wendolin	38:15:54



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei thanks its sponsors Ambros, Inc. and Budweiser for the T-Shirts, Palm Terrace for the venue, Moylan's Insurance and Village Travel for the prizes. Australian Ambassador George Fraser also made important and appreciated donations. The support of FSM National Olympics and the Pohnpei State Sports Office and that of many volunteers was crucial for the successful run.

The Fun Run Run/Walk also could not have been done without the support of the Kolonia Town and Pohnpei State Police officers who provided security

It was a great day out and a good way to get exercise in the morning and for once, during a Rotary Club Fun Run/Walk, we weren't inundated by torrential rains.

Keep supporting Rotary and stay fit.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on December 24, 2013 and July 1, 2015, and appellate opinions, judgments, orders and mandates entered on May 1, 2018 and May 28, 2018 and on subsequent dates, public notice is hereby given that the parcel described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 023-A-70, land known as Dolonier, situated in Nett Municipality, Pohnpei State with an approximate area of 4,620 square meters, as shown on the determination of heirship made on October 29, 2001, the deed registered on July 24, 2013, and as described on cadastral plat no. 023-A-06 filed in the Pohnpei State Land Registry, together with any buildings, fixtures and other improvements thereon.

- There is no minimum bid amount.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "April 11, 2019 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Rendy Abraham at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on Thursday, April 11, 2019 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2019.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount and must include a deposit of 5 % of the total bid amount by cashier's check. If the bid submission does not include the 5 % deposit, the bid is immediately disqualified.
- The winning bidder shall be notified in writing and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to the FSM Development Bank no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given. If the winning bidder fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit shall be forfeited to the FSM Development Bank.
- Upon qualification and full payment of the winning bid, the non-

winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within two (2) business days.

- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the parcel, including all buildings, fixtures and other improvements on the parcel.
- The winning bidder must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia and must provide proof of such eligibility.
- If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by the Bank fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to the FSM Development Bank and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
- The parcel and any improvements thereon are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, website: www.fsmdb.fm

...State of the State

Continued from page 2

of the funding shortfall after 2023. “We need to do more by expanding our tax base,” he said.

“Our share of CFC is about 41% and is valued at 15 to 16 million in assets and cash, Governor Peterson said. “Our dividend from CFC for fiscal year 2018 is only \$250,000 due to acquisition of a 900 metric ton fishing boat in the amount of \$4.2 million. The purchase of this fishing boat will have a positive impact on the increase of catch which will translate into more dividends. FSM Seafood Company, which CFC is a part owner, according to the latest information, has set a tentative schedule for a ground breaking ceremony in June of this year. When in full operation, this company can employ 800 to 900 people. Another source of employment opportunity for the people of Pohnpei is the proposed 200 hotel rooms, which is now pending in the legislature. This hotel, if materialized, could employ up to 400 to 500 people. With these two projects, our tax base could be increased to a point that could provide the tax revenues needed. Expected improvement in the tourism’s sites will also play a big role

in the improvement of our tax base. Tax bills currently pending in the legislature, if passed, could generate additional revenues of 2 to 3 million annually.”

He next spoke of the function of the Office of Budget.

On the functions of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Governor Peterson said that the 2018 fish stock survey showed that Pohnpei’s reef fish stock was declining due to over harvesting. He recommended a comprehensive evaluation among all offices and agencies involved with harvesting and conservation activities to determine the sustainability of Pohnpei’s reef fish stock. He said that 300,000 sea cucumber larvae had been “reseeded” in Sapwuaifik and in Pohnpei’s main island. The mortality of those larvae has not been determined but he declared that if the program to harvest sea cucumbers was properly managed, “the outcome will be successful and the outcome will be significant.”

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure approved 12 major projects in 2018. The projects included schools, dispensaries, water projects and other public facilities. He said that the Project Management Office is fully functional with all the necessary staff to fully engage in implementing Pohnpei’s projects. “In

the next 4-5 years prior to the year 2023, our aim is to reprioritize all our IDP projects to include other priority needs such as our main road, ports, public safety and other government facilities. We will be working to get seventy percent (70%) of all our priority IDP projects complete,” he said.

Pohnpei Transportation Authority completed 30 CFMSM projects worth \$1.6 million and 10 State projects valued at \$819,000, and average of about \$60,000 per project, Governor Peterson reported. “The management supports PTA to become a quasi-government entity that is administratively and financially independent in order to effectively delivery its mandated responsibilities in the service of the need of the government and the people of Pohnpei State,” he said.

“The Pohnpei Port Authority moves Pohnpei,” the Governor said. In addition to its other accomplishments that the Governor outlined, PPA collected and remitted \$427,717.34, 30% of mooring fees in fiscal year 2018 to the State under the Fisheries Enforcement and Development Fund.

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) is currently rationing power due to refurbishment and repair work on old generators. JEMCO, through the Office

of Insular Affairs, provided \$1.3 million for the ongoing repairs. The Governor said that PUC reached out to the government of New Zealand to provide additional sources of energy at the cost of \$1.2 million. PUC has also acquired three megawatts of solar energy and on megawatt of storage batteries.

Proposed World Bank grant assistance of \$11.8 million would provide a new permanent power plant that would provide 7.5 megawatts of power. “In sustaining the momentum forward, PUC will need the support of grassroots or common people awareness and understanding, as well as the financial technical support from all levels of government,” Governor Peterson said.

