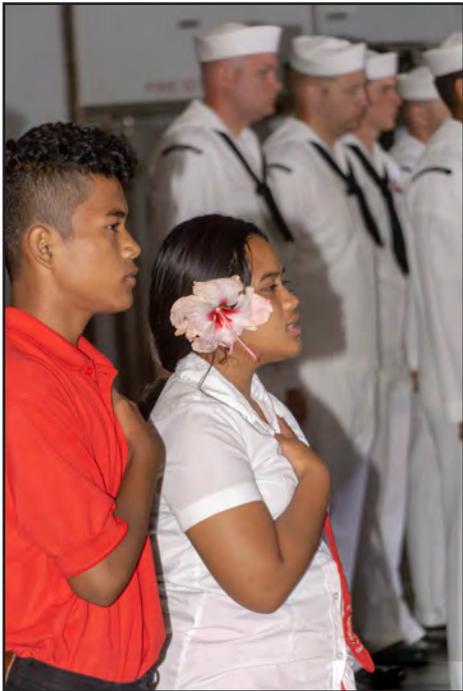


After two weeks of service in the Mortlocks, Pacific Partnership 2019 officially opens in Chuuk



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 13, 2019

Weno, Chuuk—Though the FSM mission of the 14th Pacific Partnership actually began almost two weeks ago when the team was diverted to outer islands in the Mortlocks of Chuuk that suffered severe damage during Typhoon Wutip, the opening ceremony was not until this morning.

Moored at the Transco Dock, the expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Brunswick was the site of the opening ceremony. Before the ceremony, Director of Mission Captain Patrick (Paddy) Allen of Great Britain's Royal Navy conducted a private



tour of the vessel for dignitaries including Chuuk Governor Johnson Elimo, FSM Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorrin Robert, United States Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley, members of the Chuuk legislature and other dignitaries.

The Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral all-hazards preparedness mission in the Indo-Pacific region. Led by the U.S. Navy

See "Pacific Partnership" on page 4

Seven charged with kidnapping and sexually exploiting young girls

In this **EDITION** of the **KPress**:

Kosraean voters in Pohnpei to recast their ballots for the Kosrae at-large seat

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Micronesian swimmers bring home medals and set records in Palau

Page 7

Care Micronesia Foundation assists Pohnpei State to raise the age of consent to 18

Page 11

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 11, 2019

Pohnpei—On April 9, Pohnpei State prosecutors filed criminal charges against charged James Hadley, Jim George, Johnny Rantung, Mariana Silwer, Mayson Victor, Resner Manuel, and Saferi Wantoro for crimes involving sexual exploitation, and abuse of young women aged 14, 15, and 18.

The five sets of criminal information documents,

numbered 19-69 through 19-73, alleged that the defendants committed the specific crimes of criminal conspiracy, criminal solicitation, kidnapping, criminal coercion, sexual abuse, trafficking in persons, sexual servitude of a minor, involuntary servitude, pandering, and prostitution.

On the same day, the court found that there was sufficient cause to issue a search and seizure warrant based on the application for the warrant and an accompanying affidavit.

The finding that led to the issuance of the search and seizure warrant is by no means a conviction of the named people. Each is presumed to be innocent unless otherwise proven in court.

See "Seven charged" on page 5

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Kosraean voters in Pohnpei to recast their ballots for the Kosrae at-large seat

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

April 11, 2019

FSM—FSM’s Office of the National Election Director has ordered a revote of the Pohnpei Special Polling Place for the FSM Congress Kosrae State four-year at-large seat. The revote is only for Kosraean voters living in Pohnpei who were eligible to vote in the March elections and will be held on April 18, 2019 at the FSM National Election Office in Palikir from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to the Office of the National Election Director everyone who voted at the Pohnpei Special Polling Place during the March 5 election MUST go to the National Election Office in Palikir on April 18, 2019 and revote. Since there is a revote, NO votes from the March 5, 2019 will be counted.

“The revote will only be for those Kosrae voters who timely applied to vote absentee at the Pohnpei Special Polling Place prior to March 5, 2019 election and those with valid Voter IDs obtained prior to March 5, 2019,” the notice from the Election Directors says. “Kosrae voters who voted in the election of March 5, 2019 outside Pohnpei will not be permitted to cast ballots in the revote.”

The announcement of the special election said that a shortage of ballots prevented 20 eligible, timely arriving Kosraean voters from casting their votes. “This occurred because a larger than anticipated number of voters in possession of validly issued Voter ID card presented themselves at the Pohnpei special polling (place) to vote,”

the notice of revote said.

On April 1, 2019, Vice President Yosiwo George, who won the Kosrae at-large seat over Aren B. Palik by 10 votes, filed a 41 page petition at the FSM Supreme Court to appeal the decision of the Office of the National Election Director. His appeal asked for preliminary injunctive relief to bar the revote.

On April 9, 2019 a three member panel of justices consisting of Chief Justice Dennis K. Yamase, and Associate Justices Beaulen Carl-Worswick and Larry Wentworth denied the request for a preliminary injunction. The revote will take place as decided by the Office of the National Election Director.

“One who seeks an injunction pending an appeal must show irreparable injury,” the ruling denying the injunction said. “A ‘winning’ candidate cannot show that a revote constitutes irreparable harm because, after the revote is held, that candidate may still be declared and certified as the winning candidate—the revote might not alter the ultimate outcome...George thus cannot show that he will suffer irreparable harm. He can only show that he might end up losing an election that had seemed he had already won.”

The Court decided that one of the three pillars that would be required to be built before the Court should decide to issue any preliminary injunction also had not been met, that of harm to the public interest if an injunction is not issued. The Court decided that it was in the public’s interest that fair and accurate elections should take place, and the balance-of-injuries favor neither George nor Palik in that regard.

“Because George cannot show irreparable harm, we need not, at this point, consider how likely he is to succeed on the merits (of the appeal he filed with the Court)”, the Court ruled.

At a status conference on appeal of the Court’s ruling this morning, the Court affirmed that the revote will take place and that any appeals on the matter will take place after the revote.

Grant contract signing ceremony for the project for procuring a medical waste incinerator in Yap State

Embassy of Japan

On February 27, 2019, a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony was held at Yap State hospital conference room for the Project for “Procuring a Medical Waste Incinerator in Yap State”, which provided Department of Health Services, Yap State with \$61,640 under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects.

This project intends to provide one (1) Medical Waste Incinerator, in order to ensure a clean and safe environment without emission of pollutants.

The Hon. Henry S. Falan, Governor of Yap State, showed his gratitude for the generous assistance from the Government of Japan. He also mentioned that with this project people in Yap will be ensured a clean and safe environment. Ambassador Ryoichi Horie stated that the important stage is to maintain and utilize this incinerator for the welfare of the people in Yap, and he hoped the Yap state hospital will continue and improve the provision of good medical services to the people in Yap.

