

PO Box 2222 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Kpress@mail.fm

www.kpress.info

# Panuelo and George are new FSM President and Vice President, Simina retains speakership

By *Bill Jaynes*  
 The Kaselehlie Press

May 11, 2019  
 Pohnpei, FSM—By 8:30 this morning the galley at the FSM Congress chambers began to fill up with people anxious to be present on the morning of the 40th Anniversary of the Federated States of Micronesia when history would be made. By the time the 14 Senators elect were introduced and seated, the only room for spectators was outside looking in.

Senator Isaac Figir served as the temporary speaker until the new speaker was selected and seated.



The first order of business was to appoint the credentials committee to review the credentials of the Senators elect. Senator David Panuelo was appointed as the chair of that committee and read the committee's report into the record

approving of the credentials of the Senators elect. That order of business covered, FSM Supreme Court Associate Justice Beaulen Carl-Worswick administered the oaths of office to the 14 senators after which time, the 21st Congress was constituted.

Then began the short waiting period as new Senators adjourned to the caucus room to determine who would be FSM's new chief servants. The room was hushed as the Senators returned, waiting for the decisions to be announced after many weeks of raw speculation regarding who those people would be. The waiting was over.

Senator Wesley Simina of Chuuk was nominated and approved to return to the position of Speaker for the new Congress. He presided over the remainder of the session.

Senator Florencio Singkoro Harper of

Chuuk returned to his position as Floor Leader and Senator Esmond Moses of Pohnpei returned to his position as Vice Speaker.

Senator Yosiwo George of Kosrae was returned to his position as Vice President of the FSM. Senator David Panuelo of Pohnpei was confirmed as the 9th President of the FSM. Panuelo's position announcement was the only change in the FSM servant leadership positions.

FSM Supreme Court Chief Justice Dennis Yamase administered the oaths of office for the President and Vice President after which Speaker Simina declared their seats to be vacant.

His duty complete, former President Peter M. Christian and his family left the chambers.

A special election will take place to fill the Pohnpei and Kosrae At-Large seats vacated by the President and Vice President.



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# Trial dates and bail provisions set for defendants in sexual exploitation cases in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 6, 2019

**Pohnpei**—This morning Pohnpei Supreme Court Associate Justice Mayceleen Anson presided over a bail hearing for five of seven people accused of sexual exploitation of young girls. During the hearing, she also set court dates for several of the defendants all of whom are innocent unless otherwise proven. All of the defendants have entered “not guilty” pleas in the charges brought against them.

On April 9, Pohnpei State prosecutors filed five separate criminal cases (69-19 through 73-19) that accused James Hadley, Jim George, Johnny Rantung, Mariana Silwer, Mayson Victor, Resner Manuel, and Savero Wantero of having participated in crimes involving sexual exploitation of young women. The five sets of charges involve crimes that occurred over a period of three years beginning in 2017, culminating in March of this year with the alleged kidnapping and forced sexual servitude of a currently 14 year old victim.

Though one of the victims is now 18 years old, the age of consent, she was a minor when the crimes against her were committed.

The bail hearings this morning were cases 69-19, 71-19, 72-19, and 73-19, each involving different defendants charged with various forms of sexual exploitation and related crimes.

69-19 charges Mariana Silwer and Renster Manuel with 16 separate counts. Because of a familial relationship with Manuel, Associate Justice Anson recused herself from hearing that case and so could not set a trial date for that case. The date will be set after a new Justice is appointed to hear the case.

71-19 charges Jim George with 36 counts. 73-19 charges Mayson Victor with six counts. Associate Justice Anson set a status conference for those two cases on June 10 and a trial date of June 24.

72-19 charges James Hadley with 42 counts. His trial will begin on June 17.

Associate Justice Anson had previously set bail for each of the defendants at \$1000 cash. George, Hadley and Victor were able to pay that bail amount and were released on stringent conditions. As of this morning, Silwer and Manuel had not been able to pay the bail amount and were still in jail pending trial.

The conditions of the bail are extensive. Defendants may not travel. They must obey all laws. They can have no contact with any of the victims in any form. They must maintain a minimum distance of at least 20 feet from any of the victims. They may not visit the schools or the homes of the victims. They must surrender any regulated devices such as firearms. They must

surrender their passports. Any attempt to obtain travel documents will be considered a revocable offense. They cannot enter any establishment that sells alcohol for on premises consumption. They must attend all hearings. They may not drive any motor vehicle and must surrender their driver’s licenses.

Four of the seven defendants are taxi drivers. Police have also confiscated their taxis as part of the investigation and further trial.

The prosecutor said that the owners of the taxi companies for whom the defendants worked are not implicated in the crimes their drivers allegedly committed.

On April 12 Associate Justice Nickontro Johnny presided over the bail hearing for defendants in case 70-19. In that

case, Johnny Randuhng, and Savero Wantero, both from Indonesia, and Mariana Silwer of Pohnpei are each charged with 16 counts. Associate Justice Johnny allowed opportunity for Randuhng and Wantero to post a \$5000 surety bond for release. He allowed opportunity for Silwer to post a \$1000 surety bond. A surety bond is different from bail paid in cash. A surety bond requires that someone must be responsible for paying the surety bond amount if a defendant released under such bond fails to appear or violates pre-release conditions.

As of this morning, none of the defendants in that case had posted a surety bond and are still in jail.

Associate Justice Johnny recused himself from hearing the case against the three since he was the Justice who issued the initial warrant for arrest and which hampers his ability to be impartial. Trial date will not be set until a new Justice is assigned to that case.

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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 Supreme Court sentences Rodriguez to prison, allows for parole

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 6, 2019

**Pohnpei**—Associate Justice Marcelleen Anson today sentenced former Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez for seven crimes he was convicted earlier this year of having committed while he was in office. For each of the three separate crimes of Cheating, and Failure to Make Required Distribution of Funds Received, Anson sentence him to two and a half years in prison and a \$2500 fine. She ruled that those sentences would be served concurrently for a total of two and a half years in prison and a \$2500 fine which must be paid within 12 months.

For the three separate crimes of Misconduct in Public Office, the Associate Justice sentenced Rodriguez to two years in prison.

She ruled that all prison terms and fines would be served for concurrently for a total of two and a half years in prison and \$2500 in fines. In lieu of prison she assigned him to probation during which time he cannot travel without court authorization and must visit a parole officer assigned to him once a month. He also must pay the \$2500 in fines within one year.

Previously, no written ruling of

Rodriguez's conviction had been issued. During the sentencing hearing the public defender asked the Associate Justice to incorporate that ruling in the written sentence. She agreed to do so and released the 17 page document in the middle of this week.

Rodriguez smiled broadly as he returned to his seat in the galley.

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 against him is on hold until all of the criminal matters are heard and decided upon.

After the sentence was handed down,

# Pohnpeian wins prestigious Pacific wide competition for his video on Pingelap climate change

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

May 9, 2019

**Pohnpei**—A citizen of the FSM has won the Pacific wide climate change video competition sponsored by the European Union. Berysin Jr. Salomon, who everyone knows as Jun, won first place in the competition and the Facebook favorite prize as well for his video "Climate Change in Pingelap".

called "Hawaii 101", where students are required to study the history and culture of Hawaii but of course as applied to each of the municipalities of Pohnpei, which he says all have different cultures that should be preserved.