The Pohnpei Housing Authority continues to approve low interest loans to qualified borrowers to build decent, safe and sanitary homes. The authority approved 48 new loans for a total of nearly \$850,000, and was able to collect nearly \$700,000 of the \$4.5 million that delinquent borrowers had owed.

The Governor highlighted the successes of the Department of Resources and Development in agricultural and tourism developments. He said that last year, the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation funded 114 projects at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million mostly in the areas of general retails business, tailoring, fishing, agriculture, taxi services, and laundromats.

The Pacific Islands Development Bank continues to disburse loans on the guidelines of Pohnpei’s strategic goals with priorities of tourism, agriculture and fisheries.

Governor Peterson said that while foreign investment is important it is also important to help sustain local businesses. He said that approximately 100 foreign investment businesses employ over 500 local employees who earn over \$2 million in local salaries. They also provide millions of dollars in revenues the government collects yearly from various taxes.

“While we value and aspire for good governance, economic stability and social prosperity, I want to underscore (the) importance of keeping values that are inherent and sacred for us as Pohnpeians that make us unique. By nature our culture esteems values and virtues of deference, reverence and respect (Wahu) without which living, working and growing together in peace and harmony as a People will not be possible,” Governor Peterson said in his concluding comments.



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POHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY, A PUBLIC CORPORATION OF THE POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT, IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION:

POSITION: Assistant Seaport Manager
SALARY: Grade-11 \$12,848.00 - \$16,748.00 Per Annum or DUQ
LOCATION: Pohnpei Port Authority
Dekehtik Island, Pohnpei State
OPENING DATE: March 25, 2019
CLOSING DATE: April 12, 2019

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

1. SUMMARY: Assigns berths and wharves to vessels and shipping companies according to procedures, or as otherwise directed. Otherwise directs the safe and efficient movement of vessels within the harbor and navigable waters according to rules, regulations and procedures. Assures that vehicular traffic moves safely and efficiently in the dock and warehouse areas according to rules and procedures.
2. Monitors activities of the harbor police force to assure effective assignment and schedules of personnel to interface with vessels and to patrol areas under the jurisdiction of the seaport for the enforcement of the laws, regulations, and policies governing navigable waters and seaport property.
3. Supervises the work pertaining to the maintenance of navigational aids in harbor channels and reef markers around the island to assure safe passage of vessels.
4. Supervises the daily operations of the ports, including the cleaning and up keeping maintenance of the seaport office, facilities and equipment.
5. Assists as directed in expediting emergency procedures and deploying equipment to effectively respond to environmental hazards such as oil spills, grounding of vessels and/or collisions, and in the seaport's response to other emergency situations.
6. Prepares monthly reports of seaport operations and activities for approval, and submits the approved reports according to procedures.
7. Directs the approved purchase of supplies, equipment and services for the seaport according to procedures.
8. Substitutes for the Seaport Manager as assigned and exercises authority in such a capacity as directed by the Seaport Manager.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: The position has no direct supervisory responsibilities unless assigned to substitute for the Seaport Manager, then, within the scope of assigned authority, directs the work of the Navigation Inspector, 5 Port Control Officers and the Chief of Port Police and Inspection who supervises approximately 23 Seaport Police Officers. Also responsible for the overall direction, coordination, and evaluation of these units accordingly and supervises one Administrative Assistant. Carries out supervisory responsibilities in accordance with the organization's policies and applicable laws. Otherwise guides the work of employees within the scope of assigned projects of the seaport division.

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's degree (B. A.) in Engineering, Business Management, Public Administration or comparable field from an accredited college or university; and a minimum of five years professional experience managing seaport or comparable functions in a comparable organization. An effective knowledge of the laws, regulations and standards applicable to a modern seaport is required.

HOW TO APPLY: Application forms can be obtained from the office of the Pohnpei Port Authority at Dekehtik Island, Pohnpei State. Completed applications or resume should be submitted to the same office no later than the closing date of this vacancy announcement.

Ridge to Reef Strategic Environmental Assessment Analysis Workshop

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – On March 13 - 26, 2019, the FSM Ridge to Reef Project, led by the Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency (Pohnpei EPA), commenced its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Analysis Workshop at the Pohnpei State Governor's Conference Room. Over 40 participants representing State and National Governments, NGOs, regional agencies and other community based organizations participated in the 2-weeks intensive workshop.



In his opening remarks, the Governor of Pohnpei State, Honorable Marcello Peterson, highlighted that “the SEA is very timely as the state is currently working on reviewing and updating its Strategic Development Plan and the results of the SEA process will help guide and provide sustainable development recommendations”. The Governor applauded the EPA and the SEA team for their efforts in undertaking the preparatory work which has led to the workshop and urged participants “...to provide their support and contributions to the SEA”.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a new concept in the FSM that has never been previously applied. It is an analytical and participatory approach applied to policies, plans and programs at the very earliest stages of decision-making to integrate environmental considerations and evaluate the inter linkages with economic and social considerations. This ambitious assignment is a large component under the R2R project, aimed to protect the environment, demonstrate approaches to foster sustainable development and provide better understanding of links between terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems to improve sustainable land use and protected area management in the FSM.

A scoping study was conducted between October 14 to November 15, 2018 to define the geographic scope of the project and identify main interests and concerns of key stakeholders. It also identified key existing environmental and social threats and issues, accessible datasets and crucially important gaps in information. Recent, ongoing and planned projects with relevance to the SEA were identified, and the process and evaluation methodologies to be used for the SEA and preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) were agreed. Pohnpei State was selected to be the focus of a pilot SEA in the FSM.