The ceremony was witnessed by The Hon. Lt. Governor Jesse Salau, the Chief of Division of Media & Protocol Mr. Sebastian Tamagken, the Public Information Officer Mr. Joshua Libyan, the Director of the Department of Health Services Ms. Aileen Tareg, the Department of Health Services, Maintenance Division Chief Mr. Augustino Harongochem, the Finance Operations Manager Mr. Julius Tun, JICA volunteers and the staff of the Embassy of Japan in FSM.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

KPress is looking for dedicated correspondents in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. We will pay you for articles and collection of ads. Contact us at the numbers or email above.

Pohnpei Conducts First Live Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Consultation by Video Teleconference

By: Christina Higa, Co-Director, Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center

Pohnpei Hospital's Dr. Payne Perman makes history again! Today he conducted a gastrointestinal endoscopy in Pohnpei while a panel of experts from the Australian and New Zealand Gastroenterology International Training Association (ANZGITA) and Fiji School of Medicine offer real time advice and guidance by video teleconference.

The procedure conducted today was quite complex. It involved inserting an endoscope, a flexible tube with a light and camera, into the stomach. He also used a balloon dilator that was inserted into the scope and through the narrowing to widen it. This is a specialized procedure that is usually done by experienced endoscopist.

To assure optimal video image and teleconference quality, Pohnpei Hospital used a high definition camera and a new desktop screen so that the Pacific Island partners could be seen by the Pohnpei team during the procedure.

During the procedure, Drs. Chris Hair; Mai Ling; Paul Clark observed and gave advice along the way. Experts were able to advise on what instruments and sizes of instruments to use. Also help with the next steps in managing this patient. Dr. Perman is a general internist, so having access to super sub-specialists (e.g., gastroenterologists) expands his health care delivery to the people of Pohnpei. Especially to patients without insurance and are not able to get help abroad.

Dr. Perman said, "I would not have had the confidence to do this by myself

and would typically have to refer these more complex cases off island; however, with the team of experts I was able to successfully conduct the biopsy and plan for next steps for the patient." Dr. Perman was able to gain the confidence because he had several experts looking on with him. At the same time, other participants who joined the telehealth session learned much by observing and asking questions. Other participants were from Kosrae, American Samoa, Fiji, Palau, Hawaii, and even Japan.

The patient was very thankful to have had this opportunity to receive care from a team of experts and expressed his gratitude to the Pohnpei team for their good care. Today was a live procedure that benefitted a patient and health care providers from around the Pacific that observed and learned together.

This was the 9th gastroenterology distance learning session that is coordinated by Pohnpei Hospital and conducted in partnership with ANZGITA; Fiji School of Medicine; and the Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center. Finally, the Leo Etscheit Foundation and FSM Telecom should be recognized for the continued support in providing the bandwidth necessary for the program.



Pohnpei endoscopy team with the patient/ Video teleconference participants

Handover ceremony for the project for construction of support center for persons with disabilities

Embassy of Japan

On April 3, 2019, the Handover Ceremony was held at the Pohnpei Consumer Organization in Dolonier Nett for the Project for Construction of Support Center for Persons with Disabilities in Pohnpei state which provided the Pohnpei Consumer Organization (PCO) with US\$109,105 under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects.

The objective of this project is to increase awareness on human rights of persons with disabilities by constructing a new facility which will be utilized as a space to hold training and workshops for empowerment of persons with disabilities.

In his address, His Excellency Ryoichi Horie, Ambassador of Japan, expressed his



delight for the completion of this project which brings a great supporting center that will contribute to the improvement in quality of lives of persons with disabilities in Pohnpei State. Mr. Henry Phillip, the President of PCO, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan for the generous donation. Mr. Nelbert Perez, Founder of PCO, acknowledged Ambassador Horie for the generous donation and stated that the new building will be a model for accessibility for those persons with disabilities in the country and bring more possibilities for them. The Hon. Marcelo K Peterson, Governor of the Pohnpei State Government, expressed his deepest appreciation for the variety of continuous support from Japan to

Pohnpei State. To close out the remarks, the Hon. Isonahnken of Nett Municipality, Mr. Salvador Iriarte expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan for the support to the people of Pohnpei.

The program was enhanced by presentation of songs from the people of Sapwua'fik, Ambassador and Madam, and Mr. Danny Kalio, a member of PCO.

The ceremony was witnessed by Traditional leaders, The Hon. Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, representatives of Pohnpei legislature, staffs of FSM National Government and Pohnpei state Government, members of PCO and staffs of Embassy of Japan.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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WILL BE RELEASED ON:
April 29, 2019**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is
the end of working hours on:
Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

...Pacific Partnership

Continued from front page

and at the invitation of host nations, Pacific Partnership military and civilian organizations work collectively in medical, dental, veterinary, and engineering civic action programs that ensure the international community is better prepared to come together in times of natural disaster or crisis. Its goal is to enhance readiness, strengthen relationships, and to exchange knowledge. The Pacific Partnership works collectively to increase regional stability and security, open dialogue between leaders, and foster new and enduring friendships across the Indo-Pacific region.

More than 500 military and civilians from Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the US serve as part of the Pacific Partnership 2019. This year the crew includes members of the US Army from the region. Ambassador Riley asked Specialist Rally Gilmete from Pohnpei and Sergeant Joseia Lemari from Majuro, RMI to stand and be recognized during the ceremony.

This is the second time for the Pacific Partnership to incorporate a multinational command staff. The Director of the Mission is from the United Kingdom. The Chief of Staff is from Australia.

The partnership also includes public engagement. Yesterday, members of Pacific Partnership visited Xavier High School where members of the team participated in sporting events from kick-ball to basketball. The military band based in Pearl Harbor gave a stunning performance to the delight of the young crowd who fairly swooned at the performance.

Though the USNS Brunswick did not arrive at the Weno port until yesterday morning, the mission began in earnest two weeks ago when they were diverted to remote outer islands of Chuuk. According to Ambassador Riley, who spoke at this morning's ceremony, during their time

there, the medical team members saw 1,200 patients. Pacific Partnership brought from Kwajalein, gutter material with which they repaired the gutters on many of the houses. That gutter material helps to fill the water catchment systems that are critical to the outer islands. They repaired the roof at a school. They also made connections with the islanders through sporting events and many other community events.

"This arrangement (US defense of the FSM agreed to through the Compact of Free Association) has been a force of stability in the FSM, and by extension, to the Pacific and this has global reverberations," Ambassador Riley said. "Over the last seven decades, the United States has promoted a free and open Pacific in which independent nations, with diverse cultures and different aspirations can prosper side by side in freedom and peace. Our leaders, soldiers, and sailors have helped frame, and now strive to sustain and strengthen the international system of clear and transparent rules, peaceful arbitration pursuits and the rule of law."