He also said that one of his goals was to call attention to the fact that while people and organizations on Pohnpei's main island like to say that most of the impact of climate change is in the outer islands, when it comes to funding, a large portion stays on Pohnpei's "mainland".

Salomon was allowed a maximum of five minutes to tell his story in the video which he used to good effect.

He was to have flown to Fiji at EU expense for the awards presentation but at that time, he was under contract with NORMA to video the World Tuna Day festivities in Chuuk.

His video additionally points out that transportation to his home island of Pingelap is sporadic and though Caroline Islands Air serves the island with its short runway, the cost for that service is nearly prohibitive. However, he said that he is looking forward to returning to Pingelap this summer so that he can see the changes that have occurred there. "People tell me it's way worse than it was in 2014," he said.

Congratulations to Jun Salomon.

He admits that he decided very late to write a script illustrated by footage from his trip to Pingelap in 2014. He said that when the link containing the video that he sent to the European failed to work he almost decided to just give up, but his family wouldn't let him do that. He tried again, and with only two hours to spare before the deadline for submissions, he managed to provide a link to the organizers that worked.

"I never thought I'd win. I really just wanted to do this to show what is happening in Pingelap and other outer islands," Though he never mentioned it in the video, part of his goal was also to generate some interest in his family's foundation, the "Council of the Royal Family of Pingelap". He said the goal of the foundation, which has not so far garnered much attention in terms of funding, is education and the preservation of traditional island life. He said that they envision an education program similar to what he

**PACIFIC TAKE A STAND**  
CLIMATE CHANGE VIDEO COMPETITION

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Berysin Jr. Salomon  
Federated States of Micronesia

**1st Place and Facebook Favourite Winner**  
For his video 'Climate Change in Pingelap'.

Berysin Jr. Salomon, 34 years old, owns a music production company. Berysin is passionate about Arts and Films and has been an advocate for preserving the way of life - culture, tradition and language - on his home island, Pingelap.

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B97UMHF4RUg&t=1s> to watch Berysin's video

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## President Christian meets Forum Fisheries Agency's new Director-General

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On April 30th, 2019, prior to the 110th Forum Fisheries Committee meeting to be held from May 6th to May 10th, 2019, Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Director-General Dr. Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen had a courtesy call visit with His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The discussions focused on FFA, fisheries management in the Pacific, and FSM-lead commitments such as the Technology for Tuna Transparency (T3) Challenge.

Amongst other outcomes, Director-General Dr. Tupou-Roosen reconfirmed FFA's "full support" to help the FSM meet the T3 Challenge, which aims for 100% transparency in FSM's fisheries by 2023 through the use of electronic monitoring (EM) and other means.

President Christian highlighted several areas he'd appreciate that the Forum Fisheries Committee discuss when they convene on May 6th, 2019, including integrating fisheries into other sectors, with an emphasis on sustainable economic development, as well as collaboration on ensuring all stakeholders involved in fisheries—particularly those most vulnerable to exploitation, such as fishing aggregate device (FAD) watchers who, in other countries' waters, can be at sea for months with virtually no external contact or resources—are treated fairly. "I wish the FSM could declare that to be human rights abuses," the President said.

Director-General Dr. Tupou-Roosen appreciated that President Christian "highlighted a very important area," adding that FFA is looking internally to determine what can be adopted as regional standards, to include labor conditions.

Finally, President Christian requested FFA's assistance in acquiring additional patrol boats for the FSM, as well as all other large ocean states. "The economic zone of the FSM isn't going to shrink...it's going to continue to be about two million square miles." While EM will improve the FSM's capacity to limit IUU fishing, President Christian noted "we have to have the tools to get ourselves there [to enforce the law]."

"Thank you for raising that...we understand the challenge of the sheer size of our economic exclusive zones," said Director-General Dr. Tupou-Roosen.

"Your qualifications and your experience are why I supported your nomination as Director-

## Used oil facility constructed in Pohnpei State

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On March 29th, 2019 the new Used Oil Recovery Facility was completed in the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Funded through the Global Environment Facility—Pacific Alliance for Sustainability for Persistent Organic Pollutants (GEFPAS-UPOPs) project implemented by the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment

Program (SPREP) with support from the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management (DECEN), and constructed by Pohnpei Waste Management Services (PWMS), the Used Oil Recovery Facility is intended to address potential environmental threats regarding Used Oil first identified in a 2014 survey.

Used Oil is, as it sounds, any petroleum or synthetic oil that has been used. In the aforementioned 2014 survey, the FSM was ranked the highest amongst 14 Pacific Island countries with regards to the threat that Used Oil—if improperly stored and disposed of—can have on the environment and by extension the general public.

A 2018 Used Oil Assessment by SPREP, which followed up on the 2014 survey, identified over 2,000 stockpiled drums of Used Oil in Pohnpei State with an estimated capacity of 132,500 gallons.

The new Used Oil Recovery Facility has a bund wall to guard against oil seepage, and houses four tanks with a total capacity of 2,600 gallons, and attachment pumps. Additionally, the tanks are covered with a filter screen to block unnecessary solids, and have had a motor installed to propel oil from the airways of the pumps.

The FSM National Government and Pohnpei State Government are hoping to export the Used Oil to a facility that can recycle or treat it.

Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Director Henry Susaia has acknowledged the support from SPREP, DECEN, and donor partners and reaffirmed Pohnpei State Government's commitment to continue to address Used Oil management issues through collaborative efforts with all stakeholders.

General...I look to you [and FFA] to continue to provide us help in improving our ability to guard our fisheries initiatives," said President Christian. The FSM National Government has faith in the leadership capacity of Director-General Dr. Tupou-Roosen, who has 20 years of fisheries experience with some key achievements including leading the drafting group on revised texts of the U.S. Tuna Treaty, and driving the successful implementation of the multilateral Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement.

The 110th Forum Fisheries Committee meeting to take place in Pohnpei State from May 6th to May 10th, 2019 approximately coincides with the 40th anniversary of the FFA. The FSM National Government is honored to host FFA officials and stakeholders, and recognizes that the FFA remains a symbol of regional solidarity and regional cooperation.

To learn more about FFA, visit their website at: <https://www.ffa.int/>



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# First ever robotics competition held in Pohnpei



Habele

Students robotics clubs from six high schools across Pohnpei State gathered on May 1st for the Micronesian Capital's first-ever Robo Day. Each team fielded a robot that they built, programmed and customized to compete on a customized course. Drivers raced their robots through timed rounds, battling to gain points by pushing, dropping, and throwing tennis balls into the other teams' side of the court.

Students, teachers, principals and community members gathered to cheer on the students in the Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School gymnasium, enthusiastically clapping and cheering for a point earned, or a



strategic movement of the robots.

After the dust settled on preliminary rounds, semifinals, and a nail-biting tie in the finals, Nanpei Memorial High School emerged as the Pohnpei Robo Day Champions. The newly-minted champions went home with a trophy and a First-Place banner to display in their school. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School's team clinched the second-place win, with Pohnpei Island Central School earning third.

Even as students packed up their robots after a long day of competition, the expectation for another chance to exhibit their skills was evident, with many asking when they would get to test their abilities against teams from other Micronesian states.

Prior to this year, robotics was unknown by these students. Through a partnership with the Office of Insular Affairs, "Habele" provided equipment, training and support for the new Pohnpei Robo League. Initially developed in Yap, the Habele Robo league



now includes students in Chuuk as well as Pohnpei, serving three of the four FSM States.

now includes students in Chuuk as well as Pohnpei, serving three of the four FSM States.