An SEA team was established to facilitate the SEA (consisting of the international consultant hired to lead the assignment, Professor Barry Dalal-Clayton, the R2R Technical Coordinator, Ms. Vanessa Fread and Pohnpei R2R State Coordinator, Mr. Jorg Anson), and a State Expert team was set up. Preparatory work included the development of a National and Pohnpei State Environmental and Socio-economic Baseline Profiles combining existing information and new information from the State of Environment Report and revised National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP). A capacity assessment of government departments/agencies and NGOs likely play a role in the IEMP was also undertaken and community consultations were conducted in each municipality on key environmental and socio-economic issues. Four economic growth scenarios (stagnant/contracting, business-as-usual - low growth, moderate and high economic growth) were developed.

During the workshop, participants assessed the environmental and socio-economic impacts of developments and activities likely to arise for fisheries, agriculture and tourism under the four growth scenarios, and identified what needs to be done to minimize and mitigate these. The next course of action will be to draft and finalize the SEA report and an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for Pohnpei. The challenge will then be to implement the plan.

For more details on the R2R in FSM project, please contact:
National Project Implementation Unit:
Project Manager, Rosalinda Yatilman, ryatilman@gmail.com
Tel:+691 320-8815; Fax: +691 320-8936

For more details on the SEA in Pohnpei State, please contact:
Technical Coordinator: Vanessa Fread, fsmr2rtech@gmail.com

Pohnpei State Coordinator: Jorg Anson, jorgyanon@gmail.com

JAA-FSM waste survey demonstration

On February 16, 2019, the JICA Alumni Association (JAA) officers and several members conducted a Waste Survey demonstration at Dekehtik Causeway to approximately eighty (80) Talent Search Program (TSP) seniors. The purpose of the waste survey was to collect information from a site that is mostly filled with garbage. This would be the third time the JAA group conducted a Waste Survey demonstration. The first one was held on November 11, 2016, at Nett Point to College of Micronesia-FSM Japan Micro group students. That survey confirmed the rise in plastics as part of marine debris. The second one was on March 2018 on Lenger Island.



This year's Waste Survey Demonstration at Dekehtik was attended by His Excellency Ryoichi Horie, Japan Ambassador and Madam Ambassador, Mr. Shinji Shibata, JICA Resident Representative and Mrs. Shibata, newly elected JAA-FSM Officers, JAA-State Officers from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, Embassy of Japan staff, JICA staff, FSM DECEM staff, FSM HESA Staff, Pohnpei State EPA staff, TSP staff, JICA Volunteers and several onlookers. A total of 130 participants engaged in the Waste Survey demonstration which entailed the following activities: a) collecting different types of waste along the sidewalks and shorelines; b) separating waste by types; c) counting each waste type, and d) weighing waste by types. A total of 88 aluminum cans was collected from the areas where Senator Perman's huts were located to the main entrance of the causeway a few feet from the stop signs. However, about 277.7 kilograms of plastic materials were retrieved from a single trash bag. There was a total of 100 trash bags utilized on that day. Of course, plastics remains to be the dominant waste type. For that, Mr. Ryota Okiguchi, a JICA Volunteer at Pohnpei EPA shared the importance of the 3Rs: Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle, and in addition, introduced another R: Refuse! Finally, an awareness billboard was installed near Senator Perman's huts to remind the general public to manage waste. Let's manage waste!

Fraud awareness conducted in Chuuk at the FSM Finance Municipal Training in Chuuk

Weno, Chuuk - On February 18-22, 2019 the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) was invited to conduct trainings on fraud awareness and prevention. This is part of POPA's proactive efforts in promoting good governance, accountability and transparency in government. The training further discussed the benefits and values of the FSM Audit Offices in the various governments. Among others, the training also highlighted issues relating to budget and economic management of the Project Control Documents (PCD) for the Congressional Project Funds, the presentation of the newly and updated FSM Financial Management Regulations (FMR) and Contract issued by FSM Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (TC&I).

The FSM National Public Auditor also talks about matters relating to funding on CFMSM Projects, the background of the Audit Offices and their authorities. It was the first-time ever to put together a workshop training for the entire FSM's municipal Governments and Authorities, who are also allottees of the FSM Congressional Project funds. The training was hosted by the Madam Secretary Sihna Lawrence, Department of Finance & Administration.



Pohnpei OPA promotes youth empowerment against corruption



The best way to prevent Fraud and Corruption is through Public Awareness and Public Education. Sophia Pretrick has done too many talks and public speaking about good governance, integrity and anti-corruption for the past 10 years and the latest one was at the FSM 2019 Annual Finance & Budget Conference, which was held at the COM/FSM Gymnasium from March 11-14, 2019. The conference was attended by more than 200 delegates from the four (4) FSM States. Fraud and Corruption impact all aspects of our society

that is why people especially from Government Sectors needs to know the impacts, how to prevent it and what to report. As Madam Secretary, Sihna Lawrence of the FSM Department of Finance & Administration said "fraud and corruption are under-reported because people need to be aware and know what is fraud and corruption and be more vigilant in reporting it."

The Pohnpei Public Auditor Iso Ihlen K. Joseph also attended the conference on the third day. The same date where the Youth-4-Change presented and showcased their own composition songs in front of delegates. They presented their own music video about corruption. Youth as the future leaders of Pohnpei are great ambassadors for doing anti-corruption activities. Young people are some of the most important agents of change in the fight against corruption. Youth-4-Change is partnering with Pohnpei OPA in this endeavor. If our youth can invest their time for the good of our Island Pohnpei, lets also support and invest in our youth. As Franklin Roosevelt said "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."



