

FSM Joint Inauguration events completed as FSM journeys to a future new world

By Bill Jaynes
 The Kaselehlie Press

July 30, 2019

FSM—The 2019 Joint Inauguration of FSM leadership is now a thing of the past. The Inauguration Inter-denominational Service on Sunday afternoon is done. The Joint Inaugural Cultural Night on that evening with its color and flash are done; all of the food eaten, the performances completed. The Joint Inauguration Ceremony is done. The speeches and beautiful music of the Pollap and Lekinioch singing groups no longer echo from the walls of the buildings in Palikir and many of the dozens of visiting Heads of State and Ambassadors and other dignitaries have at least begun their journeys homeward. The last dance at the Joint National Inauguration Ball

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Accused arsonists plead not guilty to charges related to government building fires

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By Bill Jaynes
 The Kaselehlie Press

July 29, 2019

Pohnpei—Pohnpei State prosecutors have filed criminal charges against two men related to the arson fires that destroyed the Attorney General's office and the Supreme Court building. On July 18, 2019, the Supreme Court issued arrest warrants for Sihlo Andrew of Pohnrakied and Erick Joel Plais of Mapusi based on application for warrant and criminal information filings.

The charges against Sihlo Andrew were filed on July 12. The criminal information contains very little detail. The same set of charges was filed for each building that burned. He was charged with Criminal Conspiracy for allegedly conspiring with Plais to trespass, force entry into government property and set them on fire. He was charged with Criminal Solicitation for allegedly recruiting Plais to join him in the crimes. They charged him with Reckless Burning, Burglary, Trespass, and Arson. He was also charged with Fraudulent Destruction of Instruments for allegedly targeting government documents to burn and destroying them. For allegedly intentionally interrupting the process of government functions, he was also charged with Malicious Mischief.

The charges against Erick Joel Plais were filed on July 17. The charges are the same as those against Andrew with the exception that instead of having been charged with Criminal Solicitation he was instead charged as an Accessory. He also faces the same duplicated sets of charges for each building.

The judge denied both men bail and remanded them to custody. They were arraigned on July 29. Both men pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

So far, no other individuals have been charged in the arson fires.

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President Panuelo & Secretary Wilkie pay respects to the ten FSM citizens who gave the ultimate sacrifice in solemn Wreath-Laying ceremony

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 28th 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, paid tribute to the ten men and women of the FSM who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to the ideals of peace, unity, and liberty, in a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Pohnpei International Airport. It was the President’s third wreath-laying ceremony in as many months, and the first item on the Secretary’s agenda as part of his program of visit for attending the Joint National Inauguration Ceremony.

Before laying the wreaths with Secretary Wilkie, the President shared his somber, yet earnest, remarks.

“Every time I look at the pictures and see the names and faces of the men and women we lost, I am sobered and reminded that we owe those heroes and their families—Micronesians AND Americans—a debt of gratitude we can never re-pay,” President Panuelo said, while visibly and deeply moved.

“I am compelled to re-emphasize...the United States of America is the Federated States of Micronesia’s closest ally. And that is an understatement,” the President continued. “The men and women whose faces adorn this wall have shown greater commitment to that alliance, and to the values we jointly stand for, than I can express.”

After the President’s remarks, Secretary Wilkie shared a brief statement on how the close relationship between the FSM and the U.S. is predicated both on shared values and equally shared commitments to advancing the ideals of freedom for all.



“For over 75 years Micronesians and Americans have shared the incommunicable experience of war...,” Secretary Wilkie began, who described how—in World War Two—it was Micronesian scouts who saved U.S. pilots whose planes had been shot down and fallen into Chuuk Lagoon. “We will not fail or forsake those...great men and women who came forward when courage was in short supply, and it’s our duty as citizens of free republics to never forget [their] sacrifice, and to thank God every day that we are surrounded by heroes and great men and women.”

Shortly after the President’s and Secretary Wilkie’s remarks, they laid wreaths in honor of the Nation’s men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Later in the day, the President’s Chief of Staff—Leo Falcam Jr., a veteran and retired Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps—would join Secretary Wilkie in a citizens’ outreach meeting with the FSM’s veterans.

The people and Government of the FSM recognize and appreciate its persistent, perpetual, and enduring relationship with the people and Government of the United States, the historic visit of the U.S. Secretary for Veterans Affairs, and the recent proposed legislation—the COFA Veterans Review Act—to provide healthcare to citizens of the FSM who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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GAO “Trust Funds for Micronesia and the Marshall Islands are unlikely to fully replace expiring U.S. Annual Grant Assistance”

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 1, 2019

FSM—A report released on July 23, 2019 by the U.S Government Accountability Office (GAO) confirms what government officials have known for some time. The Trust funds will not be sufficient to boost the self-sufficiency of the Federated States of Micronesia and to a lesser extent, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and in fact are predicted to on occasion dwindle to nothing.

For some time, the two countries have been receiving direct sector grants under the Compact on a declining scale with the balance being deposited into trust funds managed by US-FSM and US-RMI trust fund committees chaired by the US Department of the Interior. The Trust Fund earnings are intended to provide a source of income after compact grants end at the end of 2023. But those Trust Funds have long been reported to have been generating less in earnings than had been predicted during negotiations.

“GAO’s 2018 report noted that the FSM and RMI compact trust funds face risks and may not provide disbursements in some future years. GAO projected a 41 percent likelihood that the FSM compact trust fund would be unable to provide any disbursement in one or more years in fiscal years 2024 through 2033, with the likelihood increasing to 92 percent in 2054 through 2063,” the July report noted. “GAO projected a 15 percent likelihood that the RMI compact trust fund would be unable to provide any disbursement in 1 or more years in fiscal years 2024 through 2033, with the likelihood increasing to 56 percent in 2054 through 2063. Potential strategies

such as reduced trust fund disbursements would reduce or eliminate the risk of years with no disbursement. However, some of these strategies would require changing the trust fund agreements, and all of the strategies would require the countries to exchange a near-term reduction in resources for more-predictable and more-sustainable disbursements in the longer term.”

In its May 2018 report, GAO made recommendations to the Department of the Interior to address the disbursement risks. Interior concurred, as did the two trust fund committees, but to date there has been no implementation of GAO’s recommendations.

“The trust fund committees have not developed distribution policies, required by the agreements, which could assist the countries in planning for the transition to trust fund income. The committees have not developed the required fiscal procedures for oversight of disbursements or addressed differences between the timing of their annual determinations of the disbursement amounts and the FSM’s and RMI’s annual budget cycles,” the report says.

Without renegotiation of the financial provisions provided for under the Compact of the Free Association with the United States there appears to be no question that in 2024 the two nations will find themselves scrambling for cash even harder than they are now.

Donors hand over new Spanish Wall playground



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 31, 2019

Pohnpei—While children merrily swung on the swing set and climbed on the playground, inside the Kolonia Town Gym Pohnpei Governor Marcelo Peterson was accepting the donation of the brand new playground equipment installed at the Spanish Wall Park.

The playground equipment was provided by a donation from Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Lian Cheng Overseas Fishery Co., Ltd. The monetary value of the equipment was \$7463 but the value in terms of fun and exercise for Pohnpei children is inestimable.

Sometime in 2018 the Tan Holding Foundation, which was formed in 2002, was renamed after Tan Holdings’ founder and Chairman Dr. Tan Siu Lin. The main mission of the foundation is “to better serve the regions where we operate in thus making our communities a better place to live,” the foundation’s Facebook says.