"Through sustained cooperation, our security engagement will increase in the near and the mid-term, as we align our security posture with the threats that currently exist in the Pacific theater," Ambassador Riley said.

Governor Johnson Elimo reminded the audience that in 2008, the USNS Mercy visited Chuuk as part of the Pacific Partnership and provided medical treatments to over 20,000 people. "Although it may look smaller than the 2008 mission, they have already visited the far flung islands treating our needy island people and interacting with them," he said. He thanked the team profusely for their service there. "Let's move on, embracing the vision of the Pacific Partnership to the fullest, fullest meaning of the word 'partnership' where governments embrace each other in the quest of seeking peace, happiness, and prosperity.



bring, that tsunami in 2004 killed a quarter of a million people in a matter of hours. The greatest threat that you have for the security of the region, is Mother Nature," he said. "Then, it's not about

deterrents but about resilience."

FSM Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Lorrin Robert who was representing FSM President Peter Christian was the next to address the audience. He said that he was not surprised at the strong relationship with Micronesia. "After all, it is right here in Micronesia where the American day begins," he said. "And also, we are, in terms of security and threats in the Pacific, in Micronesia, we are the tip of the spear...we will continue to contribute to peace and prosperity throughout the world."

"I spent 33 years in the Royal Navy," Captain Allen said. "My whole premise from the Cold War when I first started has been about deterrents. It's about combating manmade threats, whether that's a state threat or a non-state threat... But coming to Pacific Partnership, it's the first time I've done a mission like this, it's not about deterrents, because, as much as we look at the geopolitics of the region and have a look at the defense side, the security side and the resilience that we

The Pacific Partnership was born after the tsunami in December 2004 that swept through parts of South and Southeast Asia. It began as a military response to one of the world's most catastrophic disasters. The United States helped to spearhead the inaugural Pacific Partnership 2006. Partner Nation militaries and Non-governmental Organizations worked together to expand disaster relief capacity in Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste. The mission focus evolved from direct assistance to furthering regional resiliency and security through disaster risk reduction opportunities to assist nations in preparing for and responding to crises.

The Pacific Partnership 2019 host nations are Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the people of the FSM conducts first quarter meeting and reviews Trust Fund performance to February 28th, 2019 Approves release of FY 2018 annual report

Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia

April 3rd, 2019

WASHINGTON, D.C.– The Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Federated States of Micronesia (the Fund) conducted its fiscal year 2019 (FY19) second quarter meetings on April 1st, 2019.

The meeting covered the Fund’s investment performance for the October-December 2018 quarter as well as the January-February 2019 period, a review of the Fund’s FY18 annual report and audit, adjustment of the Investment Policy Statement and investment fee schedule, and distribution policy for post FY23.

For the October-December 2018 quarter, the Fund lost 7.4%, net of fees, and had an ending net asset value of \$618,026,379. Losses were due to volatility caused by U.S. and global

economic and finance uncertainty, especially in late December. During the quarter, a U.S. government annual contribution, per the schedule of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, in the amount of \$32,242,320 was deposited on October 2nd, 2018.

As of February 28th, the Fund had gained back most of the first quarter losses and was down 1.5%, net of fees, for the fiscal year-to-date (October 1st, 2018 to February 28th, 2019). The total asset value was \$657,924,104 as of February 28th, 2019.

The Fund’s independent auditor, Baker Tilly, presented the Fund’s FY18 Audited Annual Financial Statements. The audit was conducted per U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS). There were no negative findings or disclosures identified in the audit.

The FY18 Annual Report was presented

to the Committee. The Fund ended FY18 (September 30th, 2018) with a restricted fiduciary net position of \$636,086,452 compared to \$564,970,738 as of the end of FY17. The gain was due to investment earnings and the annual contribution from the U.S. government. The Fund had an annual weighted rate of return of 6.8% for FY18 compared to 13.8% for FY17. The Committee approved the Annual Report and authorized dissemination of the Annual and audited financial statements to the respective governments. The full report and other information on the Fund may be accessed on the Fund website at <https://fsmcfatf.com>.

The Committee approved a revised Investment Policy Statement and fee schedule with Mercer Investing Management, the Fund’s Investment Adviser. The Investment Policy Statement was adjusted to include changes to the U.S. small/mid cap, emerging markets and fixed income asset strategies. These changes together with a reduced

Mercer advisory fee schedule and elimination of the non-discretionary management will result in a reduced percentage of annual fees paid by the Fund for the Investment Adviser and money managers.

To address the formulation of a distribution policy and other issues regarding the Trust Fund Agreement for the post FY23 period, the Committee agreed to appoint a subcommittee to determine options for the Committee to review and consider. Future discussion will be held regarding the membership and terms of reference of the subcommittee.

As provided for under the Compact of Free Association agreements, as amended (U.S. Public Law 108-188), the Fund was established to contribute to the economic advancement and long-term budgetary self-reliance of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia when annual grant assistance under the Compact expires after fiscal year 2023.

Handover ceremony for the project for power sector improvement in Kosrae

Embassy of Japan

On March 27th, 2019, the handover ceremony for the Project for Power Sector Improvement in Kosrae was held at Lelu, Kosrae State. For this project, 1.19 Billion JPY (equivalent to 10.7 million USD) was donated by the Government of Japan to construct a power plant with

two 600kw diesel generators, 13.8 kV overhead distribution lines at Lelu island and 13.8 kV underground distribution lines at Okat area. Trainings for local engineers were also provided to maintain the donated equipment. This project will improve the livelihood of people in Kosrae and assist economic development in the Kosrae State.

In his address, the Hon. Carson K. Sigrah, the Governor of Kosrae State, expressed his appreciation for the generous donation

from the Government of Japan, and stated that the new power plant will be the new landmark for the strong relations between Kosrae State and Japan. The Hon. Yosiwo P. George, the Vice President of the FSM, firstly thanked the suppliers and consultants of this project such as NBK Japan, Toshiba, Yachiyo Engineering

for their hard work, and stated that the new power plant will provide a steady and reliable



supply of electricity which is essential for Kosrae State to develop.

H.E. Ryoichi Horie, Ambassador of Japan, stated that the new power plant will benefit the people of Kosrae through the improvement of the infrastructure. He also encouraged KUA staff to conduct proper maintenance so that the donated equipment will last longer. Mr. Shibata, Resident Representative of JICA Micronesia, stated that the project could not be completed without kind cooperation from the Kosrae State Government and KUA.

After the ribbon cutting by the representatives of each organization, the Vice President George turned on the engine of new power plant.

The ceremony was witnessed by the representatives of NBK, Toshiba Plant System & Service, Nishishiba Electric, Daihatsu Diesel and Yachiyo Engineering and staff of National and Kosrae State Government, KUA, JICA Micronesia and the Embassy of Japan in the FSM.