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Interior Applauds Executive Leadership Development Program

Concludes Third Session in Yap, Micronesia

U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech today applauded the twenty-six island government officials in the 2018-2019 cohort of the Pacific Islands Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP). These officials recently completed the third and penultimate session of their leadership development and training program in Yap, Micronesia.

"We are proud to support the development of leadership skills and capacity in young professionals from the U.S. insular areas," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "We look forward to seeing them continue to develop and assume more responsibility in decision-making for the future of the islands."

The twenty-six participants hail from the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and from the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Students from the U.S. Virgin Islands participate in a separate Executive Leadership Program that takes place in various locations on the East Coast and in Washington, D.C.

The third week of the ELDP focused on leading institutions, with the participants being challenged to practice policy advocacy skills through the use of leadership concepts and principles taught during the first two ELDP sessions. Participants interpreted and utilized fiscal and economic data to develop policy reform options to address issues relevant to island jurisdictions. Other activities included updating individual leadership development plans, presenting team project updates, and participating in one-on-one meetings with ELDP program advisors to review each individual leader's progress to date and discuss continued professional growth.

ELDP participants were welcomed to Yap by Governor Henry Falan and heard from additional guest speakers including T.H. Vincent Figir, Speaker of the Yap State Legislature; Mr. Larry Raigetel, Traditional Navigator and Director of Wa'agey; T.H. Cyprian Manmaw, Yap State Chief Justice; and Dr. Margie Falanruw, Director of the Yap Institute of Natural Science. Three program advisors supported the ELDP during the week: T.H. Sebastian Anefal, FSM Ambassador to Fiji; Dr. Mary Okada, President of Guam Community College; and Ms. Anna Mendiola, President and CEO of the FSM Development Bank.

The ELDP was created in 2009 to address challenges attracting and retaining qualified individuals to work in core functions of island governments. The U.S. insular areas now count 103 alumni who have developed their leadership abilities through the ELDP.

Graduates of the program now serve in their respective island governments as ambassadors, elected representatives, judges, cabinet members, directors, and dedicated public servants.

The ELDP 2019 participants from each insular area are as follows:

American Samoa

- Katrina Hunkin-Seumanutafa, Travel Division Head, Office of the Attorney General
- Peteru Lam Yuen, Financial Aid Officer, American Samoa Community College
- Burg Salanoa, Community Services Block Grant Program Manager, Department of Commerce
- Crystal Simanu, Teacher, Department of Education

Guam

- John Camacho, Jr, Accountant, Department of Administration
- Rodalyn Gerardo, Special Assistant, Office of Public Accountability

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

- Michelle Atalig, Special Advisor, Department of Public Lands
- Ryan Camacho, Technical Financial Analyst, Department of Finance, Office of the Secretary
- Patty Coleman, Program Leader, Nutrition & Health Programs, Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, & Education Services
- TaAnn Kabua-Demapan, Drug Court Manager, Judiciary

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Government

- Erick Paul, Assistant Secretary, National Treasury, Department of Finance
- Shaun Suliol, Webmaster, College of Micronesia
- Sherlyn Reynold, Budget Analyst, Department of Education

Chuuk, FSM

- Roxalynn Kaminanga, Accountant, Chuuk Department of Administrative Services



2018-2019 Cohort of the ELDP with instructors and traditional Yapese dancers in traditional village.

- Wisney Nakayama, Representative, Chuuk State Legislature

Kosrae, FSM

- Julie Sigrah, Administrator, Kosrae Visitor's Bureau

Pohnpei, FSM

- Mitaro Simina, Vice Principal, Student Services, Bailey Olter High School

Yap, FSM

- Vallynna Gippin, Staff Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor

Marshall Islands

- Maybeline Bing, Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- Laurence Edwards, II, Legal Advisor, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
- Holden Nena, Clinical Director Of Human Services, Health and Human Services
- Isabella Silk, Director, Office of Compact Implementation
- Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Assistant Secretary, Health & Human Services

Palau

- Antonnette Merur, Director Of Nursing, Ministry of Health
- Sunny Ngirmang, Director, Ministry of Community And Cultural Affairs
- Tmng Udui, Epidemiologist, Palau Ministry of Health

The ELDP remains competitive, with over 100 applications received and evaluated each program year. This 2018-2019 cohort of the Pacific Islands ELDP will participate in one final session and graduate in June 2019.

The ELDP is administered by the Graduate School USA with funding support through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. Additional information is available online at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>. More information on funding assistance from the Office of Insular Affairs may be found at <https://www.doi.gov/oia/fiscal-payments>.