During the handover ceremony, messages were delivered by Mr. Samuel Chou, President of Lian Cheng Overseas Fishery; Ambassador Huang Zheng, China’s Ambassador to the FSM; Governor Marcelo Peterson, Senator Shelten Neth of the Pohnpei Legislature, and Kolonia Town Mayor Jose San Nicolas.

Participating in the symbolic ribbon cutting were Lily Tan, Samuel Chou, Ambassador Huang Zheng, Governor Marcelo Peterson, Mayor Jose San Nicolas, and Senator Shelten Neth.

After the ceremony, the donors provided a “tuna cutting” show and provided refreshments.

US Secretary Wilkie holds Veterans’ Town Hall meeting in Pohnpei but provides few answers

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

July 28, 2019

Pohnpei, FSM—This afternoon, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Robert L. Wilkie met with FSM veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces for a “Town Hall” styled meeting at the Pacific Missionary Fellowship church. He thanked the veterans for their service and began his briefing during which he mentioned sweeping veteran’s reform legislation that is currently with the Senate for consideration.

After his presentation he opened the floor for questions from veterans and family members of veterans. All of the veterans expressed various aspects of their wide spread frustration at their inability to access promised veterans’ benefits. “We can’t access them from here but we were recruited here,” one veteran exclaimed.

It was apparent that the veterans came to the meeting expecting concrete answers to their questions, and in some cases, Secretary Wilkie’s staff members took names of some veterans with a promise to look into their individual cases. He told the veterans that he agreed that the website to access veterans’

benefits was entirely too complicated, saying that he also had problems with it. He said that the website is being completely redesigned to make it easier to use and that it should be up in its new form in a few weeks.

Otherwise, the concrete answers the veterans came in expectation of finding simply did not materialize. Secretary Wilkie seemed genuinely to understand and to sympathize with the veterans’ concerns but said that he was hampered by the current law governing veterans’ affairs. When asked if he thought the Senate would pass the reforming legislation, he said that there is

no way he could know.

After complaints that it had been a number of years since VA representatives from Guam had visited the FSM he did promise that would change.



... Inauguration

Continued from front page

has been danced. Now the nation will watch, expecting the promises made during multiple speeches broadcast worldwide and during dozens of courtesy calls on FSM leaders behind closed doors to be kept for the good of the nation.

Strictly speaking, the Inauguration events were public commemorations of acts completed on May 11, 2019 when the members of the 21st Congress swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of FSM and then proceeded to choose the FSM's President, Vice President and Speaker of the 21st Congress. The process was completed when on July 2, 2019, the members the voters chose to fill the seats vacated by the President and Vice President also swore to do the same.

"As your President, I will serve you as I will ask that you serve each other. I am your public servant and the personification of our Nation at home and abroad, and I am honored and proud to be your guardian," President Panuelo said during his inaugural address. "I am resolved to work closely with our Congress to serve you and work to meet your needs. The task of Nation-building is a monumental one, and so I will ask for cooperation from the political leadership, the traditional leadership, and from you, my fellow citizens."

All terms of FSM Presidents are important at all times but perhaps because of the change in financial provisions from sector grants to the proceeds of an underperforming trust fund at the end of 2023, the term of the 9th President of the FSM will be critical for the FSM's economic future. Certainly the President, all the leaders in all branches of government, and all citizens of the FSM will need to take to heart the interestingly worded theme of the inauguration. "Our actions today is our nation's prosperity tomorrow."

"My fellow citizens, I have seen the looks on your faces when you talk about 2023," President Panuelo said. "So I tell you today that by May 10th 2023, at the end of my current term, our Nation will be brighter than the stars that navigate us from island to island. We will make it happen, you and I together, because we are responsible for who we are; and who we are is Micronesian, singing the same song as we paddle together."

President Panuelo has certainly already kept his promise regarding keeping a steady stream of information flowing to the people of the FSM and immediately began to reinvigorate the Public Information Office, if not independent media.



During his inaugural address, President Panuelo touched on issues of strengthened communication capacity. He promised to also reinvigorate the Office of the National Public Auditor by providing more staff and financial resources. He spent a great deal of time discussing the important issue of ecological preservation of the FSM and even stronger positions on climate change. He discussed the importance of education in the nation building process.

Though the joint communique issued by US President Trump and the FAS leaders that President Panuelo referred to as indicating "in no uncertain terms that the United States position is to renew the expiring provisions of the Compact" actually made no mention of that position, it seems clear that the President, from conversations on Capitol Hill has received multiple indications that the United States may do so. The FSM is preparing to attempt to renegotiate those provisions.

He expressed gratitude for the COFA Veterans Review Act that is currently under consideration at the US Senate to enable FSM Veterans living in the FSM to access healthcare and other benefits.

He mentioned the insufficient Compact Trust Fund and also reminded the people of the FSM that its own sovereign Trust Fund has, during the last five years increased from \$7 million to approximately \$260 million. He promised to give that Trust Fund a high priority. He said that 50 percent of corporate revenue brought in through Micronesia Registration Advisers and 20 percent of fishing fees are earmarked for deposit in the FSM Trust Fund.

He spoke of economic development and the need for the FSM to sustain itself. He said that one of his administration's top priorities would be maximizing revenues from the FSM's tuna fisheries and also the development of onshore development programs.

He has pledged to work to unclogging the logjam that has kept \$197 million in infrastructure funds from being put to use.

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He promised a commitment to enforcement of laws that are in place. He promised to rebuild the Transnational Crimes Unit, to join INTERPOL, and to strengthen National and State police forces.

When President Panuelo and some of his large family made their entrance at the Inauguration Ceremony, he might not have been aware of the music that had been chosen for him. Perhaps the subtle message that music provided was lost on some. I hoped not. I chose it. When asked to assist, I could think of no more fitting and beautiful theme than the Largo of Dvorak's "New World Symphony". It only made sense.



NMHS student wins China - FSM logo contest

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 25, 2019

Pohnpei—The winners of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the FSM logo contest were announced this afternoon during a ceremony at the Governor’s conference room. Though 20 prizes of cellphones were awarded to students who submitted ideas for logos, only one student’s submission could earn the top prize and all students were anxious to see if their submission had been chosen.

The logos lined the walls in the conference room. Any number of them could have been contenders for the top prize.

Speaker Ausen T. Lambert of the Pohnpei State Legislature handed out the cell phones awarded to students whose submissions had been in the top 20 but not in the top three.

Excitement built as the time came to announce the top three prize winners who in addition to a cell phone also won a laptop computer. Pohnpei Governor Marcelo Peterson handed out the prizes to those top winners. The third place winner was Ardiann Damian of Xavier High School. Larenda Ardos from the College of Micronesia FSM was the second place winner. The design by Benson Frederick, Jr. of Pohnpei’s Nanpei Memorial High School was announced as the winner of the logo contest.

His design incorporated photographic images of Nan Madol juxtaposed with a photo of the Great Wall of China. Above the images, the two countries’ flags cross above shaking hands. Ardos’ logo will be used by the Micronesia-China Friendship Association (MCFA) in all of its promotional materials during the 30th anniversary year of established diplomatic relationships between the two countries.