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...Seven charged

Continued from front page

The Criminal Information documents indicate that in the case of the 14 year old victim, the crimes were alleged to have been perpetrated over the course of several days in late March. During that time she was allegedly coerced to have sex with several men who may have paid her alleged captors for the opportunity.

The search warrant authorized the search and seizure of commercial vehicles with license plate numbers

CV-0106, CV-1400, CV-3780, CV-0501, and CV-4299 that were allegedly used in furtherance of crime.

It also authorized the search and seizure of a shack on the west side of the Dekehtik Causeway as well as a ship or vessel also moored on the west side of the causeway.

The warrant also authorized the seizure of cell phones and other digital and electronic media devices belonging to the accused.

The crimes were alleged to have taken place on the campus of Kolonia Elementary School, Misko’s beach, and the structures and floating vessels on the Dekehtik Causeway named in the search and seizure warrant.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR FINANCE POSITIONS

Federated States of Micronesia, World Bank Financed Projects

The Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank for the implementation of a number of projects in the following sectors: Fisheries, ICT, Energy, Finance and Maritime. The FSM government intends to apply part of the grant proceeds to support the implementation of these projects. The support to these projects will be on financial management aspects of the projects to ensure compliance with the Government and World Bank's financial management policies and systems. The Central Implementation Unit under the Department of Finance and Administration is seeking to appoint two to three persons in the following positions: Finance Officer, Finance Assistant & Finance Graduate.

The following expertise and level of experience is required:

- A university degree in accounting/finance/business or other related fields is required;
- Good technical literacy and report writing skills; confident numeracy skills, including use of excel; good time management and realistic approach to deadlines;
- Minimum work experience in relevant fields:
 - a. Finance Officer - five years work experience
 - b. Finance Assistant – two years work experience
 - c. Finance Graduate – minimal work experience
- Strong financial reporting skills and excellent communication (verbal and written) skills;
- Previous exposure to project accounting will be highly regarded.

The Department of Finance and Administration now invites eligible candidates to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned services. Interested candidates must provide information (such as their latest CV, and other relevant documents) indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.

Interested Persons may obtain further information including the terms of reference, during office hours from Beulah Daunakamakama at the address and contact details provided below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered by email to the address below, detailing in the subject line which position you are applying for i.e. Finance Officer, Finance Assistant, Finance Graduate by the due date of 15 May 2019.

Attn: Beulah Daunakamakama (Mrs) Program Manager, Central Implementation Unit, Investment & International Finance Department of Finance & Administration Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Email: worldbankpni@gmail.com

Micronesian swimmers bring home medals and set records in Palau

By Susan Kihleng

April 10, 2019

FSM—Nine swimmers from the Federated States of Micronesia participated in the First Annual Micronesian Swimming Championships held in Koror, Palau from April 4 through 7. Swimmers from the Marshall Islands, Saipan, and Palau also competed.

The first three days involved pool competitions. The 4th day included a 5K ocean swim for the competitors aged 13 and over and a 1K ocean swim for the competitors aged 12 and under.

The team had been told that since the competition was FINA sanctioned that it would swim as Team FSM. On arrival in Palau they learned that they were actually representing Pohnpei since the Championships were held using Micronesian Games rules. Though all swimmers currently live in Pohnpei, some members are part Chuukese and others are part Kosraen. The team opted to compete under both the Pohnpei and FSM flags.

Team Pohnpei/FSM made history while in Palau. The swimmers took home a gold medal for their efforts in the first event of the competition, the 400 meter Free Relay. Not only was it the first gold medal won in the first ever Micronesian

Swimming Championships, it was also the first time a team from the FSM has medaled in a relay in an international competition.

Team Pohnpei/FSM took third place in the gold medal race with a total of eight gold medals. The swimmers also brought home 10 silver and seven bronze medals. They also set six new FSM National Records.

Medal winners are as follows:

- Team Pohnpei/FSM - Mixed 400 Meter Freestyle Relay - Gold
- Nicole Adams - Women's 100 Meter Individual Medley - Silver
- Jourdyn Adams - Womens 50 Meter Backstroke - Silver
- Taeyanna Adams - Womens 100 Meter Breaststroke - Gold
- Nicole Adams - Womens 100 Meter Breaststroke - Silver
- Jessie Adams - Girls 100 Meter Freestyle - Bronze
- Jourdyn Adams - Women 100 Meter Freestyle - Gold
- Team Pohnpei/FSM - Mixed 200 Meter Medley Relay - Bronze
- Team Pohnpei/FSM - Mixed 400 Meter Medley Relay - Gold
- Taeyanna Adams - Women's 50 Meter Breaststroke - Gold

See "Swimming" on next page



Photos by: Jesse Alpert. Facebook: Jesse Alpert. Instagram: @jesselpert. Website: www.jesselpert.com.



...Swimming

Continued from previous page

Nicole Adams - Women's 50 Meter Breaststroke - Silver
 Noah Adams - Men's 50 Meter Breaststroke - Silver
 Kyler Kihleng - Men's 200 Meter Backstroke - Silver
 Kestra Kihleng - Women's 100 Meter Butterfly - Gold
 Kaleo Kihleng - Men's 100 Meter Butterfly - Silver
 Jourdyn Adams - Women's 200 Meter Freestyle - Bronze
 Mixed 200 Meter Freestyle Relay - Silver
 Kestra Kihleng - Women's 50 Meter Butterfly - Silver
 Jourdyn Adams - Womens 50 Meter Butterfly - Bronze
 Kaleo Kihleng - Mens 50 Meter Butterfly - Bronze
 Taeyanna Adams - Women's 200 Meter Breaststroke - Gold
 Kestra Kihleng - Women's 200 Meter Individual Medley - Silver
 Nicole Adams - Women's 200 Meter Individual Medley - Bronze
 Taeyanna Adams - Women's 50 Meter Freestyle - Gold
 Jourdyn Adams - Women's 50 Meter Freestyle - Bronze

Several representatives from FINA and Oceania Swimming participated in the running of the four day competition. They also ran outstanding clinics throughout the week, including an athlete's clinic by four-time Olympian and Olympic finalist Ryan Pini. There was a Coaches' Clinic by FINA coach John Bladon, as well as Officials' Clinic by FINA official Lesley Huckins. Bill Sakovich of the Oceania Swimming Association, known as the Father of Swimming in the Pacific was also there to oversee the meet and work with both swimmers and coaches alike.

Coach Billy Brown of Palau and the Palau Swimming Association truly outdid themselves in hosting this amazing competition and certainly set the bar high for the islands that will be hosting this annual event in the future.

The next Micronesia Swimming Championships is scheduled to be held in Guam, with Pohnpei hosting the competition in 2021. All the swimmers have agreed this was one of the best swim competitions they have ever been a part of and are all looking forward to next year.