"We are incredibly proud of the students," says Matt Coleman, Executive Director of Habele. "They are mastering the technologies of the future; and doing it with excitement and a hunger for more. It's a privilege to be partnering with them. We can't wait to see students in Kosrae enjoying the same opportunities."

Participating clubs will continue to pursue a deeper understanding of the technology, as well as strengthening partnerships with peers at other schools. Bonds between Robo Clubs in neighboring states continue to develop. Already this year, a team of student instructors from Yap traveled to Chuuk and Pohnpei states to help coach their peers in preparation for their first Robo Day competitions.

Established by former Peace Corps volunteers, Habele is a US-based nonprofit, advancing educational access and accomplishment across Micronesia.

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**Pacific Community**  
**Communauté du Pacifique**

## Request for Quotation

**'Provision of welding services for construction of chain link fences around three community rainwater harvesting systems in Kapingamarangi, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)'**

The Pacific Community (SPC) would like to invite interested qualified bidders to submit quotations to provide welding services for the construction of chain link fences around 3 community rainwater harvesting systems in Kapingamarangi, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), as part of the EU - North Pacific - Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project.

Applicants need to be available to travel and stay in Kapingamarangi for a 21 day period between 1st June 2019 and 31st August 2019, exact timing dependent on shipping schedules. Applicants need to possess required welding tools and equipment. All materials for the chain link fences have already been purchased by the RENI project.

Applicants must have:

- Certificate in welding from a trade school or successful completion of welding apprenticeship
- 3 years proven experience as a welder
- Evidence of experience in welding methods, knowledge of different metals and their properties, ability to handle welding tools and equipment, and safety standards.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

Copies of the 'Request for Quotation' (RFQ) can be downloaded from the website (<http://tenders.net/dtp/spcint>) under procurement notices, is available from the SPC Office, One World Plaza, Suite 301, Kapwaresou Street, Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941, or can be obtained by sending an email request to [RENI@spc.int](mailto:RENI@spc.int)

Bidders may submit their quotation to [RENI@spc.int](mailto:RENI@spc.int) or to the SPC office in Pohnpei. All quotations must be received by 4.00pm, Friday 24th May 2019, to carry out specific tasks as outlined in the Terms of Reference (Annex I).

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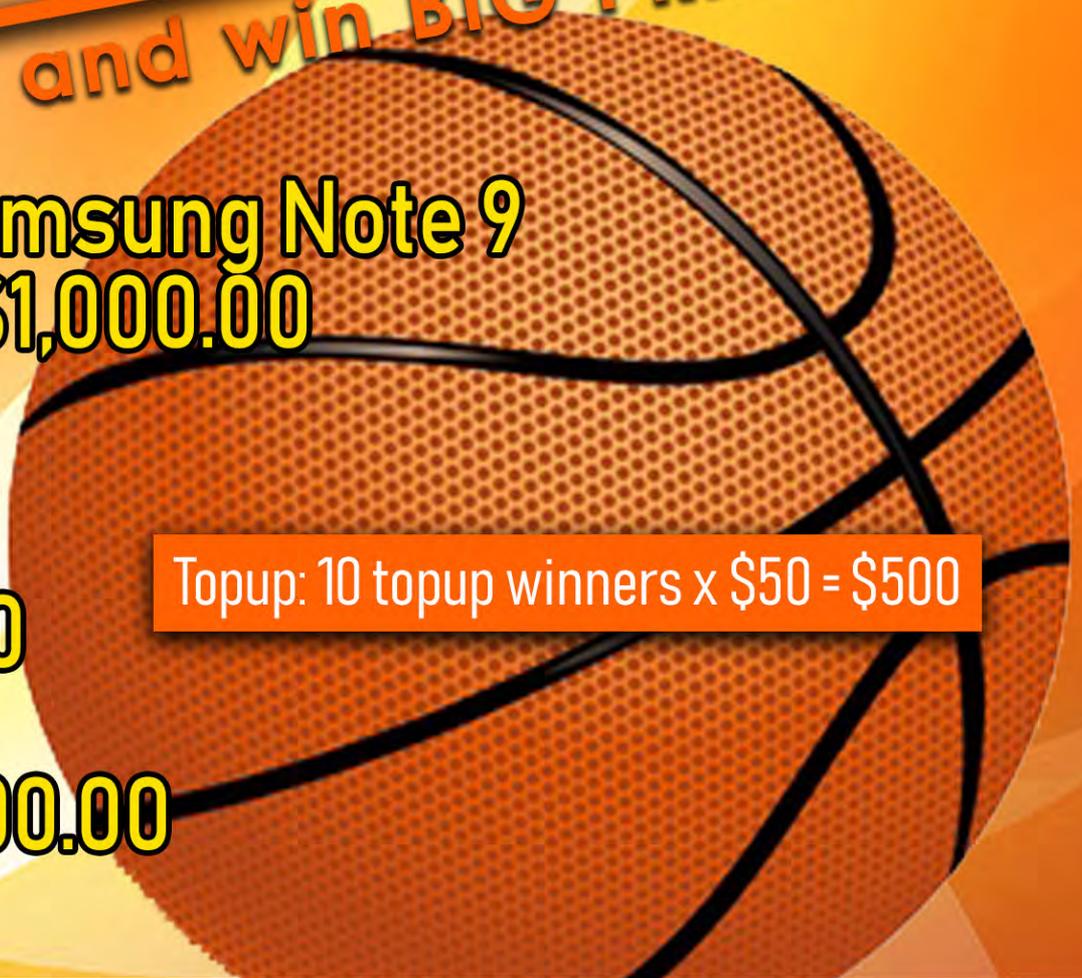


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# Big fish and plenty caught for World Tuna Day fishing competition in Pohnpei

Pohnpei Fishing Club

April 27, 2019

Pohnpei—27 boats and their crews entered the World Tuna Day fishing competition sponsored by National Fisheries Corporation, Taiyo Micronesia, and Kasar Fishing Corporation. The sponsors not only paid the registration fee for each boat that entered, but provided refreshments, entertainment and stunning cash prizes.



The sponsors provided prizes in two categories; boats with big engines and boats with small engines. The number of entries in each category was nearly evenly split. Though the weather turned out to be mainly fair, some of the 27 registered boats decided to stay home based on the weather forecast.

Still, a large number of fish were caught including a record breaking sailfish of 102 pounds caught by Chris Cruz on the boat captain by Kumer Panuelo. Chris donated his \$1100 cash prize to the

Pohnpei Catholic School to support their yearbook project.

As always, the spirit of healthy competition and comradery prevailed at the weigh-in. In addition to free drinks at Mangrove Bay, the sponsors also paid for all of the sandwiches that volunteers were selling to support the Pohnpei Public Library.

Jasmine and Lia Daunamakama provided stunning entertainment with their always impressive and mature young voices and instrumental skills. They were definitely crowd pleasers!

Thanks to everyone who helped out including Virginia, Cel, Serlynn, Bill, Uta and Cheryl.