Floor Leader McGarry Miguel who is also the MCFA Vice President and the coordinator for the contest said that the association sent out notices to all of the schools in the FSM in late May encouraging entries beginning on June 1 and ending on July 12. He said



that the organizing committee received many entries with the majority being from students in Pohnpei. The committee winnowed the list of entries down to 20, the group that received prizes during the ceremony. A committee consisting of Pohnpei Legislature Senators and Department of Education further reduced the list to the top five entries. Those

entries were passed to yet another small committee consisting of a Chinese Embassy official and two national government officials. That committee chose the top three winners.

Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People’s Republic China to the FSM, spoke during the ceremony and thanked the students for their interest and support for the diplomatic relations between the FSM and China. He encouraged the students to consider applying for scholarships to study in China.

SPREP facilitated project to remove thousands of gallons of waste oil from Pohnpei dump site

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

July 23, 2019

Pohnpei—Approximately 2500 drums filled with approximate 132,500 gallons of waste oil, hulking harbingers of potential environment disaster, have stood moldering in Pohnpei’s dumpsite for years with no financially viable method of eliminating the threat each drum represents.

A press release issued in March of this year by the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM) announcing the completion of a used oil recovery facility said that according to a survey conducted in 2014, 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. DECEM didn’t say who conducted the survey and were unresponsive this week.



The first step in mitigating the threat began in earnest first with the completion of the used oil recovery facility at the dumpsite. This week removal of the waste oil began with the arrival of representatives of SOCADIS, a French language acronym meaning Caledonian Company of Industrial and Special Waste. The company is based in New Caledonia.

The company was contracted with funding provided through the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). SOCADIS General Manager Mark Mesanovic said that the problem of waste oil is widespread, especially in countries with little money and long distances over which to transport used

oil. He mentioned that the Marshall Islands also has a desperate waste oil problem, with rusting oil drums stored less than two feet from the ocean.

Though the company will sell products from the oil it recovers, recovering and recycling oil does not come anywhere close to paying for itself.

SOCADIS recovered all of the waste oil at Pohnpei Utilities Corporation in little more than a day. The waste oil stored at the dump site will take longer and the rehabilitation of the storage site will require at least a year.

Mesonovic said that the recovered oil will be shipped to New Zealand for further processing there. He said that after recovery is complete, SOCADIS will crush and recycle the decrepit drums.



They will also handle the bioremediation of soils contaminated with hydrocarbons. He explained that removal and treatment of the soil with a microbe will be necessary for that task.

RHD screening painless and lifesaving but public education hampers screening and treatment efforts

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 26, 2019

Pohnpei—After the close of a cardiology clinic conducted in Pohnpei by Cardiologist Dr. Christopher Mahnke and Cardiac Sonographer Jill Inafuku of Tripler Army Medical Center, members of the Pohnpei Department of Health, Pohnpei State officials, and members of the Rotary Club of Pohnpei met at the Hideaway restaurant to celebrate the achievements and to say goodbye. The event also commemorated a donation of \$7,880 worth of supplies by the Rotary Club of Pohnpei to support the ongoing needs of the Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) mass screening program in Pohnpei.

Acute Rheumatic Fever is an inflammatory disease that can develop after pharyngitis caused by Group A Streptococcal infection, usually during childhood. RHD is the result of heart valve damage caused by this inflammatory disease. The screening process can detect the disease early so that preventive measures can be taken to keep it from developing into RHD. The process of the echocardiogram that can detect the precursor to RHD is completely painless and harmless to the child but vitally important.

In countries with highly developed

medical systems, the prevalence of the disease is low but in countries like the FSM which has previously never had a screening program, people die needlessly, many more, per capita than in most other countries.

Wefonne Billen who works with Dr. Payne Perman to administer the RHD screening program in Pohnpei said that the goal of the program is, through the use of echo screening and treatment with penicillin, to minimize the number of patients referred for enormously expensive valve replacement surgery. The quality of life for patients who undergo the surgery, which costs at least \$50,000, is diminished even after the surgery. The alternative to the surgery is death. All can be avoided by early detection and early treatment before the disease advances to the stage that requires surgery.

Billen briefed the small crowd on the current progress of the screening. She said that of the approximately 9000 children between the ages of five and 16, 6,903 (77 percent) have had the important screening. She said that of those who have been screened 177 of the children were found to be “borderline cases”. Those patients require no treatment but require yearly follow-ups for rescreening. 338 children were described as “definite cases” requiring ongoing treatment. Of

those definite cases only an astounding 181 children or 54 percent of those who have been diagnosed are following up with ongoing treatment that can save their lives.

She said that one of the biggest challenges is that there is not enough awareness in the community and part of the reason for that lack of awareness is the lack of funding for promotional materials. The Rotary Club of Pohnpei was able to provide funding for a significant amount of promotional materials along with supplies to support the program.

Dr. Mahnke said that the team saw 167 patients during the cardiology clinic and that during that time they identified three patients in need of surgery.

During her briefing, Billens said that the screening program had also identified 19 children with congenital heart disease, patients who were born with a heart defect.

Dr. Mahnke said that one of his personal highlights of the cardiology clinic was reuniting with a former patient of his who is now in her late 20’s. He said that she had been born with half a heart but when she was 14, he and a colleague performed surgery on her at Tripler Army Medical Center. He had not seen her since. He said that today she is remarkably healthy. He proudly displayed the photo they took together during the clinic.

Governor Marcelo Peterson thanked the efforts of the RHD team and also Rotary Club of Pohnpei for its support.



Japan’s Minister for Foreign Affairs to visit FSM, Palau, RMI, and Fiji

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 1, 2019

FSM—Japan’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Taro Kono will visit the Federated States of Micronesia for the first time on August 7. While in Pohnpei, Mr. Kono will pay a courtesy call on President David Panuelo and also on FSM’s Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert. Before departing he will also attend a ceremony to hand over an ambulance to Pohnpei State at the Pohnpei Fire Department donated by Japan’s Grass-Roots Human Security Program.

The Embassy of Japan says that in addition to visiting the FSM, Minister Kono will be visiting Fiji, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. His overarching speech on Japanese policies regarding Pacific Island Countries will be delivered when he is in Suva, Fiji.

Minister Kono attended Georgetown University in the United States. He has been in government service since he was elected to the 41st House of Representatives in the 15th electoral district of Kanagawa Prefecture. He has served on the Diet since that time and has served as Minister for Foreign Affairs since 2007 through several reshufflings of Abe’s Cabinet.

President Panuelo opens workshop for the development & implementation of a national anti-corruption strategy in the FSM

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 31st 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), addressed the participants and attendees of the Workshop for the Development and Implementation of a National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the FSM. The workshop began two days after the President’s Inaugural Address where he specifically called for a more transparent, open, and accountable Government. President Panuelo encouraged an open and constructive discussion to address corruption without any fear or apprehension.

The President further reiterated the commitments he made in his Inaugural Address to strengthen the Government’s accountability to its citizens, including by joining the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), rebuilding the Micronesian Transnational Crimes Unit, and strengthening the National Office of the Public Auditor. “I personally believe that we must protect our limited financial resources, and uphold the rule of law, by implementing preventive measures that bring together accountability and transparency in public service,” the President said.

“Just as it is right and just that a Government provides essential services for its citizens, a Government must provide those essential services in a right and just

manner,” the President continued. “To repeat myself: I want and demand a transparent Government, and I am asking you to help me make this happen for the benefit of our people.”