ANZAC DAY

25 APRIL 2019

DAWN SERVICE – KANGAROO COURT, POHNPEI

The Australian Defence Force and Australian Embassy Pohnpei will conduct the 2019 ANZAC Day Dawn Service on the grounds of the Defence Compound Kangaroo Court, Nett on the morning of Thursday 25th of April 2019.

ANZAC Day is a time to commemorate the sacrifices made by members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corp (ANZAC) on the beaches of Gallipoli, Turkey during World War I and to recognise the contribution of all service men and women across the globe who have served since.

Date: 25 APRIL 2019
Times: 0530 - Gathering
 0545 - Dawn Service
 0630 - Gun Fire Breakfast
Venue: Defence Compound,
 Kangaroo Court, Nett (West Bank of Nett River)
Contact: Australian Embassy
 320 5448

This event is open to Australian and New Zealand Nationals, Veterans and Serving Members of the Armed Forces of any Nationality and all Members of the General Public.



Friday Food Fashion Festival

At the Spanish Wall Park in Kolonia April 26, 2019 4:00PM to 7:00PM



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Pohnpei Fishing club concludes another exciting tournament

PFC-OCEAN VIEW_BEST BUY FISHING TOURNAMENT APRIL 06, 2019

CATEGORIES	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT.
POINT FISH	LARA TROTT	DOG TOOTH TUNA	43.4	1ST	\$ 600.00
	LARA TROTT	DOG TOOTH TUNA	43.1	2ND	\$ 500.00
	MARLA (ROSPEIN) HAWLEY	WAHOO	25.1	3RD	\$ 400.00
	YOMA EDWARD	WAHOO	20.4	4TH	\$ 250.00
	CHARLES (CHUCK) HANDY	WAHOO	20	5TH	\$ 200.00
	BRET COTE	WAHOO	19.3	6TH	\$ 150.00
BIG FISH CATEGORIES	WELPER DAVID	YELLOW FIN	8.3	1ST	\$ 100.00
	RYAN HAWLEY	YELLOW FIN	7.7	2ND	\$ 50.00
	MIKE MCCORMICK	MAHI MAHI	16.5	1ST	\$ 100.00
	WELPER DAVID	MAHI MAHI	14.3	TIE FOR 2ND PLACE	\$ 25.00
	RODNEY PHILLIP	MAHI MAHI	14.3		\$ 25.00
	VIEANNA SPENCER	SKIPJACK	16.9	1ST	\$ 100.00
	WELPER DAVID	SKIPJACK	14.3	2ND	\$ 50.00
	KONRAD ENGLBERGER	BARRACUDA	14.1	1ST	\$ 100.00
	LARA TROTT	BARRACUDA	11.6	2ND	\$ 50.00
	YPYE ESPERANZA GUIUAN	WAHOO	14.9	1ST	\$ 100.00
ALLOIS MALFITINI	WAHOO	14.7	2ND	\$ 50.00	
ANGLER	MARY MCCORMICK	MAHI MAHI	18.2	1ST + 2 GC	\$ 150.00
	MARLA (ROSPEIN) HAWLEY	MAHI MAHI	17.6	2ND + 2 GC	\$ 100.00
	MARIA SPEGAL	SKIP JACK	14.1	TIE FOR 3RD PRIZE	\$ 25.00
	VIEANNA SPENCER	SKIP JACK	14.1		\$ 25.00
JUNIOR	ISAIAH HAWLEY	MAHI MAHI	15.4	1ST + 1GC	\$ 75.00
	DANE NIGHSWANDER	BARRACUDA	12.3	2ND + 1GC	\$ 50.00
	HEIZEL EDWARD	GIANT TREVALLY	9.2	3RD + 1 GC	\$ 25.00

Pohnpei Fishing Club

April 6, 2019

Pohnpei—Ocean View West Wing, Best Buy, One World Plaza with support from Senator David Panuelo, and RAIN sponsored a fishing tournament in Pohnpei on Saturday April 6. RAIN also participated by providing each boat with a case of locally bottled water. 18 boats braved the rainy weather to participate in the tournament.

Though for the most part, the fish that were caught weren't particularly large, anglers landed several good catches in all categories. Lara Trott won the grand prize of \$600 for her catch of a 43.4 pound dog tooth tuna. Trott also won the second place prize of \$500 for a dog tooth tuna only 3 tenths of pound less than her grand prize winning fish.

The top three winners for point fish were lady anglers. Four lady anglers nabbed additional prizes in their category.

Most of the prizes were cash prizes though there were also some nice gift certificates provided by the sponsors as well. The Lady Angler winners received a free night at Ocean View in addition to cash prizes for their catches. The top two also received dinner. The three top Junior Anglers won gift certificates for pizza along with their cash prizes.

The Pohnpei Fishing club couldn't have tournaments without its sponsors. Thank you to the sponsors for providing \$4,000 in cash and prizes.

The next Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament will be the World Tuna Day tournament on April 27.

Prize winners for the April 6 tournament follow:



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Care Micronesia Foundation assists Pohnpei State to raise the age of consent to 18

Care Micronesia Foundation

Each country across the planet has a different outlook on life. One thing we have in common is that we want the best for our children. One way that communities help their children have a better life is to protect their childhood and prevent them from getting married until they are old enough to start a family of their own. This is called the age of consent and marriageable age, when two young people can have sexual relations and decide to legally get married. In Pohnpei, this age was set at 16, but through lobbying from the churches, from Public Health, women's groups and the Care Micronesia Foundation the Pohnpei State Legislature has recently created legislation raising it to 18 years of age. This legislation was passed by the legislature and provided to the Governor. It became law without signature after 30

days after its passage.

The reasons for lobbying for this change are numerous. There are health concerns for all teenagers engaged in sexual relations at a young age. Once girls become teenage mothers, they are at more risk to health issues that their young bodies are not ready for. Also, research shows that girls that marry at too young an age are at a higher risk of experiencing domestic violence. Once they marry they are also required to drop out from school and this hinders them from reaching their goals in life around education and earning a living.

The Pacific Community's (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) provided support to the Care Micronesia Foundation's campaign under the Pacific People Advancing Change project, funded by the Government of Sweden.

Training on campaigning, mentoring and a small grant from SPC RRRT helped the Care Micronesia Foundation to run the campaign, including a roundtable discussion attended by representatives of the Pohnpei State Public Health and the Chairman of the Committee on Health from the Pohnpei State Legislature, Hon. Shelten Neth, as well as church leaders, traditional leaders, and women's groups. Now, with the passing of the new law on age of consent, the Care Micronesia Foundation will continue to work with SPC RRRT and increase public awareness about the new law and what it means for parents, young people and traditional leaders.

The Care Micronesia Foundation would like to thank everyone who showed support for the new law, including state leadership, and we look forward to working with the Pohnpei State

Government, church and traditional leaders to help inform the public and improve the lives of our young people.