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Assets		Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 33,279	Deposits:	
Interest bearing deposits in banks	121,816	Non-interest bearing	\$ 538,168
Total cash and cash equivalents	155,095	Interest bearing	1,190,655
Restricted cash	400	Total deposits	1,728,823
Investment in unconsolidated subsidiary	3,291	Accrued interest payable	137
Investment securities available-for-sale, at fair value	381,042	Other liabilities	14,447
Investment securities held-to-maturity, at amortized cost	68,088	Total Liabilities	1,743,407
Federal Home Loan Bank stock, at cost	2,356	Commitments and contingencies	
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	1,212,141	Stockholders' equity:	
Accrued interest receivable	6,221	Common stock	2,017
Premises and equipment, net	18,471	Preferred stock	980
Other assets	44,597	Additional paid-in capital, Common stock	24,214
Total Assets	\$ 1,891,702	Additional paid-in capital, Preferred stock	8,803
		Retained earnings	117,339
		Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(4,768)
		Common stock in treasury, at cost	(290)
		Total stockholders' equity	148,295
		Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 1,891,702

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME (Year ended December 31, 2018; in 000's US Dollars)

Interest income	\$ 90,042
Interest expense	2,120
Net interest income	87,922
Provision for loan losses	12,862
Net interest income, after provision for loan losses	75,060
Non-interest income	15,719
Non-interest expense	75,027
Income before income taxes	15,752
Income tax expense	2,913
Net Income	\$ 12,839

BANK OF GUAM FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA BRANCHES

STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Year ended December 31, 2018; in 000's US Dollars)

Assets		Liabilities and Equity	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,427	Deposits:	
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	26,306	Non-interest bearing	\$ 52,934
Accrued interest receivable	123	Interest bearing	133,996
Premises and equipment, net	459	Total deposits	186,930
Other assets	3	Accrued interest payable	23
Due from Bank of Guam	158,721	Other liabilities	86
Total Assets	\$ 187,039	Total Liabilities	\$ 187,039

STATEMENT OF INCOME (Year ended December 31, 2018; in 000's US Dollars)

Interest income	\$ 5,720
Interest expense	228
Net interest income	5,492
Provision for loan losses	381
Net interest income, after provision for loan losses	5,111
Non-interest income	990
Non-interest expense	2,338
Net Income	\$ 3,763

Typhoon Wutip updates: Joint Damage Assessment team activated, relief efforts ongoing

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— This week, from March 18th to March 22nd 2019, the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM) is working with Pohnpei State Government, the United States Government via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to jointly and formally assess the damage caused in Pohnpei State by Typhoon Wutip.

This assistance from the United States Government comes in response to His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) requesting such assistance after the March 11th, 2019 amendment of the National Declaration of Emergency became a National Declaration of Disaster. One of the outcomes of the 7th Special Session of the 20th Congress of the FSM was to formally extend this declaration for an additional sixty days beyond its original thirty day duration.

Upon completion of the assessment in mainland Pohnpei State this week, the Joint Damage Assessment (JDA) team will be traveling to the islands of Nukuoro and the Mortlocks and Pattiw Islands in Chuuk State to formally assess Typhoon Wutip-related damage.

Meanwhile, relief efforts to provide for the needs of the Nation's affected citizens remain ongoing. On Saturday, March 16th 2019, the Caroline Voyager departed Pohnpei State for the islands in Chuuk State. Amongst its relief supplies include water, medicine, and assorted foodstuffs.

A cabinet meeting on March 20th, 2019 also emphasized the FSM National Government's commitment to serving the citizens affected by this national disaster. The Honorable Marion Henry, Secretary of the Department of Resources & Development (DR&D), noted in the meeting that DR&D has funds available for food security, including the distribution of planting materials of local food crops. DR&D will be collaborating with DECEM and other FSM and partner agencies to assist with the recovery efforts.

The Declarations of Emergency by the Governors of the States of Pohnpei, Yap, and Chuuk remain in effect. The FSM National Government will continue to provide updates on Typhoon Wutip relief as information becomes available.

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Mileage 21,000km Color Silver



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Mid-year JEMCO held in Chuuk

FSM Information Services

WENO, Chuuk—On March 19th, 2019, the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) convened its Mid-Year meeting which was held, for the first time in the era of the amended Compact of Free Association (COFA), in Chuuk State. Among other duties, JEMCO is responsible for the review of development plans and other planning and budget documents of the State Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), including monitoring progress made towards sustainable economic development and budgetary self-reliance. Per the terms of the COFA, JEMCO also consults with providers of United States Government Federal Grants, including the review and evaluation of grant allocations and their related objectives. Comprised of five members total, of which the FSM has two, representing the FSM were the Honorable Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Vice Chairman of JEMCO, and Mr. Leo A. Falcam, Jr., Chief of Staff to His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the FSM. Representing the United States were Mr. Nikolao Pula, Director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs and Chairman of JEMCO, Mr. Nicholas Dean, Director of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Affairs, Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs, and Mr. William Gallo, Associate Director of the Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support Office of the Centers Disease Control and Prevention.

The agenda for JEMCO's discussion included policy items surrounding effective grant administration, initiatives for improvements in education and health data and performance indicator management, further advancements on the establishment of the FSM infrastructure management institutions, and progress on infrastructure project implementation.

The FSM submitted for JEMCO's consideration an allocation of \$2,118,213

for two health sector projects; the funding was received in its entirety via JEMCO Resolution 2019-11. \$1,618,213 will be dedicated for the FSM's response to the urgent need for mass screening, and related treatments, of tuberculosis cases in the islands of Weno, Tol, and Polle in Chuuk State. The remaining \$500,000 is allocated for funding the FSM Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Project, whose purpose is to improve both the management of health data, as well as the reporting thereof, and support informed decision-making in areas ranging from the prioritization of healthcare funding to the diagnosing and treatment of the Nation's citizens.

Other discussions in the Mid-Year meeting included an update on the progress of the FSM's public sector infrastructure program. It is projected that the FSM may see eight major infrastructure projects, worth nearly \$44,500,000 combined, begin construction by November, 2019. An additional fifteen projects, worth nearly \$53,400,000 combined, may begin construction by November, 2020.