GRAND PRIZES FOR ALL BIG POINT FISHES (ALL BOATS)

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
P O I N T B O A T S	CHRIS CRUZ	SAILFISH	102.5	1ST	\$ 1,100.00
	GREGORIO HALLENS	YELLOWFIN	89.5	2ND	\$ 850.00
	RANDY AMOR	YELLOWFIN	82.5	3RD	\$ 650.00
	WALDEN WEILBACHER	SAILFISH	61.5	4TH	\$ 450.00
	WESTCOTT PANUELO	YELLOWFIN	49	5TH	\$ 350.00

LARGE BOATS BIG CATCHES

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
L A R G E B O A T S	PHILLIP WALL	WAHOO	21	1ST	\$ 300.00
	ELI ARWOOD	WAHOO	20.5	2ND	\$ 200.00
	KIMIO PETER	SKIPJACK	19.5	1ST	\$ 300.00
	JOHNNY EDWARD	SKIPJACK	12.5	2ND	\$ 200.00
	WESTCOTT PANUELO	MAHI MAHI	16	1ST	\$ 300.00
	WESTCOTT PANUELO	MAHI MAHI	15.5	2ND	\$ 200.00
	ROSA WEILBACHER	YELLOW FIN	12.5	1ST	\$ 300.00
	MARLA (ROHSPER) HAWLEY	BARRACUDA	12	1ST	\$ 300.00
	JOHNNY EDWARD	BARRACUDA	11	2ND	\$ 200.00

SMALL BOATS BIG CATCHES

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
S M A L L B O A T S	TONY MANUEL	SKIPJACK	15.5	1ST	\$ 250.00
	KEVIN IHARA JR (KYOSHI)	SKIPJACK	15	2ND	\$ 100.00
	WILBER DAVID	SKIPJACK	14.5	150	\$ 50.00
	KEVIN IHARA JR (KYOSHI)	SKIPJACK	14.5		\$ 50.00
	TONY MANUEL	SKIPJACK	14.5		\$ 50.00
	WILBER DAVID	MAHI MAHI	12	1ST	\$ 250.00
	FRANCISCO KOSMAS	MAHI MAHI	9	2ND	\$ 150.00
	SPENCER MIHKEL	YELLOW FIN	7.5	1ST	\$ 250.00
	WILBER DAVID	YELLOW FIN	7	2ND	\$ 150.00
	MARIA (MABEL) LOJAN	BARRACUDA	15.5	1ST	\$ 250.00
	SAIMON MIX	BARRACUDA	9	150.00 2ND PLACE	\$ 50.00
	KELLEN SAKRIAS	BARRACUDA	9		\$ 50.00
	YOMA	BARRACUDA	9		\$ 50.00
	WILBER DAVID	DOG TOOTH TUNA		1ST	\$ 250.00

LADY ANGLERS

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
L A D Y A N G L E R S	LARA TROTT	MAHI MAHI	14	1ST	\$ 300.00
	ROSA WEILBACHER	MAHI MAHI	14	2ND	\$ 200.00
	ELLA DAVID	SKIPJACK	12.5	1ST	\$ 250.00
	RESHNA MIX	GT	10	2ND	\$ 150.00

JUNIOR ANGLERS

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
J U N I O R A N G L E R S	ABRAHAM CINAVILA KAVE	BARRACUDA	7.5	1ST	\$ 300.00
	DANE NIGSWANDER	GT	5	2ND	\$ 200.00
	ELLA DAVID	BARRACUDA	8	1ST	\$ 250.00
	SPENCER MIHKEL	YELLOWFIN	7.5	2ND	\$ 150.00

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## “Libraries, your passport to discovery”, Pohnpei Public Library celebrates 32nd anniversary

*Pohnpei Public Library*

*April 26, 2019*

**Pohnpei**—This year Pohnpei Public Library celebrated its 32th Anniversary with a “Library Week,” from Monday, April 22 to Friday, April 26. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Libraries Your Passport to Discovery”. On the first three days of the week, USNMBC FOUR or Navy Team helped the Library paint the building with new color as part of the event.

On Friday evening, the library held a special celebration to commemorate the anniversary and to recognize essay and art contest winners. This event began with a prayer by Sounpadahk Roddy Robert. Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library (FPPL) Treasurer, Uta Krause, gave a welcoming remark. This year, library was fortunate to have Ms. Delihna Ehmes, Professor and Chairman of the Social Science Department, College of Micronesia-FSM to be the Keynote Speaker of the evening. On her speech, she shared on how the library can help to discover oneself.

The program ended with the presentations of awards to the students who were selected as winners for the art and essay contest. Art winners were Isaiah Paul, K-5 SDA School; Hailey Fredrick, ECE, Wenik School; Paetrick Fredrick, ECE, Wenik School; Elisheva Lucios, 1st grade, CCA School; Joshua Enlet, 1st grade, SDA School; Cheiann Elymore, 1st grade, SDA School; Grace Rodriguez, 2nd grade, CCA School; Keila Eliam,

2nd grade, CCA School; Kanye Jano, 2nd grade, SDA School; Angelika Aten Kang, 3rd grade, Kolonia Elem. School; Kiaz Gilmete, 3rd grade, Kolonia Elem. School; Faith Irons, 3rd grade, Ohmine, Elem. School; Kaiatia Mallarme, 4th grade, CCA School; RD Santos, 4th grade, Kolonia Elem. School; Chanielle Carl, 4th grade, Kolonia Elem. School.

Essay winners were Jayleen Eluel, 5th grade, Parem School; DeAnne Ehmes, 5th grade, CCA School; Merisa Victor, 5th grade, CCA School; Eriekeda Opisbo, 6th grade, Awak School; Alyssa Soriano, 6th grade, CCA School; Emari Angelynn H. Ignacio, 6th grade, CCA School; Christendon Nelper, 7th grade, Kolonia, Elem. School; Dyna Santos, 7th grade, Kolonia Elem. School; Grace Aldis, 7th grade, Kolonia Elem. School; Aldred Tecson, 8th grade, Kolonia Elem. School; Lia Purina Amor, 8th grade, Awak School; Tanisha Madhu Sharma, 8th grade, Kolonia, Elem. School

Pohnpei Public Library wants to express its gratitude to the following businesses, individuals and agencies for their contributions and support that made this Library Week successful one. Sponsors include China Star Restaurant, Deja Brew, Riverside, FSM Development Bank, Fusion, Joy Restaurant, Kaselehlie Diner, Micro Printer & Alterations, PCR Nantehlik, US Embassy, USNMBC FOUR, Bank of FSM, 4-TY Enterprises, Ace office Supplies, Caroline Fisheries Corp, IOM, Koismy Rudolph, Delihna Ehmes and Roddy Robert.



## Chinese Ambassador to the FSM hosts reception aboard geological research vessel for 30 year anniversary



*By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press*

*May 6, 2019*

**Pohnpei**—The Embassy of the People’s Republic of China to the FSM hosted a reception aboard geological research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 10. The stated purpose for the reception was to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and FSM. Though the actual date of the anniversary of the establishment of those relations isn’t until September of this year, Ambassador Huang Zheng has already hosted a few such receptions this year.

Present at the reception were some members of Congress, Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick, and some other dignitaries.

Ambassador Huang Zheng thanked the FSM for its adherence to the One China Policy, without which, he said, “there would be nothing to talk about.”

“30 years is long enough for us to have political trust; for us to have mutual

understanding,” he said.