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Boxing World Champion Coach Andrea Galbiati from Italy has returned to train FSM Boxing Team

By FSM Boxing Association

One year later, FSM Boxing World Champion Coach Andrea Galbiati from Italy has returned to Pohnpei to help train hopefuls for the FSM Boxing National Team to compete at this year's Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa come July 2019. Galbiati has returned for one month and together with head Coach Erick Divinagracia have been training these hopefuls, which includes Mavrick Manalastas and returning 2015 Pacific Game team member, Derick Perman. Such boxing training consists of a grueling 5 days a week 4 hours a day schedule, which is broken down into two workouts that start from 10AM - 12PM and another two hours in the evening from 6:30PM - 8:30PM and Saturdays as well. "Training with Coach Andrea is hard, but its good work it's worth it I can see improvement in my technique, my speed, and my footwork is on another level. There is nothing that he does not explain and to have a Coach of his caliber critiquing us on every little thing we do improves our skills" said Perman.

Galbiati has been involved with FSM Boxing since 2013 when he first met Yapese boxer, Jennifer Chieng in New York City where their training began together and he helped corner her for over fifteen fights on four different continents. At the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea, Jennifer and three other team

members represented the first ever FSM National Boxing team, where she won the gold medal which lead to her to participating in an epic match at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio De Janiero.

Galbiati's involvement in the FSM is also not just limited to training Micronesian boxers, but also helping the local community and promoting the FSM whenever he can. Last year, he provided basic self-defense training to the Kolonia Town Police and this year he was able to speak to students at the College of Micronesia and tell his story and the requirements of a professional athlete. In his free time, Galbiati is constantly promoting the FSM on his social media pages and in interviews with the Italian media to help foster tourism between the two countries.

In light of the Pacific Games in July, Coach Galbiati and Coach Divinagracia are hoping to narrow down the best boxer(s) in Pohnpei by June and then send them to live and train at Galbiati's gym in Brooklyn for at least a one month where these boxer(s) will be exposed to even more intense training under Coach Galbiati and the renowned New York boxing scene. However, there are no guarantees. Should the hopefuls not meet certain weight requirements by a certain date or their skill level is not up to par with the coaches' expectations, then the boxers will not compete at the Pacific Games and instead will focus on more training and competing at smaller events to help build their experience. "Our boxers health is our number one priority. Boxing is not a sport that you play and is very dangerous. At the Pacific Games, there are highly skilled veteran boxers that have competed their whole life from the time they were youths to adults and some have competed at the World Championships and the Olympics. These guys are still young and have plenty of time to train and improve their skills and we are not going to risk their health if they can't meet our expectations" said Divinagracia.

These activities would not have been possible without the support from the National Government, which includes receiving certain funds from the FSM Congress, support from the FSM Olympic Committee, long standing local business supporters such as Caroline

Fisheries Corporation and Dongwon Fisheries who donated the boxing ring as well as donations from families and friends and support from the general public. However, the program still needs your continued support to keep the sport of boxing thriving in the FSM to hopefully produce the next FSM Olympian boxer or World Champion! You can show your support by stopping by the gym across from the Christian Calvary Academy where boxing classes are every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings or by visiting their Facebook page at "FSM Boxing Association."



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President Christian & Vice President George meet with Asian Development Bank Deputy Director General

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — On April 4th, 2019 His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia



(FSM) and the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the FSM, met with Mr. James Lynch, Deputy Director General, Pacific Department, of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ADB country programming in the FSM, including a combined total of 26 million dollars of grant funding available for 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Lynch described how ADB's engagement with the FSM over the past few years has focused on three areas: energy, water, and education. President Christian, in turn, asked if it would be possible for that money to be used on infrastructural projects on the premise that such projects necessarily feed into energy, water, and education access and quality.

"You can't go wrong with basic infrastructure," President Christian said, "because where the road leads, the economy follows. Better roads means better houses, better sewer systems, better education response and better healthcare response...." President Christian followed up by asking if the combined 26 million from ADB for 2019 and 2020 can be used in such infrastructure projects. "I think it's...very much contingent on what the government's priorities are," said Mr. Lynch in response.

President Christian noted, for example, that in Yap multiple schools need paved roads to improve access and multiple bridges need to be rebuilt; and in Pohnpei State, the Jesuits have donated the former Pohnpei Agriculture & Trade School (PATS) complex to the National Government, and the current administration has been wanting to turn it into a new dedicated vocational education school—the FSM presently lacks such a dedicated vocational education institution.

President Christian further highlighted that infrastructure development can often have numerous positive side effects. "For example...every time we let a road be made of coral, we have to go out and re-dredge a reef in order to cover the road—but if we pave these roads, then we're not just providing good access road, we're saving the reefs from further degradation."

"That's a really interesting angle," said Mr. Lynch. "This is one of the most interesting and innovative approaches [we've heard of]." Mr. Lynch emphasized the importance of ADB's mission to the FSM, to include the future establishment of a Pohnpei-based FSM Country Office which will "give [ADB] more physical presence on the ground to really provide [FSM] the support that's necessary."

"Let me say that I appreciate this meeting," President Christian said, "we will ensure we remain vigilant that this money we're saying we have is used effectively...and I'd like to immediately tell the FSM states of Kosrae, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap that this is your share... but we recommend the best thing is to use it for roads."

The meeting concluded with Mr. Lynch advising that ADB will "come up with a roadmap within 30 days that will help FSM allocate these resources...and the states comply with the timeframes we'll set forward."

The FSM National Government is committed towards providing essential services to the citizens of the Nation, and believes that FSM's national sovereignty necessitates that genuine partnerships with foreign nations and independent organizations focus on development projects that enhance both the quality of life, and the quality and quantity of opportunity, for all who call these islands home.

FSM Supreme Court introduced enabling rights & unrepresented litigants to Pohnpei Farmers Association

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, the FSM Supreme Court gave a presentation on Enabling Rights & Unrepresented Litigants to the Pohnpei Farmers Association, a non-governmental organization in Pohnpei.

Enabling Rights & Unrepresented Litigants is a joint project by the FSM Judiciary and the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative that addresses Access to Justice. Discussions were focused on the Roles of the Court, Judicial Powers and Jurisdictions, Common Barriers to Accessing Justice, Unrepresented Litigant, Civil Rights & Due Process and Code of Ethics.

Deacon Adelino Lorens, on behalf of the Pohnpei Farmers Association, thanked the FSM Supreme Court for an informative and valuable presentation. "This is the first time that the Pohnpei Farmers Association has been given the opportunity to learn about the justice system", says Lorens. "Many people have the misconception that the role of the court is to put people in jail", says another participant. The presentation ended with questions and answers by the participants. The presenters were Staff Attorney Enlet Jr. Enlet and Director of Court Administration Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl. A similar presentation was provided to the Pohnpei Women Council during the International Women's Day celebration in March 2018. The FSM Supreme Court will be conducting a 2-day workshop on Enabling Rights & Unrepresented in the FSM. The workshop is intended for court staff, service providers, NGOs, women and youth groups, faith based organizations, people with disabilities, community and civil society members.