Among the remaining discussions included amplifying information on the improvements to the ongoing electric power crisis in Pohnpei State. COFA assistance was allocated in August, 2018, to support the overhaul of two generator sets (\$828,220) and installation of cash-meters (\$500,000). It is expected that the generator sets will be fully operational in July, 2019. For longer-term solutions, JEMCO expressed its willingness to support reforms efforts focusing on the management and operations of Pohnpei State's public utilities.

Chairman Pula noted at the conclusion of the JEMCO that the outcomes were very positive, and noted his satisfaction on the update briefings and the progress indicated in each sector. In a cabinet meeting on March 21st, 2019, Secretary Robert said "It was indeed a very successful visit, a very successful JEMCO...."

JEMCO members signing JEMCO Resolution 2019-11



Grant contract signing ceremony for the project for construction of gymnasium in Yap Catholic High School

Embassy of Japan

On February 27, 2019, the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony was held at Yap Catholic High School for the Project for “Construction of Gymnasium in Yap Catholic High School”, which provided Yap Catholic High School with \$120,520USD under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects.

The goal for this project is to provide a gymnasium which improves the educational environment and students’ health at Yap Catholic High School. Yap Catholic High School has been unable to include formal Physical Education class into their school curriculum because of the lack of reliable space to use in the event of poor weather. After this construction, Yap Catholic High School will finally be able to implement a Physical Education program into the curriculum for all students beginning in School Year 2019-2020. The gymnasium will be open to local people as well.

Legislature and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yap Catholic High School, expressed his gratitude for the generous assistance from the Government of Japan. Rev. R. Richard McAuliff, SJ, the Director of Yap Catholic High School, commented on Yap’s close ties with Japan and its people in allowing Yap Catholic High School to be able to tackle two of many challenges that the school faces: Providing one of the best quality education to students while maintaining an affordable tuition for families and impressing upon students important values such as respect, honesty, integrity and generosity shown by the Government and people of Japan. In his address, Ambassador Horie stated that the Government of Japan is always pleased to assist the FSM and encouraged the students for a better future. Mr. Michael Wiencek, the Principal of Yap Catholic High School, expressed his deepest gratitude for the generous assistance from the people of Japan.

Henry Falan, the Governor of Yap State, The Hon. Jesse Salalu, Lt. Governor of Yap State, The Hon. Congressman Joseph Urusemal, Delegates from Yap Congressional Delegation Office, Delegates from Yap State Legislature, The Hon. Simeon Waathan, Mayor of Rull Municipality, Rev. Kelly Yalmadau,

Episcopal Vicar of the Catholic Church in Yap, Mr. Rufino Xavier, the principal of St. Mary’s school, members of the board of Directors of Yap Catholic High School, faculty and students of Yap Catholic High School and the staff of the Embassy of Japan in the FSM.



The Hon. Nick Figirlarwon, Yap State The ceremony was witnessed by The Hon.

Pohnpei taxi driver sentenced for trafficking in children and exploitation

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On March 22nd, 2019, FSM Supreme Court Chief Justice Dennis Yamase sentenced Defendant William Chunn to ten years imprisonment, and six years probation, after finding him guilty of six counts of Trafficking in Children and one count of Exploiting a Trafficked Person.

During trial in February 2019, the Court heard testimony of how Mr. Chunn used the taxi he was hired to drive to recruit, transport, and deliver minor girls to have sex with sailors on shore leave, and other men, on several occasions between 2015 and 2017. The Court heard testimony from witnesses who explained that Mr. Chunn would charge the men a fee and then deliver minors for sex, some of the victims as young as 12 years old.

At the sentencing hearing, prosecutors from the FSM Department of Justice asked the Court to give Mr. Chunn the maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and for him to pay restitution in the amount of \$25,000 to each child victim.

However, the Court imposed a sixteen-year prison term with six of the years on probation. Mr. Chunn will be released on Sundays from 9 am until 4 pm to attend church and visit his children during the duration of his incarceration. The Court further ordered a total of \$14,000 to be

divided between the two identified child victims as restitution.

The Department of Justice is committed to cracking down on human trafficking within the FSM, particularly cases involving the exploitation of minors. Through the Department’s collaboration with state organized Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces, the issue of taxi drivers ferrying minors for sexual exploitation has become an increased concern and priority. This is the first case in the FSM involving a taxi driver taking minors to provide sexual services to fishermen. However, prosecutors are optimistic that the sentence imposed in this case will deter other taxi drivers from engaging in similar conduct. Prosecutors are also hopeful that this case, public awareness efforts, and tips to the National Police will aid in the prosecution of future human trafficking cases.

Mr. Chunn was originally charged for Human Trafficking and Trafficking in Children as a Co-Defendant of fishing boat Captain Joseph Parisi in 2017. Mr. Parisi subsequently fled the FSM in November 2018 as his trial date was approaching. The Department of Justice is currently working with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of State to locate and extradite Mr. Parisi back to the FSM to stand trial.



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March 4, 2019

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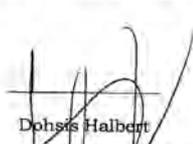
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Annual Finance & Budget Conference outcomes strengthen FSM peace, unity, & liberty

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—From March 11th to March 14th, 2019, the 5th annual Department of Finance & Administration (DOFA) Finance & Budget Conference was held in the College of Micronesia China Friendship Gymnasium. Attended by over 200 representatives from across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), including relevant staff in charge of finance and personnel from each of the four states (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae), the conference signaled another milestone in FSM's development and sovereignty.