“We greatly value the importance of our special relationship,” Deputy Secretary Pretrick said. “We greatly appreciate the many assistances that your government continue to provide to us...most recently, the turnover of the administration building in Chuuk.” In addition to the infrastructure projects, Pretrick thanked the government of China for their assistance in the development of the FSM’s human resources through scholarship opportunities.

Though he was not scheduled to speak, Ambassador Huang Zheng invited Senator David Panuelo of Pohnpei to say a few words.

The Chief Geologist for the vessel’s research activities explained some of the research that the vessel is doing in the region that includes a mapping of metallurgical resources on the sea bed.

After the speeches were concluded, the Captain of the vessel conducted a guided tour of the vessel.



# College of Micronesia- FSM F4 Event 2019



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# Chuuk fiber optic cable inauguration ceremony

*FSM Information Services*

**WENO, Chuuk**—On May 7th 2019, His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), attended the inauguration ceremony of the new fiber optic cable in Chuuk State, which is fully active and operational. The fiber optic cable, which dramatically increases Chuuk’s internet capacity by orders of magnitude, will support the Nation’s most populous state in its economic and social development.

The fiber optic cable in Chuuk is the latest infrastructure success from the FSM National Government, FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (FSMT Cable Corp), and FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC), with crucial technical and material assistance from Nippon Electric Company (NEC), and financial assistance through the World Bank.

The President emphasized that all stakeholders must cooperate in order for the citizens of the Nation who reside in Chuuk to benefit from the fiber optic cable.



*Anna Mendiola, President of FSM Development Bank & Board Member of FSMT Cable, Pieter Bakker, CEO of FSMT Cable, and Johnson Elimo, Governor of Chuuk State, prepare to cut the ribbon signifying the completion of the fiber optic cable in Chuuk*

“I want to remind [FSMTC and FSMT Cable Corp] that... you are not entities against each other,” the President said. “You serve the same community, the same citizens, the same customers. Look at the empty seats in this room—it probably resembles how much capacity we are not using with this new cable. What do we do with that? That is the challenge I leave with you.”

President Christian also noted his appreciation for

all parties who made the fiber optic cable a success, with particular thanks given to NEC; the President recommended NEC become one of the bidders for any future developments for the East Micronesia Cable System, which will connect the State of Kosrae.

Former Vice President of the FSM and Chairman of the Board for FSMT Cable Corp, the Honorable Redley Killion, claimed the fiber optic cable in Chuuk “could be considered as one of the largest, if not the largest infrastructure project, not only for the State of Chuuk but for our Nation as a whole.”

The Honorable Johnson Elimo, Governor of Chuuk State, echoed Chairman Killion’s remarks, noting that the fiber optic cable “marks an important chapter in the history of the people of Chuuk.”

The Chief Executive Officer of FSMTC, Mr. Fredy Perman, noted that customers in Chuuk had already been given increased bandwidth.

Some citizens may appreciate learning the distinction between FSMT Cable Corp, FSMTC, and the FSM Telecommunications Regulation Authority (TRA). FSMT Cable Corp is the submarine cable company connecting Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae to promote broadband adoption in the FSM; they are a wholesaler and not-for-profit. FSMT Cable Corp’s customers are the Internet Service Providers (ISPs), of which at the moment the only ISP available is FSMTC. However, per the Telecom Act of 2014, the FSM intends to liberalize its marketplace i.e. allow multiple ISPs to exist and compete with each other, with the goal being cheaper and better internet, television, and phone service for all citizens in the FSM. The purpose of the TRA, then, is to regulate those ISPs.

Learn more about the fiber optic cable projects in the FSM by visiting the FSMT Cable Corp website here: <https://fsmcable.com/>

# NFC donates \$500,000 to FSM, intended for FSM Trust Fund

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On May 9th, 2019, His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with Mr. Peter Sitan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Fisheries Corporation (NFC), and Mr. Cassiano Shoniber and Mr. Mason Albert, Chairman of the Board, and Board Member, of NFC’s Board of Directors respectively. The purpose of the meeting was for the Board

to formally express its appreciation for President Christian’s support to NFC, and to demonstrate that appreciation through a donation of \$500,000 to the FSM National Government intended to augment the FSM Trust Fund.

“We would like to express our deepest appreciation to you [President Christian] for your unconditional support to the NFC for these past years,” said Mr. Sitan, noting that NFC has become significantly more profitable and capable in recent times, in large part due to

support from President Christian and the FSM National Government.

“I’m very happy that today... you are able to bring to the Government a testimony that we have come from a debt-ridden organization to a contributing organization in our Nation’s effort to grow,” said President Christian. “I’ve had this very excellent pleasure of working with you and the Board, and I’ve seen genuine attempts at being good.”

President Christian discussed with the CEO and Board of Directors his

wishes for NFC to continue to grow in its size and influence, so as to generate more jobs for FSM citizens and to help ensure that foreign fisheries stakeholders develop more shore-side activities to justify their concession prices from the Vessel Day Scheme.

The FSM National Government appreciates the \$500,000 from NFC intended for the FSM Trust Fund, and supports NFC as it continues its upward growth in contributing to the Nation and its citizenry.

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

**Date: 2 May 2019**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

IOM invites interested eligible Contractors to submit Quotations for reconstruction works of four bridges and one road section damaged or destroyed in floods and landslides caused by the tropical storm.

Item No.	Project Reference Number	Project Name	Brief Description	Location
1	P002	Awak Bridge	Construction of New Reinforced Concrete Bridge	U
2	P004	Lehdau Bridge	Construction of New R.C. Wingwall and Pavement Restoration	Kitti
3	P013	Enipein Powe Bridge	Construction of New 32' Long Reinforced Concrete Bridge	Kitti
4	P014	Lehn Mesi Bridge	Repair of Damaged CMU Railing of Bridge	Kitti
5	P018	Pohnauleng Road	Restore Damaged Asphalt Concrete (AC) Pavement and Road Shoulder Embankment	Madolenihmw



Interested Bidders are invited to collect the Bidding Document at IOM Pohnpei office from 06 May 2019 to 17 May 2019 (from 09:00-12:00 and 13:00-17:00).

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after submission of Bids and shall be delivered to the IOM Office at above office on 03 June 2019 before 14:00 Hours. Late bids shall be rejected.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on 20 May 2019 at 11:00 Hours. Interested Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the procurement process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of Contract, without obligation to inform the affected Bidder/s of the ground for IOM action.