The FSM acceded to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2012, but—while many initiatives combating corruption have occurred both prior to and following the FSM’s signing of the UNCAC—the President noted many initiatives addressing corruption have been fragmented, and called for greater coordination.

“I want to be bold in stating at this stage how deeply I look forward to reviewing a proposed National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the FSM as the outcome of this workshop, and further consultations,” the President said. The Honorable Joses R. Gallen, Secretary of the Department of Justice, welcomed the participants to the workshop and commented that while the FSM is a small jurisdiction where everyone is related to one another, nevertheless, “fighting corruption is important because it weakens the moral fabric of our

See “Anti-corruption” on page 15

10 years after submission, the FSM, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands' joint claim for additional seabed approved by Commission under the Law of the Sea Convention

FSM Information Services
Press Release

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The United Nations' Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (Commission) in New York recently made public its approval and endorsement of a joint claim from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, over 600,000 square kilometers (230,000 square miles) of additional seabed on what is known as the Ontong Java Plateau, south of Kapingamarangi Atoll. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea's Office of Legal Affairs publicized the summary recommendation on its website here: https://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/fmpgsb32_09/2017_03_17_OJP_SumRec_COM_for%20website_10-06-2019.pdf

The joint claim was lodged in 2009, taking the FSM and its partners approximately ten years before the technical examination process, and disposition of the claim, was fully completed.

The technical examination process

involved national teams from Palikir, Port Moresby, and Honiara, with external experts from Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, engaging in over a dozen meetings and exchanges of views on copious amounts of data and information regarding the Ontong Java Plateau. While the process was both complex and lengthy, the FSM National Government recognizes that it was also positive and constructive.

The legal implication of endorsing the extension of the continental shelf claim is that claimers of the extension (i.e. the FSM, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands) are vested with sovereign rights to explore the natural resources on the seabed area for possible oil, gas, minerals, and living organisms that may be of scientific or commercial value.

Among the minerals buried in continental shelves are rare earth metals, which are essential ingredients for high-tech hardware such as solar panels and semiconductors.

As successful Joint Claimants, the FSM, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands are expected to deposit with the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Seas' Office of Legal Affairs the precise coordinates of the outer limits of their continental shelf extensions. It is possible that the Nation and its two partners would, amongst themselves, enter into an agreement of further cooperation, delimitation, or other forms of management and regulation of the additional vast area of seabed, according to their needs, capacities, and preferences.

Questions on legal issues can be addressed to the FSM Department of Justice, which can be contacted at +691-320-2644.

IOM and donors respond to Typhoon Wutip

The International Organization for Migration

Between February 19 and 22nd, Typhoon Wutip crossed over the States of Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap. While no lives were lost, many homes, large public buildings and agricultural trees were either damaged or destroyed. The International Organization for Migration, IOM, with over 10 years of experience working in FSM and an office in each State, closely supported the National and State Governments' response efforts.

Immediately following the Typhoon, IOM supported the Governments' requests for assistance by providing over 4,600 sq. meters of tarpaulin for damaged homes and infrastructure. These tarpaulins were generously donated by USAID and served to provide emergency shelter for families and communities. Following the requests by Yap's Disaster Coordination Officer, IOM distributed four Reverse

Osmosis units capable of purifying 360 gallons of water per day to the neighboring islands of Yap. These "RO units" were also donated by USAID.

Typhoon Wutip also damaged taro plants, as well as breadfruit, banana and coconut trees on many islands. Based on the standard Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) supplemental nutritional food basket, each individual that is food insecure should receive 8 oz of starch, 4 oz of fruits, 4 oz of vegetables and 2 oz of fat per day. IOM secured approximately \$450,000 of funding from USAID, Australian Aid and the New Zealand Embassy to support all response activities, including food distributions. As of writing, IOM has distributed 42.48 US tons of rice, 17.35 tons of fruits, 17.37 tons of vegetables and 7.71 tons of cooking oil to 10,032 people. IOM will work closely with its donors to continue to support the food needs of affected communities in the coming months.



IOM used its barge to deliver food baskets to communities in Chuuk Lagoon. Photo Credit: Lee Arkhie Perez



A community member transports food baskets donated by USAID from IOM's barge to the dock Photo Credit: Lee Arkhie Perez



A young girl from Southern Namoneas standing next to a food shipment donated by the New Zealand Embassy Photo Credit: Lee Arkhie Perez

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The FSM Development Bank proudly celebrates 40 years of growth and achievements in the FSM. Our success reflects the commitment of numerous individuals working together with a united vision and goal. Over the past 40 years, FSMDB has played a key role in the growth of our nation. Through successful financial partnerships, we have positively impacted local sectors such as Tourism, Real Estate, Wholesale/Retail, Agriculture/Fisheries, Transportation and Construction. In commemoration of our 40th Anniversary, FSMDB is hosting several events within the local community. Earlier this year, the bank sponsored the COM-FSM F4 (Food & Fashion Friday Festival), which was a local business development initiative that featured a marketplace atmosphere presenting colorful displays of food, fun, and fashion for the community. The bank then held an essay contest featuring local high school juniors and seniors as well as COM-FSM students. Additionally, nearly 300 residents of Pohnpei turned up for the FSMDB 40th Anniversary Fun Walk/Run from Palm Terrace to Dekehtik. There are also several upcoming community events to look forward to, of which include a "Local Products Competition" in Chuuk, a "Local Marketing Contest" in Yap and a "Trashathon" event in Kosrae. Furthermore, through these outreach initiatives, we hope to strengthen our relationship with the local communities while further promoting and facilitating local development. We are proud to be Micronesia's Premiere Development Finance Partner and Leading Catalyst for Transforming FSM Sustainable Development. The FSM Development Bank is your partner in business and we look forward to serving the Micronesian community for 40 more years to come.



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 P.O. Box 786
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ECA Cultural Preservation and Youth Empowerment Projects Lead to New Discoveries in Micronesian Cultural History

By Adam R. Shapiro on July 24, 2019

Source: <https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2019/07/24/en/eca-cultural-preservation-and-youth-empowerment-projects-lead-new-discoveries>

American and Micronesian experts and students working on two complementary U.S. Department of State programs to conserve and document cultural heritage in Micronesia have discovered evidence of complex agricultural and irrigation earthworks that could reshape Pacific Island history. These discoveries relate to Nan Madol, an abandoned city of islets built on a coral reef flat that was the center of Pohnpeian civilization until the seventeenth century. In addition to funding archeological work at Nan Madol, the Department of State is also working with the College of Micronesia to ensure that local understanding of the site and its cultural significance are central to interpreting these new discoveries. These projects celebrate the shared history and support stronger ties between the people and governments of the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), while also demonstrating the benefits of integrating scientific research and cultural diplomacy.

Located in one of the rainiest places on earth and built from basalt columns and boulders that would have required extensive labor resources to transport and assemble, Nan Madol has long been a site of fascination for Western explorers and writers who have described it in romantic and exotic language. Today, breadfruit and banana trees, along with other vegetation, dominate the site. Roots have dislodged the basalt and coral foundations of the islets and threaten to topple and destroy the structures. In the shallow channels between islets, mangroves grow mostly unchecked, making much of the site inaccessible. In 2016, UNESCO designated Nan Madol a World Heritage Site, placing it on its list of "World Heritage in Danger."