"It's been noted by leadership," said the Honorable Sihna M. Lawrence, Secretary DOFA, "That there has been an increased effort at both the National and State level...[to reduce] our outstanding questioned costs, and in the last two audit rounds there were zero new questioned costs." Secretary Lawrence emphasized that the National and State Finance departments, being responsible for the Nation's and States' "purse", should demonstrate transparency, responsibility, and accountability at all times when conducting their work—and congratulated the attendees for demonstrating these qualities, particularly in recent years.

One of the highlights of the Finance & Budget Conference was the discussion on the new Finance Management Information System (FMIS), which the FSM National Government hopes to have completed and in active use throughout the Nation beginning Fiscal Year 2020 i.e. by October 1, 2019. Financed by the World Bank, Secretary Lawrence said the Public Financial Management Project will also provide "much needed capacity-building of our finance staff across our five Governments."

Beulah Daunakamakama, Program Manager at DOFA's Central Implementation Unit, described the FMIS as "a new comprehensive accounting system for the FSM National and State Governments, including hardware, software, training, and capacity-building.... There will be standardized internal controls, which will help strengthen the way things work."

"Right now we're maintaining manual files alongside the current system which don't give real-time data and ultimately delays end-of-the-year reporting.... By freeing up accounting staff from data entry, they can focus more of their time and energy on what they were trained to do, more analysis and management," said Program Manager Daunakamakama.

Another highlight of the Finance & Budget Conference was discussion on the updated Financial Management Regulations which came into effect on March 7th, 2019, approximately twenty years after the last major overhaul. "They cover everything," said Rob Solomon, DOFA's Macroeconomist. "The regulations have been expanded to make them more comprehensive and aligned with current international best practice."

"Since the first Finance & Budget Conference held in Pohnpei in 2015," said Secretary Lawrence, "one notable improvement was the first conference for local governments, held in Chuuk [in February 2019]. The mayors were eager for more such training initiatives to continue in the future." All levels of local government, including local municipal government leadership, were present at the 5th annual Finance & Budget Conference as well.

The FSM National Government is committed to transparency and dedicated to providing essential services to the citizens of the Nation. Citizens interested in learning more about how DOFA serves the public may wish to visit their website, found here: <https://dofa.gov.fm/> and citizens wishing to read the Financial Management Regulations may find them here: <http://www.dofa.gov.fm/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Signed-FMR-Feb-2019.pdf>



UN official discusses multi-country office with Vice President George

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On March 18th, 2019 the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with a United Nations (UN) mission to discuss government perceptions of how the UN is supporting FSM in achieving its sustainable development goals (SDGs). The mission is in response to the UN General Assembly resolution 72/279—adopted on May 31st, 2018—which requested the Secretary General to "conduct a review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices (MCOs), in full consultation with involved countries, to improve the contribution of the offices to country progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda." Accompanying Mr. Sanaka Samarasinha—one of two UN Resident Coordinators heading one of the two MCOs for the Pacific region—were members of the MCO Review Team, engaged by the UN to gather data and provide an objective analysis to inform how the MCO operating model can be improved.

In response to the UN mission's request for feedback on where the UN currently serves the FSM well and where it can be improved, Vice President George discussed the need for more technical assistance and reiterated a request made during the 19th Micronesian Presidents Summit in February 2019 for more UN presence in the FSM and the broader Micronesian region. "We are anticipating a lot of changes in 2023 that we're not quite ready for. Our development isn't at a level that we hope for... An MCO is something that can help, but what we would really like to see more of is more technical assistance from the UN."

Mr. Gillian Doone, Assistant Director for the Office of Overseas Development Assistance, spoke in detail about how the UN had previously assisted the FSM with on-the-ground capacity-building and project implementation, e.g. UN Volunteers had at one point assisted Yap State with their strategic development plan.

"We have trouble with the lack of technical know-how in accessing funding, for example the Green Climate Fund and Climate Adaptation Fund," said Vice President George. "On-the-ground assistance is something we need.... We have trouble with the lack of technical know-how in accessing funding, for example the Green Climate Fund and Climate Adaptation Fund."

Vice President George and Mr. Samarasinha also discussed the possibility of UN staff, currently placed in Bangkok (Thailand) and Suva (Fiji) and who manage the aforementioned funds, potentially being placed in the FSM on detail assignments and/or FSM staff potentially being placed on temporary assignment abroad.

In closing the meeting, Mr. Samarasinha discussed opportunities to continue conversations on how the UN can better support the FSM, including the UN Pacific Strategy review that is expected to occur on or around the week of April 22nd, 2019.

The FSM National Government is strengthening its partnership with the UN as one component of its ongoing commitment towards serving the needs of the citizens of the Nation. The FSM has been a member of the UN since September 17th, 1991.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
No. PPAVA08-19

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POHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY, A PUBLIC CORPORATION OF THE POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT, IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATION(S) FOR THE POSITION:

POSITION: Seaport Police Officer I
SALARY: Grade-3 Starting at \$5,232.00 Per Annum
LOCATION: Pohnpei Port Authority
Dekehtik Island, Pohnpei State
OPENING DATE: March 25, 2019
CLOSING DATE: April 12, 2019

SUMMARY: Performs safety and security assignments at the seaport and otherwise patrols and monitors seaport property and facilities accordingly.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES Including the following. Other duties may be assigned.