Yap: April 18-19, 2019 Venue: The Marina

Chuuk: April 22-23, 2019 Venue: Kurassa

Kosrae: May 8-9, 2019 Venue: Governor's Conference Room

Pohnpei: May 14-15, 2019 Venue: Governor's Conference Room

RSVP: Lori Pernet 320-2357 (Pohnpei); Atrina Soichy 330-2396 (Chuuk); Emiliani Gilpong 350-2159 (Yap); Linson Waguk 370-3185 (Kosrae)

Interior Announces \$1 Million for FY 2019 for Island Area Students to Participate in Close Up Program Alumni Include U.S. Representative Michael San Nicolas of Guam

Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech today announced he has authorized a payment of \$1,000,000 to fund the FY 2019 Close Up Insular Areas Program. This year's program will bring approximately 180 high school-aged students to Washington, D.C. from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—as well as the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau—for civic education programs alongside their peers from the 50 states. Funding would also support an additional 320 students

and teachers participating in summits in the island areas.

"I am pleased to support this important program that has provided opportunities to many youth from the U.S. insular areas to visit Washington, D.C. and gain firsthand exposure to democratic institutions at the federal level," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "I am also pleased to note that U.S. Representative Michael San Nicolas of Guam is an alumni of this program."

The Close Up Insular Areas Program was first funded by the U.S. Congress in 1987 when House and Senate Appropriations Committee leadership decided to support students from the then-recently dissolved Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The program was expanded to include American

Samoa and later the U.S. Virgin Islands. For the past 30 years, the Close Up Insular Areas Program has brought nearly 10,000 students and educators from the U.S. Territories and the freely associated states to Washington, D.C.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees Federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"Women in Maritime and Law Enforcement – Our stories, your opportunities"

On 3 April 2019 at COM-FSM's MITC, FSM's Maritime Surveillance Adviser, LCDR Lauren Milburn, Royal Australian Navy, and surveillance staff from the National Police Maritime Wing gave a presentation titled "Women in Maritime and Law Enforcement – Our stories, your opportunities".

FSM Postmaster General Ginger Mida opened the presentation, which covered themes including the Pacific Patrol Boat program, Maritime Surveillance, and Women, Peace and Security within the FSM.

Accompanying LCDR Milburn were four surveillance officers - Aireen Lebehn, Younaleen Mathew, Fiona Halverson, Natasha Neth, and the Defence Cooperation Program's administrative officer, Laine Lane.

The surveillance officers shared their

work and training experiences in the maritime and law enforcement fields and encouraged more women to join them. Younaleen Mathew was the first female Surveillance Officer to join the Maritime Wing, after graduating from FSM's Fisheries and Maritime Institute in 2013.

Aireen Lebehn served as an officer of the Kolonia Town Police Force prior to becoming a surveillance officer. Her decision to join the Maritime Wing was based on opportunities to progress her professional development. Since 2015, she has completed a number of courses offered by the Australian Government and US Coastguard, including general management and self-defence training. Aireen recently graduated as the first female to attend and complete the National Fisheries Officer course at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania, Australia. She has also had the opportunity to work at the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA),

Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC) in Honiara, as a member of the operations team in support of regional fisheries operations. Last month, Aireen was the first female shiprider for FSM, embarked in a US Coast Guard patrol vessel.

Rene Edgar from the Department of Justice's Anti-Human Trafficking division also spoke about the importance of having more women in law enforcement. Rene previously attended FSM's Fisheries and Maritime Institute and is an Australia Awards Alumnus.

Each woman's story demonstrates the unique strengths and determination they bring to the Maritime and Law Enforcement domain. Gender inclusion is an important enabler of any professional and capable organization, and this is particularly relevant to the Maritime and Security sectors.



Yap's Laarwon Named To Japan Leadership Program

APIC

TOKYO – Teresita Laarwon of Yap is one of three young women from Micronesia who have been named to a program in Japan that identifies up-and-coming regional leaders. They were selected by The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a Tokyo-based private foundation that promotes relations with the island nations of the Pacific and the Caribbean.

The women chosen for this year's APIC Young Micronesian Leadership Program along with Laarwon are Milañ Loeak of the Marshall Islands; and Joleen Ngoriakl of Palau. The women will travel to Japan this month to meet with regional

affairs and environmental experts in government and academia. They will also get the opportunity to experience Japanese culture first-hand when they travel to Kyoto to learn how to wear kimono and the ancient art of the tea ceremony.

"We believe these young women have the potential to be among the region's top leaders, and even beyond," said APIC President Peter Yoshiyasu Sato. "We're looking forward to getting to know them, and having them learn about Japan."

Laarwon is a teacher at Yap Catholic High School and previously worked at the Yap Visitors Authority in the Federated States of Micronesia. She is a graduate of Xavier High School, and has a

degree from Spokane Community College. She's completing requirements to graduate from Eastern Washington State University.

Loeak is Managing Director of Lieom N. Corp., her family's investment company, and is active in community and cultural organizations. Her father, Christopher Loeak, is a chief and former president of the Marshall Islands. She is a graduate of Xavier High School on Chuuk, and attended university in the United States.

Ngoriakl is chief of staff in the Koror State Government in Palau. She previously worked for a local agency and a regional authority in Palau. The author of a published book for kids, is a

graduate of Mindszenty High School in Koror and of Regis University. She is studying to complete her master's degree at Johns Hopkins University.

More information on The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation can be found at http://www.apic.or.jp/index_eng.html.



Joleen Nagoriaki, Milañ Loeak, Teresita Laarwon



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NOTICE OF REVOTE

FSM CONGRESS FOUR YEAR AT-LARGE SEAT FOR KOSRAE STATE

The National Election Office hereby notifies all Kosrae voters residing in Pohnpei that a revote of the Pohnpei Special Polling Place has been ordered for the FSM Congress Kosrae State four-year at-large seat. This revote will occur on April 18, 2019 at the FSM National Election Office in Palikir, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This revote order stems from a petition filed by Kosrae State four-year at-large seat Candidate Aren Palik for a revote, filed pursuant to Title 9 FSM Code, Section 801(2). The results of the election for this seat, which was certified by the National Election Director on March 8, 2019, found the incumbent Vice President Yosiwo George the winner with 1,824 votes. Mr. Aren Palik received 1,814 votes. The margin of victory was 10 votes.