IOM Pohnpei Office  
Suite 2G, Pohn Umpomp Building  
Pohn Umpomp Place, Nett Municipality



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia  
Statements of Income  
Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Interest income:		
Loans	\$4,602,138	\$4,778,403
Interest-bearing deposits	1,354,310	770,436
Investment securities	760,181	477,959
Federal funds sold	129,754	36,464
Total interest income	6,846,383	6,063,262
Interest expense:		
Savings	230,424	156,159
Other time deposits	63,755	56,908
Total interest expense	294,179	213,067
Net interest income	6,552,204	5,850,195
Provision for loan losses	240,000	192,700
Provision for off-balance sheet credit exposures	0	122,300
Net interest income after recovery of loan losses	6,312,204	5,535,195
Non-interest income:		
Service charges on deposit accounts	246,635	321,630
Loan fee income	163,583	153,702
Other	368,693	372,418
Total Non-interest Income	778,911	847,750
Non-interest expense:		
Salaries and wages	1,793,232	1,696,959
Occupancy	379,806	366,731
Employee benefits	345,791	315,747
Data processing	284,694	295,552
Professional fees	276,265	283,108
Gross Receipts and use taxes	226,009	227,165
Furniture and equipment	206,389	209,593
Electronic banking	184,081	164,549
Telephone	175,618	175,763
Correspondent bank fees	144,444	90,548
Insurance	113,232	92,032
Travel	90,434	92,270
Director and shareholder	79,819	66,218
Stationary and supplies	74,423	55,598
FDIC deposit insurance	47,480	41,000
Business development	35,503	27,865
Credit and collection	22,641	20,521
Teller and operating losses	20,634	2,693
Postage	14,266	19,529
Miscellaneous	22,623	38,892
Total Non-Interest Expense	4,537,384	4,282,333
Net Income	2,553,731	2,100,612
Other comprehensive loss:		
Net unrealized loss on investment securities	(35,694)	(117,055)
Comprehensive income	2,518,037	1,983,557

Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia  
Statements of Condition  
December 31, 2018 and 2017

ASSETS	2018	2017
Cash and due from banks	\$4,636,596	\$4,782,118
Federal funds sold	5,250,000	3,750,000
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	35,340,982	39,003,147
Cash and cash equivalents	45,227,578	47,535,265
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	17,696,000	18,601,000
Securities available for sale	49,735,918	30,443,071
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	48,706,592	44,961,239
Accrued Interest receivable	533,397	385,902
Prepaid expenses and other assets	402,564	385,094
Premises and equipment, net	1,989,481	2,093,355
Total Assets	\$164,291,530	\$144,404,926
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Deposits:		
Noninterest-bearing	36,545,792	36,241,218
Interest-bearing	102,845,960	84,623,249
Total deposits	139,391,752	120,864,467
Accrued interest payable	14,997	16,013
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,122,045	1,223,934
Total liabilities	140,528,794	122,104,414
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common Stock, \$5 par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized; 934,348 shares issued and outstanding at 2018 and 2017	4,671,740	4,671,740
Additional paid-in capital	4,663,576	4,663,576
Retained earnings	14,720,401	13,222,483
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(292,981)	(257,287)
Total stockholders' equity	23,762,736	22,300,512
Total Liabilities & Stockholder's Equity	\$164,291,530	\$144,404,926



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HONDA CR-V  
Year 2003 AT 1,990cc PETROL  
Mileage 60,000km Color Silver



Ref.0100859404 **PRICE: \$4,800**  
TOYOTA ALLION  
Year 2005 AT 1,500cc PETROL  
Mileage 92,000km Color Silver



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NISSAN ATLAS  
Year 1995 MT 2,490cc DIESEL  
Mileage 106,000km Color White



Ref.0100032192 **PRICE: \$5,980**  
TOYOTA HARRIER  
Year 2007 AT 3,450cc PETROL  
Mileage 108,000km Color Pearl



Ref.0100030956 **PRICE: \$6,270**  
ISUZU ELF  
Year 1994 F 4,330cc DIESEL  
Mileage 165,000km Color White



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Year 2003 F 1,990cc PETROL  
Mileage 162,000km Color White



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Year 2010 AT 1,990cc PETROL  
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## DOE helps schools with new student information system

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—The National Department of Education (NDOE) for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is making big strides in improving the capacity for schools in the State Departments of Education (SDOE) in Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae through the development and implementation of the Federated States of Micronesia Student Information System (FedSIS).

Schools throughout the Nation are mandated to report data such as teacher attendance, student attendance, student grades, and more. Historically, most teachers and schools throughout the FSM created their own documents and forms to record the required data—by contrast, FedSIS standardizes data collection practices at the school-site level. FedSIS helps a school to manage their data in their day-to-day operations by offering a centralized tool to help teachers and principals collect and report information. Its feature-rich composition includes the capacity to automatically generate student report cards and provide easy-to-understand charts on individuals, classrooms, and aggregate school attendance and GPAs and more, which is useful both for managerial decision-making on behalf of principals as well as for reporting data to parents and SDOEs.

Following initial training in July, August, and September 2018, presently 19 schools in the FSM are trained to use FedSIS to input, archive, and report school data. These include schools in urban areas such as in Weno (Chuuk State), as well as remote schools such as in Moch and Weipat (Mortlock Islands and Northwest Islands respectively). With additional proposed trainings to begin in April and May 2019, and more on-going training and support for the foreseeable future, the NDOE is expecting more schools will migrate to using the FedSIS.

"It's based on OpenSIS, a free open source software," said Weison Weital, Management Information Specialist at NDOE. "It's been customized to [FSM's] needs, and some efforts are in turn released to the community." Mr. Weital discussed how there is a five-year Master Plan for improving data management at NDOE, and 2019 is the second year of the plan. "We're [intending] that by the end of the five year plan to have all urban schools on main islands with internet connections using it."

It is hoped that as more schools use FedSIS and know how it works, in turn more schools will become interested—and that will increase the network of teachers and principals who understand the tool and can train others.

Data from the school-centered FedSIS, in addition to other data management tools, feed into the aggregate database called Federated States of Micronesia Education Management Information System (FedEMIS). Whereas an individual school can use FedSIS for data collection and analysis in their own community, FedEMIS can be used by schools and the SDOEs for comparing/contrasting FSM School Accreditation data, enrollment data, National Minimum Competency Test (NMCT) data, and more. This aggregate FSM-wide data is compiled into annual Data Digest reports, the first of which is available here: [http://national.doe.fm/PublicDocuments/Education%20Digest/Education\\_Digest\\_v1\\_15Oct2018.pdf](http://national.doe.fm/PublicDocuments/Education%20Digest/Education_Digest_v1_15Oct2018.pdf)

## Yap newest addition to WWII tours of Micronesia

### Yap Visitors Bureau

Colonia, Yap. For more than ten years, the Yap Visitors Bureau has been working closely with Patrick Ranfranz, founder of the Missing Crew Project, and villages throughout Yap to conserve important sites that are associated with World War II. Yap's mainland and its neighboring islands were a strategic location during the final year of the war where daily air battles took place between the United States and Japan. As a result, the planes that were downed and the artillery equipment, caves and even foxholes that remained when the war ended were left to rust and be consumed by the forest and surrounding ocean.

Thanks to Ranfranz, twenty three of those sites have been cleared and preserved with informative signs installed that tell visitors to the island about the men who fought during those last months between 1944 and 1945 as well as the impact of the Japanese presence that had been in Yap for more than 30 years by then.

The memorials, considered among the best in the Pacific region, have caught the attention of California-based Valor Tours that offers group tours to World War II sites around the world. In late March, Valor Tour guide Anderson Giles arrived in Yap to begin preparing to accompany the first group that will visit Yap in 2020. Accompanying him were active duty military men and women from the U.S. Third Fleet, I

Marine Expeditionary Force and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command. Among the visitors were operational planners who were also visiting Palau-Peleliu, Guam, Saipan and Tinian in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Allied campaign to liberate the Pacific islands and gain an understanding of the people and places throughout the region, explained MGySgt Demetrio Espinosa.

Their arrival coincided with a visit by Ranfranz, the visionary for the restoration of the sites who established the Missing Air Crew Project to search for his uncle, T/ Sgt John R. McCullough, one of ten crew members on a B-24 Liberator that was shot down by a Japanese fighter on June 25, 1944. All of the plane's crew are still listed as Missing in Action.