In 2017, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley initiated a major grant request from the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) because "the ninety-nine islands of Nan Madol represent a cultural treasure, but they are threatened by overgrowth." Pulling back vegetation will not only help preserve the site, but allow for easier access by researchers and tourists, he stated on a ShareAmerica blog. The main purpose of the AFCP-funded project is to document Nan Madol and develop conservation, interpretation, and management plans for the site in cooperation with Micronesia's Office of National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation. But at the time the project was funded, Ambassador Riley also asserted that a secondary objective of the project was to ascertain, using LiDAR, if there might not be features of the site that had been hidden over the ages by accretions of vegetation and/or soil.

In an effort to understand how water currents affect Nan Madol, AFCP grantee Cultural Site Research and Management Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland (CSRMF) performed a LiDAR survey of Nan Madol and the adjacent Temwen Island. LiDAR uses millions of light pulses to detect shapes and structures. By digitally removing vegetation from LiDAR images, archaeological features that are hidden by tree canopies and undergrowth can be revealed. Because of this use, LiDAR technology has become a game-changer for archaeology in the past decade. CSRMF were the first to use LiDAR at Nan Madol and Temwen and what they uncovered proved not only important to understanding water flow, but may explain how the civilization that built Nan Madol supported its population and concentrated its power.

According to Dr. Douglas Comer of CSRMF "analysis of LiDAR data produced surprising results, most notably imagery of an amazingly complex system of irrigated fields covering Temwen island, concealed by dense vegetation that has grown up since the site was abandoned approximately 400 years ago." Although "the consensus among archaeologists has been that there was no intensification of agriculture in Micronesia by means of formal field systems," and that fermented breadfruit was one of the only source of preserved foods, these fields suggest an early and complex cultivation of taro, which could have provided greater food security and the economic strength necessary for this Micronesian civilization to thrive. This discovery raises questions about accepted chronologies for human settlement and development in the Pacific.



Photo By: Denise Oen

In conjunction with the AFCP award, ECA also awarded a grant to the College of Micronesia (COM) for a pilot program developed by the Collaboratory, the Bureau's innovation initiative. The grant identified a team of students who had been compiling oral histories of the country's elders, and provided them with equipment and training to document and interpret the preservation of Nan Madol. This youth empowerment program has already seen positive results, giving Micronesian students experience and professional contacts. Professor Denise Oen, who's supervising the project at COM, described how the filmmakers were asked to assist a professional crew who had come to the island to produce a separate documentary about Nan Madol. "Folks have been so wonderful with our students. Very respectful, very open to engaging with them on their own terms."

But with CSRMF's discovery on Temwen Island, the Collaboratory project has reaped additional benefits. In part because they are working with Micronesian youth, CSRMF has been able to access private land to verify at ground level the LiDAR discoveries made from the air. COM students are producing videos that will be incorporated into the eventual Nan Madol visitor center and will be shared with other audiences in the United States and across the Pacific islands. They insist that the project of compiling and curating these stories is inseparable from the physical work of preservation. "The way I see it, as long as we have something to see—Nan Madol—I would say that's the crowning achievement of our culture," said Pj Pedrus, one of the students participating in the Collaboratory project at the College of Micronesia. "As long as it's there we'll always have stories surrounding it. And if it erodes away like what's being told. If we don't have that, I think the stories will eventually fade away."

According to Comer, the data from this project will prompt the next "thirty years of dissertations" on Micronesian culture and heritage. Because of this collaboration, some of that next generation of historical and archeological experts may already be doing the work of documenting and interpreting these discoveries.

About the Author: Adam R. Shapiro, Ph.D. serves as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow, with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

**Registration for
Fall 2019**
Fall 2019 Regular Registration is scheduled
on August 14 - August 16, 2019 for all campuses.
Contact us for more information.

Student Orientation Fall 2019
CTEC and National Campus new and transfer students of Summer and Fall 2019 are required to attend the student orientation on August 6, 2019.

Venue: FSM-China Friendship Sports Center – Practice Gym COM-FSM National Campus

Time & Date: 8:30AM to 12:00PM, Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Third Year Certificate of Achievement in Teacher Preparation - Elementary

Venue: MITC Rooms COM-FSM National Campus

Time & Date: 1:00PM-4:00PM, Tuesday, August 6, 2019
9:00AM-4:00PM, Wednesday, August 7, 2019

FSM names Falcam to serve as Chief Negotiator for Compact Negotiations with the United States

Joint Committee On Compact Review And Planning (JCRP)

July 31, 2019

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—The Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP) of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) announced today the selection of Mr. Leo A. Falcam Jr. as the nation's Chief Negotiator for expected negotiations with the United States on the expiring provisions of the Amended Compact of Free Association.

Mr. Falcam is currently Chief of Staff to H.E. President David W. Panuelo and has now served in that capacity for three consecutive FSM Presidents.

"Chief Falcam is the right person for the job at this juncture in our development," stated JCRP Chairman Asterio R. Takesy. "He is well-respected both within the FSM and the US and will speak with the clear, unified voice of our country in the upcoming



Mr. Gerson A. Jackson, Mr. Bethwel Henry, Chief Negotiator Leo A. Falcam Jr., Chairman Asterio R. Takesy, Senator Aren B. Palik, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert.

negotiations. In short, he is an ideal choice to advance the FSM's interests in these critical discussions," Mr. Takesy added.

In his letter recommending and endorsing Mr. Falcam for the position, President Panuelo wrote, "The value that I endorse in my Chief of Staff does not originate from any one particular action, event or activity; rather, it originates from the depth and breadth of experience, expertise and credibility that he has demonstrated and enjoyed over the years, and the confidence that I, and many others, place in his ability

to help our Nation to chart an effective and reasonable path towards achieving our National and self-sustaining goals."

Mr. Falcam currently serves as FSM representative to the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) and the Joint Committee on Security and Defense (JCM), two bodies with FSM and US representatives that are responsible for oversight of implementation of the Amended Compact.

In addition, Mr. Falcam is a retired Colonel in the United States Marine Corps with 31 years of distinguished service. Among his many commendations, Mr. Falcam has received two Legion of Merit Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Mr. Falcam attended Argentine National Defense College in Buenos Aires and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia. In 1981 he received a BS degree in Aviation Science from Parks College of Saint Louis University. He is a graduate of Xavier High School in Chuuk

State, FSM.

Mr. Falcam is the son of the late President Leo A. Falcam and the late Mrs. Iris Falcam. His father's distinguished career in public service included service as the first Governor of Pohnpei State and the fifth President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The JCRP was established as a joint committee comprising nine members: one representative from each of the four states as appointed by the President, in consultation with the leadership of each state; four representatives from the FSM Congress, including one from each congressional delegation; and the FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs, who serves as ex officio member. It was established, among other purposes, to help coordinate the Nation's preparation for effective and smooth post-Compact government, to prepare for the renegotiation with the US of expiring Compact economic provisions, and to select a chief negotiator for the nation.

Several highly qualified candidates were considered in an extensive process.

Vaccine Preventing Cervical and Penile Cancers is Available in the FSM

*By Joey Wichep, Health Educator
FSM Immunization Program*

Years ago, the vaccine that prevents cervical cancer in women as well as penile cancer in men was not available in the FSM. Today, that vaccine called the Human Papillomavirus (HPV9) is available in all the public health centers in each of the four FSM states. The HPV9 vaccine provides safe, effective, and long-lasting protection.