Mr. Palik's petition raised concerns over seven alleged voter irregularities at the Special Polling Places in Hawaii and Pohnpei. After conducting an investigation on each matter raised by Mr. Palik, and considering the standard of proof applicable to the petition, the National Election Director found sufficient evidence to support the allegations made with respect to the Pohnpei Special Polling Place where a shortage of ballots prevented 20 eligible timely arriving Kosrae voters from casting their votes. This occurred because a larger than anticipated number of voters in possession of validly issued Voter ID cards presented themselves at the Pohnpei special polling to vote. The law regarding Voter IDs provides that a person with a Voter ID may vote at any designated Special Polling Place (9 FSMC 605(3)). To minimize the potential for error or fraud, special polling places were supplied with the number of ballots matching the number of voters included on the approved signature lists plus an additional 10 percent to accommodate Voter ID holders. In the case of the Pohnpei Special Polling Place, a ballot shortage resulted through no fault of the affected voters who were not adequately accounted for.

Vice President George's response to Mr. Palik's petition did not specifically address this ballot shortage issue and offered no opposition to the revote requested by Mr. Palik.

Moreover, the granting of Mr. Palik's petition with respect to the Pohnpei Special Polling Place is mandatory pursuant to 9 FSMC 803(2). This is because the margin of victory by the prevailing candidate was 10 votes, whereas 20 voters at the Pohnpei special polling place were wrongfully deprived of their right to vote. The applicable law provides that the National Election Director shall grant a petition for revote where he or she determines that the petitioner has shown by a preponderance of the evidence that it is more likely than not that the fraud or error complained of could have resulted in the election of a candidate who would not have won had the fraud or error not occurred.

Therefore the National Election Director hereby orders a revote for the FSM Congress Kosrae four-year at-large seat at the Pohnpei Special Polling Place to occur on April 18, 2019 at the FSM National Election Office in Palikir, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The revote will only be for those Kosrae voters who timely applied to vote absentee at the Pohnpei Special Polling Place prior to the March 5, 2019 election and those with valid Voter IDs obtained prior to March 5, 2019. Kosrae voters who voted in the election of March 5, 2019 outside Pohnpei will not be permitted to cast ballots in the revote.

For any questions, please contact the National Election Office, Telephone 320-7805

Thank you,

Tony Otto

Director

Interior applauds efforts in FSM to systematize professional management of public infrastructure projects

Office of the Assistant Secretary
Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech today applauded successes highlighted at the mid-year meetings of the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) held on March 19, 2019, in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The JEMCO members and U.S. and FSM government officials were apprised, in particular, on efforts being made in the FSM to systematize and institutionalize professional planning and management of public infrastructure projects.

With support and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the FSM Government has now established and fully staffed three out of five program management offices in the FSM, and continues to lay the foundation for the professional management and use of public infrastructure funding and building projects throughout the FSM. More than \$200 million is available under the Compact of Free Association (Compact) to build and renovate schools, hospitals, utilities, and other public infrastructure across the FSM.

While in Chuuk, U.S. officials visited

the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC) power plant on Weno with Chief Executive Officer Kasio Mida, Jr., and other key staff, where they saw new generators, equipment, and renovated infrastructure that was supported through more than \$10 million in Compact public infrastructure grants. In 2016, CPUC also successfully refurbished its wastewater treatment plant with funding support through the Compact.

“I understand that JEMCO Chair Nik Pula and the other members were impressed by their visit to the Weno power plant, a once-failing utility that is now a model in the Pacific region,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech. “I applaud this effective use of Compact public sector infrastructure grant funding that ultimately benefits the people of Chuuk and the FSM.”

“The power plant in Weno has gone from being one of the most challenged in the Pacific with rolling blackouts every day, to now providing consistent power 24/7,” said CEO Mida. “With the combined support of political leadership, professional management, and financial assistance under the Compact, we have turned this utility around. We continue to work with the U.S. and other partners such as the Asian Development Bank to develop our utility services, and explore alternative energy sources, not only on Weno but in other populated islands in



U.S. JEMCO Members, U.S. Ambassador Robert Riley, III, and staff visit the power plant with CEO Kasio Mida, Jr.

Chuuk State.”

The U.S. team also visited the Chuuk State Hospital with Chuuk Public Health Director Julio Mariur and Dr. Dorina Fred. Discussions are underway to propose construction of a new hospital in Weno estimated to cost approximately \$50 million. Built during the Trust Territory era, prior to the implementation of the Compact of Free Association in 1986, the hospital is in great disrepair. The hospital did benefit from renovations provided in 2008 by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, through a Department of Defense Pacific Partnership program. Originally built with a 120-bed capacity, it is the only in-patient facility in the State of Chuuk, serving over half of the FSM population, nearly 50,000, spread out

During the hospital site visit, Dr. Fred points to empty wards previously used in a program ten years ago when Chuuk State doctors and health officials, with support from JEMCO and other U.S. and international partners, successfully stopped an outbreak of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

over dozens of islands inside and beyond the Chuuk Lagoon.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees Federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

President Christian asks Dr. Shirai Yoshiyasu to become honorary consul in Japan’s Kinki region

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On March 26th 2019, His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) met with Dr. Shirai Yoshiyasu, President of Osaka Gakuin University. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of Dr. Yoshiyasu serving as FSM’s Honorary Consul in the Kinki region, as well as to discuss educational programs such as student transfer, scholarship, and capacity development. Dr. Yoshiyasu had previously bestowed upon President Christian an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy degree.

Speaking through a translator, Dr. Yoshiyasu said that he found the people of the FSM to be very polite. “The heart of the people is very warm.”

“The people of Micronesia are very loving,” said President Christian.

“We’re a family because we are a small community.” President Christian then described how FSM’s relationship with Japan is like that of a canoe bound together by rope made by coconut fibers in that it is both strong and flexible.

“Japan has given us respect, and we respect Japan back in our national sovereignty,” said President Christian. “Doctor... I am asking if you would consider the possibility of becoming our Honorary Consul in Osaka, in the [Kinki] region.”

Dr. Yoshiyasu appeared truly touched by the request, and after thanking President Christian said that he wishes to take the offer, and to expand the relationship between FSM and Japan. “I was very surprised to come here and see the beauty of this island,” Dr. Yoshiyasu said.

“I apologize about the rain,” replied President Christian.

Dr. Yoshiyasu advised that the proposed location of the Honorary Consul’s office would be on Tenjinbashisuji Shopping Street, which is said to be the longest shopping street in Japan taking about forty minutes to walk its length. This would allow the office a high degree of visibility and to engage in promoting the FSM to a wide range of audiences.

After discussing other issues of interest, President Christian requested that the Honorable Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, handle the next steps in the process of making Dr. Yoshiyasu an Honorary Consul of the FSM, which include contacting the Government of Japan.

The FSM is committed towards developing positive and peaceful relations with all countries throughout the world. The FSM celebrated 30 years of formal diplomatic relations with Japan in 2018 but has over 100 years of history together. It is the hope of the FSM National Government that the FSM and Japan remain strong and flexible allies.





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