Ranfranz's deep knowledge and passion for his work on Yap were on full display as he led the men and women on a tour of the sites, providing information about the wreckages and equipment, the men who flew the planes, and the Yapese who endured that difficult time.

Among the visitors was Col. James R. Hensien, Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, who noted, "I first visited Yap in



1997 and, honestly, I never expected to have the opportunity to return. That first visit was memorable, but it was basically just a five-day scuba diving trip. This visit was much more. The next time I come to Yap I plan to bring my wife and daughters along. Everyone should have the pleasure of experiencing Yap at least once."

Don Evans, General Manager, Yap Visitors Bureau, said, "We are very fortunate to have the Valor Tour group visit Yap, especially at the same time as Patrick who gave them an introduction to the history of the war in this region as few others can. We are very excited that Valor Tours is adding Yap to their tours throughout Micronesia and look forward to welcoming many more visitors to experience the island and its history and culture." Evans added, "We are also very pleased that Yap will be among the Pacific islands included in the events commemorating the war and the people who so valiantly fought to liberate the island and return this land to the Yapese."

## Pohnpei strengthens its maritime navigation safety

### SPC

May 7, 2019

**Pohnpei, Federated State of Micronesia-** Improving the maritime safety of Pohnpei port area was in focus as the capital's maritime stakeholders met on Tuesday 7th May to identify the risks and hazards related to Aids to Navigation (AtoN) and Safety of Navigation services affecting the area around Pohnpei port. This was the first such meeting held in the country as part of the Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Safety of Navigation Project phase 2, funded by the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN).

Stakeholders from the Pohnpei Port Authority, FSM Department of Justice, shipping agents, fishing companies, Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture attended the daylong meeting and contributed to the discussions, which led to the identification of risks to navigation, as part of the IALA "SIRA" AtoN risk assessment.

The Project Manager of the SPC Pacific Safety of Navigation project, Francesca Pradelli, said, "the Seaport Manager Mr Danny Ludwig was instrumental to organize Pohnpei's maritime

stakeholders meeting and we are thankful to have heard the local views and experiences on the risks and hazards of Pohnpei port area. This will be invaluable information that the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure (Division of Marine Transport), Pohnpei Port Authority and SPC can use in developing risk control options that could be put in place to mitigate these risks and increase the safety of navigation in Pohnpei's waters."

According to Mr Danny Ludwig, Seaport Manager "the SPC Pacific Safety of Navigation project is very important, not only to the Pohnpei Port Authority, but also to all mariners and local fishermen that use the assessed area for their own safety while navigating in and out of the harbor. The stakeholders meeting was something that I was really looking forward to, to share ideas as well as to gain ideas from the stakeholders on their views of the current Aids

to Navigation and how we would improve them to better service International vessels and local vessels"

The Federated States of Micronesia is one of the 13 targeted countries which has been responsive to the efforts of SPC's Pacific Safety of Navigation project, together with Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

SPC Safety of Navigation Project phase 2 activities will continue in Chuuk next week, where an AtoN risk assessment of the north passage will be conducted.



## Chinese Government Scholarship

In order to promote mutual understanding, cooperation and exchanges in various fields between China and the FSM, the Chinese government has set up a series of scholarship programs to sponsor international students to study in Chinese universities. China Scholarship Council (hereinafter referred to as CSC), entrusted by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, is responsible for the enrollment and administration of Chinese Government Scholarship programs. Now, 289 designated Chinese universities offer a wide variety of academic programs in science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, economics, legal studies, management, education, history, literature, philosophy, and fine arts for scholarship recipients at all levels. CSC has decided to provide 12 quotas of students from the FSM to study in China under the Chinese Government Scholarship (hereinafter referred to as CGS) for the academic year 2019/2020. Hainan Municipal Government will provide 10 quotas of students from the FSM to study in Hainan province under the Hainan Municipal Government Scholarship (hereinafter referred to as HMGS) for the academic year 2019/2020. The undergraduate program is open to accept applications from those students who have graduated from the high school or the college or been studying in the college, and the postgraduate program is open to accept applications only from those students who have graduated from the college. The applicants for undergraduate program should be above 17 and under 25 years old with good health. The Chinese Embassy will be open to accept and deal with the applications for the CGS and HMGS until May 15th, 2019.

The applicants should submit their applications online. The instructions for the applicants' online application are enclosed herewith. All the materials which the applicants should deliver to the Embassy before the above-mentioned deadline are also listed in the enclosed list. The detailed information related to the application could be found in the enclosed materials, and on the official website of the CSC <http://www.campuschina.org>

The contact information of the Embassy:

Tel: 320-5575/320-1646

Fax: 320-5578

Email: [77473991@qq.com](mailto:77473991@qq.com) (only for CGS affairs consultation)

Contact person: Ren Chao

## Opinion Editorial

# It took visiting Japan to learn this about my island home

By *Teresita Laarwon*

**TOKYO, Japan ---** My first trip to Japan has been an opportunity of a lifetime. It has given me the chance to see and be grateful for the friendship and ties that the FSM shares with Japan.

I've been fortunate to share these exciting experiences with two other Micronesians, young women like me who are being introduced to Japan for the first time. My travel companions are Joleen Ngoriaki of Palau and Milañ Loek of the Marshall Islands. Joleen is Chief of Staff to the Koror State Government. Milañ is Managing Director of her family's investment company, Lieom N. Corp., which is developing outer island hotels.

We've been invited to Japan as part of the Young Micronesian Leaders Program, a regional initiative hosted by The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation. APIC is a private foundation, based in Tokyo, whose mission is the nurturing of ties between Japan and island nations of the Pacific and Caribbean.

Our trip started in Tokyo, where we got to see first-hand what city life was all about. City life that was well accompanied by the historic part of Japan; it's where the new and old meet in perfect harmony.

You see sky-high buildings, and then you find yourself standing in the middle of a public park with cherry blossoms everywhere. And to the side there is a traditional house that is holding a tea ceremony.

Clearly value is placed upon the future that Japan is steering towards but also it is navigated by an historical identity. Japan is a developed nation that values and treasures its history, culture, and traditions. And this was very evident when we visited Kyoto. Japan is rich in culture, tradition, as well as development. It is literally the best of both worlds, the fast and slow pace of city and suburban.

But this trip was not only about visiting a new place for the first time, it was also about learning, appreciating, and understanding cultures and friendship. Culture enabled us to see Japan as a nation and also as a community of unique people. Friendship enabled us to learn and appreciate the generosity of what has been done for our countries.

And it quickly became clear that Japan has done a lot for my country. During our time in Japan, I have met men and women who have helped to provide that help.

APIC did a stellar job in putting together this program. Every core aspect of this trip was well organized and very well structured. APIC President Ambassador Peter Sato, Executive Director Ambassador Shoji Sato, and the whole APIC professional staff went above and beyond to make this trip a successful one for us. The hospitality and the generosity of all these people are beyond great. We hope to continue forward with such great ties with the APIC Program.

I know that Milañ and Joleen feel exactly as I do. The people that we met, the offices and places we visited, and the activities were all planned out to fit us perfectly. Each place we visited, we learned something new or it had a significant value or impact towards each of us individually.