The HPV9 vaccine was first available in the FSM in late 2009 and administered only for 5th grade girls ages 10-12. Starting next school year (2020-2021), HPV will be given to boys ages 10-12 as well.

To administer the HPV9 vaccine, the public health staff in each of the FSM states will work closely with the elementary schools and parents across the country to explain to them the benefit of the vaccine. Part of this public education will include having consent forms from parents. The HPV9 vaccine is given in two doses. After the first dose is given, the second dose is administered within 6 months. Receiving both doses ensures maximum benefit of full protection so it is highly recommended that parents ensure their children receive both doses.

The FSM Immunization Program is sharing this to keep the FSM children safe and protected for life. All the vaccines that the programs administer to the children are effective and safe. There is no reason a child should not receive the recommended vaccines, including the HPV. FSM is fortunate to receive these effective and good quality vaccines from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The benefits of these vaccines far outweigh any potential risk of side effects.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our FSM Immunization Program at telephone numbers 320-2619/2643/2872. If you would like to contact your public health departments within your respective states, please call telephone numbers 320-3144 (Pohnpei), 330-3945 (Chuuk), 350-2115 (Yap), and 370-2125 (Kosrae).

FSM's Department of Resources & Development enhances partnerships with Food & Agriculture Organization and International Fund for Agricultural Development



FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Department of Resources & Development is steadily expanding the capacity of its Division of Agriculture to provide continuous food security to the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) through the development of an agricultural development proposal in partnership with the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The purpose of the partnership, in part, is to develop a National Agriculture Investment Plan.

The FSM, particularly its out-lying atolls, rely heavily on banana trees and taro patches, the former of which can fall relatively easily in storms that damage food security but may

not necessarily result in damage to buildings and other physical infrastructure. The latter could be devastated from salt water intrusion. In other words, while certain Tropical Storms and Typhoons may generate news headlines—such as Typhoon Wutip—even those without attention by local and international media can still cause food security issues to the FSM's communities.

Beginning on March 14, 2019, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) issued a special call for proposals for funding food security programs in countries deemed fragile due to risks associated with climate change. The World Bank classifies 24 countries as being fragile in this

See "Agricultural Plan" on next page

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Commissioner's Office

Office of the Pohnpei Election Commission

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Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Tel: (691) 320-3469 Fax: (691) 320-8907 Email: pohnpeielection@yahoo.com

TIMETABLE

For November 12, 2019

PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE POHNPEI ELECTION CODE	IMPORTANT DUE DATES (DEADLINES)	EVENTS/ACTIVITIES
Legal Residence 10 PC §1 – 103(6)	Close: Nov. 12, 2018	A person registering to vote may only be designated as his or her legal residence if the person was born in the local jurisdiction or he or she has actually resided in the local jurisdiction for at least one (1) year preceding the date of the next election.
General Election – when held 10 PC §6 – 102	November 12, 2019	General Election for the Governor, Lt. Governor and the Legislators shall be held simultaneously every four years, on the second Tuesday in November .
Time for filing Nomination Petitions 10 PC §5 – 111 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: July 5, 2019 Close: Aug. 14, 2019	In the general elections, nominating petitions for candidates to elective office shall be filed with the Election Commissioner not more than one hundred (130) days or less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of the election.
Request for Absentee Ballot Off Island 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: June 15, 2019 Close: Oct. 3, 2019	Request for absentee ballots shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than one hundred fifty (150) days nor less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election.
Request for Absentee Ballot On Island 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 Close: Nov. 11, 2019	Request for absentee ballots by reason of Travel shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
Voting by Confine Voters 10 PC §6 – 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 November 11, 2019	Any registered voter qualified to vote at any general or special election who is physically present in the state but who is confined or hospitalized because of illness or physical disability as will prevent him or her from attending the polls shall request for an absentee ballot with the election commissioner not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
Marking and returning of absentee ballots: 10 PC §6 – 117 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	October 3, 2019	Not less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election, the election commissioner shall send to persons who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot outside the state and who request the same, a ballot envelope, affidavit and a covering reply envelope.
POSTMARKED ballot envelope	November 11, 2019	The ballot envelop and the affidavit shall be enclosed and sealed in the covering envelop and shall be postmarked NOT later than MIDNIGHT on the day before the election.
Absentee ballots Must be received	November 21, 2019	Absentee ballots must be received by the Election Commissioner prior to the close of business, no later than seven (7) working days after the election day.
Substitute Candidate 10 PC §5 – 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Five (5) days after a vacancy is declared	If a candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor or other singular elected position dies, withdraws or disqualified after the deadline for filing nomination petitions resulting in either not candidate or an unopposed candidate, substitute candidate may be nominated following the same procedure as the candidate who died, withdrew or was disqualified.
Recount 10 PC §7 – 101(3)	One week (7) days after certification date	Petition for recount must be filed within one week (7) days of certification of the result of the election.
Run-Off Elections 10 PC §6 – 103	December 10, 2019	Runoff elections shall be held 28 days after the date of the general election. In a runoff election, there is no write in ballots

Emilio Eperiam
Pohnpei Election Commissioner
Pohnpei State Government
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

June 6, 2019
Date

...Agricultural Investment Plan

Continued from previous page

capacity, of which the FSM is one of five in the Pacific—the others being the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

With 100 million dollars available to finance projects under the GAFSP, with proposals assessed on a competitive basis, the FSM National Government was quick to develop and enhance collaborative partnerships to begin developing a National Agriculture Investment Plan, of which a roadmap for such a plan is necessary for the FSM to qualify for GAFSP funding.

On the 10th of July 2019 at the Pohnpei State Government Conference Room in Kolonia, the FSM Department of Resources & Development hosted a stakeholder consultation workshop in collaboration with its FAO and IFAD partners. The objective of the workshop was to discuss with members of the FSM National and FSM State Governments, private sector, and civil society, national investment priorities for agriculture as required for the development of the GAFSP agricultural development proposal.

The FSM Department of Resources & Development wishes to thank all of the following stakeholders and partners that participated: FSM Office of Overseas Development Assistance & Compact Management; FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs; FSM Department of Finance & Administration; FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management; FSM Department of Education; FSM Department of Transportation, Communications, & Infrastructure; FSM Association of Chambers of Commerce; Pohnpei State Department of Resources & Development; Micronesia Conservation Trust; College of Micronesia-FSM's Cooperative Research Extension; Conservation Society of Pohnpei; Pohnpei State's Department of Treasury & Administration; Pohnpei State's Office of Fisheries & Aquaculture; Pohnpei Farmers Association; and Pohnpei State's Environmental Protection Agency.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT: Assistant - G5, Fixed Term Appointment for WHO-CLO/FSM



The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking a qualified individual to serve as the Assistant (G5, Fixed Term Appointment) for WHO/CLO-FSM office.

The duration of the contract for this position is two (2) years.

The Assistant will be based at the WHO/CLO-FSM office in Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, and will provide general support, administrative and finance assistance to the country office.