1. Patrols and monitors the harbor, wharves and anchorage areas by boat to enforce rules and regulations of harbor use and access, and to assure the safety and security of vessels and crafts in the harbor. Identifies and reports real and potential violations and security breaches
2. Patrols and monitors the wharves, docks, warehouses and facilities of the seaport on foot or in vehicle. Physically checks and tests security access areas such as security doors and gates to assure controlled access. Identifies and reports real and potential violations and security breaches
3. Allows authorized access to controlled areas and enforces procedures regarding identification badges and authorizations. Otherwise enforces regulatory mandates, rules, regulations and procedures using prescribed public relations and/or confrontation protocols and procedures
4. Boards vessels in the harbor or at dock to conduct clearance procedures; assures that the vessels have the proper certifications of compliance with international shipping codes, and ensures that other required documents are in order according to regulations. Compiles and reports information to the seaport office according to procedures
5. Assists vessels in berthing and bunkering, and monitors such activities to alert emergency groups in the event of accidents or environmental hazard such as oil spills. Directs vessels to move as instructed to make space for other vessels
6. Initiates emergency procedures in the event of collision, accident or environmental hazard. Performs search and rescue missions to assist persons adrift, in danger of drowning or otherwise injured
7. Performs gate duty as assigned and otherwise directs and controls vehicular traffic at seaport; assures that access via gates, parking lots and traffic ways are controlled accordingly
8. Regularly participates in classes, training programs and exercises to develop and maintain skills and abilities to provide effective security and safety at the seaport including basic law enforcement methods, procedures and tactics
9. Reports facilities and equipment that need maintenance attention
10. Prepares and submits reports regarding safety and security incidents according to procedures

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
High school education plus two years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have no record of felony or criminal conviction. Having Driver's license and open water scuba diving certificate is preferred but not required.

HOW TO APPLY:
Application forms can be obtained from the office of the Pohnpei Port Authority at Dekehtik Island, Pohnpei State. Completed applications or resume should be submitted to the same office no later than the closing date of this vacancy announcement.

Pacific Women in Power Forum discusses pathways to increase women's political participation

United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office

27 March 2019
Nadi, Fiji - In recognising that the Pacific, as a region, has the lowest level of women's political representation globally, concerted efforts are being made to ensure equal representation in respective national parliaments.

30 women Members of Parliament from six Pacific island countries are participating in the Pacific Women in Power Forum organised by the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office in Fiji (UNDP).

The two-day Forum, with funding support from the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and Japan, provides a space for Pacific women MPs to interact and engage on key issues relevant to their leadership roles and the Pacific context in general. Some of the topics discussed in the Forum include the development of support networks for women MPs, encouraging more women in politics, the development of effective candidate training, and information on economic empowerment, integrity and leadership.

In delivering his address as one of the key note speakers opening the Forum, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, Honourable Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, highlighted the need for more equal representation to ensure more equal, stable and prosperous societies.

"Not only are we tasked with breaking the chains of intergenerational poverty, but also, we are similarly challenged to break the cycle of gender inequality, now and for all generations to come", said Hon. Ratu Nailatikau.

"Women are an essential, crucial catalyst to sustainable developments, so let us ensure their empowerment so we can live in a more equal, sustainable, stable and prosperous world."

He added, "Pacific women have always been extremely influential behind the scenes but now all over the region, they are finding a new and very clear voice in public life and we must do everything possible to make that voice heard, listened to and acted upon not only regionally but internationally."

In the last decade, resources have been dedicated to programmes aimed at increasing women's political leadership and participation, but progress has been slow, and in the case of some countries like the Federated States of Micronesia it has been non-existent, or even declined as in the case of Vanuatu and Papua New

Guinea. In her key note address to the Forum, the Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, the Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa drew from the Samoa context and highlighted that while the Pacific as a region has a long way to go, there are options for parliaments to consider in order to create change.

"A challenge for us here in the Pacific is that we are not sure how the process for Temporary Special Measures (TSM) would be implemented and people tie themselves up on how it would be implemented, and the end result is that countries don't then implement TSM", said Hon. Fiame.

Temporary Special Measures refer to measures to increase the number of women elected to parliaments through the adoption of electoral gender quotas. Samoa is the only country in the Pacific which has adopted Temporary Special Measures at a national level in order to guarantee that a minimum of 10% of MPs in Parliament are women. Other Pacific countries have introduced TSMs at sub-national level.

"One of the positive things about the Samoa situation is that it has presented a model that can easily be replicated if other countries wish to do so", said Hon. Fiame.

Speaking on behalf of the Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands, Hon. Niki Rattle, who was unable to join the Forum, the Minister for Health for the Cook Islands, Hon. Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown delivered her key-note address speaking to the theme of the Forum; "It's About Time: Women Changing the Pacific".

"I believe that the Cook Islands has stood up to the challenge of this bold statement with 6 women MPs out of 24 Members and a woman Speaker with this being the highest numbers ever", said Hon. Brown

"Another historical development for Cook Islands women is that for the second time only, the Leader of the Opposition, is the Democratic Party's Hon. Tina Browne. The role of the Leader of a Political Party has been a male dominant position for 53 years but not anymore."

She added, "We also made history with the election of a 22-year-old woman MP Te Hani Brown, who is the youngest MP ever in the Cook Islands and in the Pacific."

Through this Forum, UNDP promotes South-South Pacific and knowledge sharing and cross learning. These connections provide an effective platform for interaction and sharing of best practices for Pacific women MPs who share common contexts and challenges.




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