Perhaps most importantly, by being introduced to the best of Japan, we got to thinking about the best of our small islands. In my case, the FSM consists of small islands that are developing and very much rooted in our culture and traditions. We value our past because it will always serve as a reminder for us about who we are as a people, individually and collectively. Home is always a safe haven for us and a place that will never forget us or disregard us.

To think that we went to Japan to learn about the islands we call home.

*The writer was one of three young Micronesian women who were recently invited to Japan by The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation as part of its Young Micronesian Leaders Program. She is a teacher at Yap Catholic School.*



*APIC Young Micronesian Leaders Program participants, from left to right, Milañ Loek (Marshall Islands), Joleen Ngoriaki (Palau), and Teresita Laarwon (Yap, FSM). Photo: Moeko Kita, APIC*

## Request for Quotation



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

### 'Provision of plumbing services for installation of community rainwater harvesting systems in Kapingamarangi, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)'

The Pacific Community (SPC) would like to invite interested qualified bidders to submit quotations to provide plumbing services for installation of community rainwater harvesting systems in Kapingamarangi, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), to provide support to the Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project.

Applicants need to be available to travel and stay in Kapingamarangi for a 21 day period between 1st June 2019 and 31st August 2019, exact timing dependent on shipping schedules. Applicants need to possess required welding tools and equipment. All materials for the 3 community rainwater harvesting systems have already been purchased by the RENI project.

Applicants must have:

- Diploma in Plumbing from a trade school or successful completion of plumbing apprenticeship
- 3 years proven experience as a plumber
- Evidence of experience in water distribution and disposal systems in residential and commercial buildings, ability to handle plumbing tools and equipment, and physique and agility to work in tight spaces.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

Copies of the 'Request for Quotation' (RFQ) can be downloaded from the website (<http://tenders.net/dtp/spcint>) under procurement notices, is available from SPC Office, One World Plaza, Suite 301, Kapwaresou Street, Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941, or can be obtained by sending email request to [RENI@spc.int](mailto:RENI@spc.int)

Bidders may submit their quotation to [RENI@spc.int](mailto:RENI@spc.int) or to the SPC office in Pohnpei. All quotations must be received by 4.00pm, Friday 24th May 2019, to carry out specific tasks as outlined in the Terms of Reference (Annex 1).

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**Class 09:** Notebook computers; Computers; Computer peripheral devices; Computer software, recorded; Navigation apparatus for vehicles [on-board computers]; Video telephones; Navigational instruments; humanoid robots with artificial intelligence; Television apparatus; Remote control apparatus; Plugs, sockets and other contacts [electric connections]; Video screens; Locks, electric; Batteries, electric; Chargers for electric batteries.

**Class 11:** Microwave ovens [cooking apparatus]; Gas burners; Cooking apparatus and installations; Cooking utensils, electric; Refrigerators; Freezers; Extractor hoods for kitchens; Air cooling apparatus; Air conditioning installations; Air purifying apparatus and machines; Heating apparatus, electric; Toilets [water-closets]; Bath installations; Heaters for baths; Water purifying apparatus and machines.

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Any inquiry regarding this Cautionary Notice may be directed to: Law Office of Michael J. Sipos, A Professional Corporation, P.O. Box 2069, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941, telephone (691) 320-6450, E-mail: MSipos@mail.fm

## Embracing the Belt and Road Initiative, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future



By *H.E. Huang Zheng, Chinese Ambassador to the FSM*

I have been serving as Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Federated States of Micronesia for nearly a year. As I enjoy the heavenly scenery, pleasant climate, unique culture, tasty tuna, dynamic life and most importantly, making friends with adorable people, I keep making my greatest efforts in promoting China-FSM cooperation and exchanges in all respects, especially such landmark aid projects as the expansion of the agricultural pilot farm in Madolenihmw, the Pohnpei Secondary Road and Bridge, the New Chuuk State Office Buildings Complex and the National Convention Center. Just to name a few.

Why is China inputting so much to help the nation building of a Pacific island country, like the FSM, while it still remains a developing country itself with 170 million people living in poverty and facing problems of unbalanced and inadequate development? This is a common question raised by the local people, as well as the other concerned parties in the region and the international community. Actually, the answer lies right in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), an innovative masterpiece for international economic and development cooperation by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Launched in 2013, by carrying forward the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, and in line with the principle of extensive consultation, joint efforts and shared benefits, the BRI aims to enhance policy,

infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity, deepen practical cooperation in various fields, and promote open, interconnected, inclusive and common development of all countries, with the ultimate goal of building a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity.

Over the past five years and more, thanks to the concerted efforts of various parties, BRI cooperation has helped build a broad international consensus and secured "early harvests". The BRI has created new space for the economic development of individual countries and the world as a whole, and lent fresh impetus to international economic and development cooperation. By the end of April, 2019, 131 countries, including the FSM, and 30 international organizations have signed a total of 187 documents of cooperation with China under the BRI, making it the most popular international public good around the globe.

From April 25 to 27, 2019, the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) was successfully held in Beijing. This year's forum is themed on Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future. The forum includes the opening ceremony, the Leaders' Roundtable, the high-level meeting, 12 thematic forums, and a CEO conference. 40 leaders attended the roundtable, including heads of state and government from 38 countries including China, United Nations (UN) Secretary General and Managing Director the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Over 6,000 foreign guests from 150 countries and 92 international organizations participated in the forum.

The second BRF is highly commented widely in the world because it takes a clear-cut stand in upholding the main theme of building an open world economy, opens a new stage of building the Belt and Road from a strategic perspective and combines domestic and external cooperation to catalyze China's reform and opening up.

There are six major outcome highlights summarized from President Xi Jinping's keynote speech, the Joint Communique of the Leaders' Roundtable, and the List of Deliverables: I. set the goal of jointly promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation as the direction of cooperation; II. promote a global

partnership of connectivity to promote interconnected development; III. achieve substantial and practical outcomes to reflect mutual benefit and win-win results, a total of 283 deliverables reached by the participating parties; IV. build new platforms for the matchup of local governments and the industrial and commercial communities to broaden cooperation opportunities; V. improve the Belt and Road cooperation architecture to build supporting mechanisms; VI. give play to the leading role of head-of-state diplomacy to deepen bilateral relations.

The successful holding of the second BRF is a successful practice of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, vividly reflects the international appeal and influence of China's ideas and China's initiatives and congregates the common aspirations of all countries around the world for open development and win-win cooperation.

What I have been pushing and promoting on the ground since in office last May is just an ordinary paint of the Belt and Road cooperation. However, it is the culmination of millions of such paints that can collectively depict the picture of wonder for the BRI.

Since the signing of the MOU on Belt and Road Cooperation at the Papua New Guinea Summit between President Xi Jinping and then FSM President Peter Christian last November, where they agreed to upgrade our bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, I'm glad to find that more and more FSM people become better aware of the BRI and actively participate in its advancing. The latest manifestation is the gracious presence of Governor Marcelo Peterson of Pohnpei at the second BRF and the FSM government's staunch support of the BRI and congratulations on the second BRF showcased in its diplomatic note to the Chinese Embassy.

Now that the second BRF has provided us with a new starting point, new vision and new journey, I hereby call on the FSM friends from all walks of life to get to know, support and embrace the BRI, seeking the link of our common interest and shared value while exploring vast space of cooperation opportunities. Let's work shoulder to shoulder to jointly build the Belt and Road to be more stable and sustainable in an effort to pursue a brighter Community with a Shared Future for Humanity.





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