Description of duties:

Under the guidance and supervision of the Country Liaison Officer (CLO), the incumbent provides support in the following areas:

1. Screens incoming correspondence, documents and reports and routes to the CLO, including relevant background materials; ensures proper distribution and follows up on deadlines;
2. Takes/transcribes correspondence, reports etc. from dictation, tapes and manuscripts, using word processing software, and takes notes at meetings and prepares minutes;
3. Drafts/prepares general correspondence, briefing notes, background materials etc. on brief instruction or own initiative, and types/formats statements, reports, and studies including statistical tables and other materials; verifies that outgoing correspondence is presented in accordance with WHO style, check language, grammar and accuracy prior to submitting for signature and clearance;
4. Opens, organizes and maintains general project files with appropriate systems for any follow-up actions;
5. Sets up schedules of appointments for the CLO and visitors; places and screens telephone calls and answers queries with discretion;
6. Maintains, updates and monitors information on workplans/project activities in the Global Management System (GSM) including encumbrances and expenditures monitoring and tracking sheets; and generates reports as required; provides CLO with timely information on project and task budget ceilings, award budgets, expenditure, and funds available, as required;
7. Assists in the recruitment of temporary advisors, temporary and fixed term staff by initiating the relevant administrative formalities and in the processing of other types of contractual arrangements; monitors status and maintains a follow-up system;
8. Arranges, coordinates and leads administrative preparation for meetings, seminars, workshops, including letters of invitation, costs calculation and travel requests; assists with the preparation of documents, dispatching of materials and liaising with participants and others involved;
9. Makes travel arrangements for the CLO and others as appropriate; prepares briefing material for his/her use on official trips or special meetings;
10. Assists the CLO in the development and oversight of Agreements for Performance of Work (APWs) to ensure contractors fulfil their obligations and follows up with governments on the submission of Funding

Authorization and Certification of Expenditure (FACE) reports and administers fellowship programme work;

11. Maintains imprest accounts, responsible for checking invoices, preparation of imprest returns including recording and reconciling financial statements;
12. Provides inventory and fixed asset reporting as needed;
13. In the absence of the CLO, assumes administrative responsibility for the day-to-day, routine operations of the office;
14. Performs other related duties as required or instructed, including providing support to other areas of work.

Required Qualifications:

Education:

Essential: Equivalent to graduation from secondary school with secretarial/administrative training.

Experience:

Essential: Five (5) year experience in secretarial/administrative posts.

Desirable: Experience in administrative support positions in WHO or another UN agency an asset. Experience in Oracle-based or other Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems an asset.

Skills: Good communication and interpersonal skills; Ability to act with tact, diplomacy, discretion and respect for confidentiality; Ability to prepare correspondence, summary of meetings, documentation and notes for the record, etc; Ability to discern routine from non-routine; Good computer skills and ability to adapt to various software applications; Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team, adapt to diverse educational and cultural backgrounds, and maintain a high standard of professional and personal conduct.

Required Competencies:

- Knowing and managing yourself
- Producing results
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
- Setting an example
- Ensuring the effective use of resources

Timeline/Duration of assignment:

Two (2) years at Pohnpei, FSM country office.

Remuneration: WHO offers staff in the General Services category an attractive remuneration package, which for the above position includes an annual net base salary starting at USD 10,118 (subject to mandatory deductions for pension contributions and health insurance, as applicable) and 30 days of annual leave.

Interested applicants should apply through WHO online application system (<https://www.who.int/careers/en/>) by 7 August 2019 (Wednesday) to the following address: <https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=1903545&tz=GMT%2B11%3A00&tzname=>

Full Terms of Reference (ToR) can be obtained from WHO/CLO-FSM office in Palikir, Pohnpei or call (691) 320-8804 for more questions.

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The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) awards 5 new Graduate Scholarships

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and partners of the Micronesia Challenge are proud to announce the selection of the 2019 cohort of talented young professionals to receive Graduate level scholarships under two regional scholarship opportunities available through MCT. The 5 new recipients brings the total number of Graduate students supported to 13 from across the region.

The Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship was made possible by an initial contribution from the estate of one of Micronesia's conservation pioneers, William (Bill) Charles Raynor (Feb. 22nd, 1957-Sept. 1st, 2015). For over 30 years, he engaged in significant and meaningful conservation work across Micronesia. Among his many pioneering efforts, he helped launch The Nature Conservancy's program in Micronesia, focusing on innovative, community-led conservation and building partnerships. He also helped to establish and strengthen several non-governmental organizations in Micronesia, that are now leading conservation and sustainable development work in their jurisdictions. His inspiring leadership, deep commitment, and passion for innovation were critical to the success of groundbreaking initiatives at every scale—ranging from sustainable agriculture practices for local villages to international agreements to protect biodiversity. Over the course of his three decades in the region, Bill supported and mentored emerging environmental leaders who have the passion and the potential to continue the conservation initiatives and maintain the Micronesia Challenge commitment that he and the other conservation pioneers helped establish in the region.

The Scholarship Fund aims to contribute to the development of effective conservation of Micronesia's biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods across the region. It provides an opportunity for individuals from Micronesia to undertake either a Master or Doctorate degree in any resource management/conservation field. The selected scholars focus on leadership and technical skills and/or majors that enhance their ability to carry out work in conservation, climate adaptation and sustainable development in

Micronesia. Awardees of this prestigious scholarship will receive financial support to earn graduate degrees while receiving close guidance and mentorship from key individuals within the Micronesia Challenge partnership. The mentors/advisors are technical experts who have extensive experience in the field of conservation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development in Micronesia/Pacific.

In addition to the BRMC, the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation/ Japan (APIC), Sophia University and MCT have partnered to select current conservation professionals from Micronesia to pursue graduate level degrees in conservation. Sophia University has committed to providing full tuition scholarships, APIC is covering travel and room and board expenses and MCT, through the BRMC funds, is covering the cost of internships for the students.

The 2019 Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge program scholars are:

Carey Demapan: From Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Ms. Demapan currently works for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) as the Public Outreach Specialist for the Sea Turtle Program. She will complete her Master's of Science in Environmental Management at the University of Maryland.

Jovalyn Ilong Koshiba: From the Republic of Palau, Ms. Koshiba is currently the Grants Program Officer for the Palau Protected Areas Network Fund (PAN Fund). She will pursue her Master's of Business Administration from Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Lincy Marino: From the Republic of Palau, Ms. Marino currently works at the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) as a researcher. She will complete her Master's in Science in Sustainable Management from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay.

The Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation/ Japan (APIC), Sophia University scholars:

Elchung Hideyos: From the Republic of Palau, Ms. Hideyos currently works at the Ebiil Society as the Youth/Community Education Program Coordinator. She will complete her Master's in Global Environmental Studies at Sophia University.

Annette Rose Ludwig: Ms Ludwig, a Pohnpeian who was raised in Fiji and currently resides in Guam, is a research assistant at the herbarium of the University of Guam. She will pursue her Master's in Global Environmental Studies at Sophia University.



N-DOE Conducts 9th Micronesia Teacher Education Conference (MTEC)

By Alvie Cavanez

The National-Department of Education (N-DOE) conducted the 9th Micronesia Teacher Education Conference (MTEC) with the theme, "Owning Our Successes While Focusing on Our Strengths". It was held at Nett Elementary School, Pohnpei on July 22-26, 2019. It was participated by teachers and dignitaries from the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The participants were welcomed at a reception dinner at Mangrove Bay. It was a simple dinner for the participants to settle in and get acquainted with the rest of the participants. Participants from Nett, Uh, and other outer islands entertained the crowd with a song and cultural presentation.

His Excellency, President David W. Panuelo, delivered his message. "We have invested heavily on education as indicated in our compact spending. Our children are learning from qualified local teachers, virtually all of whom are now certified under national guidelines, in schools that are constantly improving and measured through the FSM School Accreditation process, with the result being that many of our children are accepted into colleges in the USA and universities around the world. We must recognize these successes, and focus on these strengths; human resources, and must continue to be at the top in our nation's priority," he said.

The weeklong conference was capped by the recognition of the Teacher of the Year. Mr. Erwin Alex was awarded Pohnpei State Teacher of the Year for school year 2018-2019. He has been teaching at Saladak Elementary School for fourteen years. He is working closely with the principal to ensure that the school curriculum is carried out accordingly, with daily preparations of engaging learning activities through teachers' continuous collaborative was selected by the Kosrae Department of Education (KDOE) as Teacher of the Year 2018-2019. She believes that student success is created through meaningful relationships. Mr. Erson Louis was selected by the Chuuk Department of Education as Teacher of the Year. Mr. Kenneth Mathberg, was selected by Yap Department of Education as Teacher of the Year.

Another highlight was the concurrent sessions strategically presented each day. The topics presented during the sessions were actually excerpted from published research. They included: How to Use Teaching Materials Effectively in Math Class presented by Misawa Masatoshi; Yap & Kosrae Geo-Literacy Education in Micronesia presented by Joyminda George & Caroline Dapuksiy; High School Math Calculator presented by Dr. Kyaw Soe; Deep Reading Comprehension Strategy presented by Mayleen Lynn Tiningidow; and Improving Learning Outcome of Children through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools presented by BJ Joseph.

Each day ended with a dinner reception at Mangrove Bay. Various delicacies from each state were served from yam, taro, breadfruit, and delectable dishes made from fish. Each state showcased the beauty of their island through a meaningful cultural presentation. One group performed Tokia wearing grass skirts. Another group performed wearing Hawaiian Lava-lava. The Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS) music club

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...Anti-corruption

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Nation.” He also reminded the audience that “we should not want corruption to become the normal state of affairs because this corrodes society and undermines sustainable development.”

The Honorable Iso Ihlen Joseph, Public Auditor for Pohnpei State, spoke in detail about his extensive experience in finance and public auditing, and then how the activities of the past can inform the events of the future.

“Many moons ago, I received a call from the late [and former President] Bailey Olter,” Iso said, describing a story when he served in the FSM National Government. “And I had noticed at that time that corruption was very active...I reviewed a public project [for purchasing trucks], and they provided everything [perfectly]. Purchase orders, requisitions, invoices from the vendors, et cetera. So we went to the supplier, and I said ‘do you sell cars?’ He said no.”

The President listened intently as Iso spoke about additional prior experiences with improper usage of public spending. Iso described how the improper usage of public money played a role in the development of the Joint Economic Committee (JEMCO) process in the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, which some have criticized—to include this administration—as being difficult to work with, particularly in the implementation of infrastructure funding. “The President [Bailey Olter] didn’t like it,” Iso said, “[and] I didn’t like it. Nobody liked it. But it happened because of [improper use of public money i.e. corruption].”

“To say out loud what we know in our hearts: corruption undermines public service,” President Panuelo said. “We must find a solution that reduces, and eventually eliminates, corruption in our Nation.”

The FSM National Government is committed to becoming the embodiment of transparency, openness, and accountability, and extends its appreciation to the participants of the National Workshop for the Development & Implementation of a National Anti-Corruption Strategy in the FSM, with special recognition to Mr. Jason Reichelt, Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice Officer of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna and Ms. Annika Wythes from the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project in Suva, Fiji.

...MTEC

Continued from previous page

sang a couple of local songs that kept the audience singing. The Municipality of Madolenihmw, Kitt, Sokehs, also entertained the participants with song and cultural presentations.

The dignitaries present during the conference were: Ms. Alice Ehmes, Chairwoman, PDOE Board of Education; Honorable Nelsin Iriarte, District Administrator, Nett Municipal Government; Honorable Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor, Pohnpei State Government; Honorable Sendilina Lekka, Pohnpei State Legislature; Honorable Tony Sarapio, Chief Magistrate, Kitt Municipal Government; Honorable Ausen T. Lambert, Speaker, Pohnpei State Legislature; and Mr. Peter Ramirez, Acting Director, PDOE.

The event was made possible through the collaboration of NDOE and Pohnpei State DOE Steering Committee headed Mr. Pressler Martin.

President Panuelo and Vice President George receive Philanthropist Ted Waitt, discuss environmental protection & marine resource sustainability

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On July 25th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the FSM, received Mr. Ted Waitt, philanthropist and founder of the Waitt Foundation and Institute, in a highly anticipated meeting to discuss the Nation’s contemporary environmental protection and conservation measures, and to determine a potential partnership between the FSM National Government and a group of powerhouse nonprofits. Also in attendance were the Honorable Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor of Pohnpei State; the Honorable Innocente Oneisom, Speaker of the Chuuk State House of Representatives; the Honorable Arthy G. Nena, Lieutenant Governor of Kosrae State; and the Honorable Jesse Salalu, Lieutenant Governor of Yap State, in addition to members of the President’s Cabinet and representatives from Oceans 5 and the Blue Prosperity Coalition.



A follow-up to President Panuelo’s meeting with the National Geographic Society’s CEO Tracy Wolstencroft during his trip to Washington D.C. in May 2019, the discussion began with the President reiterating the relevance and importance of environmental protection. “Throughout the Pacific Islands, subsistence agriculture is the mode of survival here—so environmental preservation...has been a long tradition,” the President said. “No matter how much we try to develop... if we don’t care for the environment, there will come a day where we learn that we cannot eat money.”

The President continued by emphasizing what the FSM has already done to promote and protect its environmental heritage, including the development of Conservation Societies for each of the FSM States, the Technology for Tuna Transparency (T3) Challenge—which seeks to ensure 100% transparency in the Nation’s tuna fisheries by 2023—the development of numerous Marine Protected Areas and, among additional successes and goals, the Micronesia Challenge—of which the Nation and its regional allies agreed in the 2019 Micronesian Islands Forum to effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources by 2030.

“My view of the world is that we are a sovereign Nation...but as a Nation we exist in the World, and so we are global citizens who carry within ourselves equally global responsibilities,” the President said. “So the relationship we have with our ocean, our waters, and our biodiversity is something that... has to be first and foremost.”

In response, Mr. Waitt described how the Blue Prosperity Coalition—which is comprised of 19 global ocean organizations and experts, including the Waitt Institute, National Geographic Pristine Seas, Oceans 5, and Dynamic Planet—can assist the FSM with protecting its environment, with a focus on conserving its marine resources.

“Everything we do with the Blue Prosperity Coalition is...science-based, and done in consultation with the community. We’re here to help [the FSM]...be a model for the rest of the world,” Mr. Waitt said. “The [FSM’s environmental heritage] is a treasure for the whole world...but if it doesn’t benefit the citizens of the FSM, then what’s the point? That’s why...we [have] to be good for the environment and for the economy.”

“We’d be honored to assist in [conserving] this wonderful treasure, that’s a global treasure, to help you protect it and build a robust and vibrant economy,” Mr. Waitt continued.

After the meeting proper, President Panuelo and Mr. Waitt visited Ant Atoll to continue discussing how the FSM can protect, promote, and benefit from, its natural environment. It was mutually agreed that further announcements, if any, on their discussions would be disseminated at an appropriate international venue, such as the United Nations General Assembly.



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