

# US Secretary of State Pompeo makes historic first visit to the FSM and makes big announcement for FSM future relations

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 5, 2019

**Pohnpei, FSM**—“We’re taking concrete actions to solidify our bonds,” said United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo during a press conference in Palikir, Pohnpei this evening with FSM President David Panuelo, Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, and Palau Vice President Raynold Oilouch. “Today, I’m pleased to announce that the United States has begun negotiations on extending our respective compacts of free association with each country,” he announced regarding the treaties with the three nations collectively known as Freely Associated States (FAS).

It was the hoped for first official announcement the United States has made of its intentions to renegotiate the expiring provisions of the Compacts of Free Association with the FAS.



Though Pompeo’s statement declared that the negotiations intended to work toward extending the Compacts, the Compacts were never set to expire. The Compacts are separate bilateral treaties between the United States and the individual FAS in perpetuity, subject to cancellation by either party. None of the parties has

officially discussed cancelling the treaty. What is set to expire in the FSM at the end of 2023 is the Compact sector grants that the United States has provided to the FSM since the agreement was initially made. The proceeds of the Compact Trust Fund were to have taken the place of the sector grants but that Trust Fund has not performed anywhere near the expectations

of the parties.

“I am here to reaffirm the United States will help you protect your sovereignty, your security, your right to live in freedom and peace. Just as we did during World War II, we will oppose any larger nation’s

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## Five arrested for theft of gasoline worth over \$5000

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 16, 2019

**Pohnpei**—Pohnpei State has arrested and charged five men for their alleged involvement in multiple thefts of gasoline with a value of over \$5000 that

took place over the period of 21 weeks at Amcres gas station. Arrested and charged were Maynard Joel, an employee of Amcres; Jermy Raymond and Hetler Helgenberger, employees of Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation and; Lizardo Pongtan and Paulino Leopold who were

charged with receiving stolen goods. All of the men were released on separate surety bonds of \$500 each.

The criminal information that prosecutors

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# Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs makes historic visit to the FSM

## FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On August 7th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received the Honorable Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of Japan, in a historic visit. The meeting marked the first time a Minister of Foreign Affairs officially visited the Nation, and approximately 48 hours after the Honorable Michael Pompeo—Secretary of the U.S. Department of State, the United State's equivalent to Minister Kono—met with President Panuelo. The primary outcome of the meeting is that the FSM-Japan relationship, already known for being unique and profoundly powerful, will become even stronger in the days, weeks, years, and decades to come.

"We welcome you, Minister Kono; this is a historic visit, the very first time Japan's Foreign Minister has graced our islands," President Panuelo began. "People [in the FSM] have never heard so many sirens [indicating that a very important person is being protected and transited to meet with the President]. Our citizens are excited about your visit as well."

President Panuelo described how the Nation's relationship with Japan is enduring and unique. The President emphasized that a primary component of the Nation's relationship with the U.S.—including security arrangements, and commitments to a free and open Indo-Pacific—are augmented by Japan's dedication to peace, and its active participatory role in the FSM's development.

"It's a great pleasure and...honor to welcome a very true friend, Japan, to our shores. And you, Minister Kono, embody that relationship between our two nations," President Panuelo continued. "FSM and Japan have a history going back for so many years," Minister Kono said. "We have to do this much more often. We have

decided to increase our commitment to the Pacific Island region, and hopefully we can enhance the cooperation between the FSM and Japan."

Minister Kono and President Panuelo discussed how infrastructure and people-to-people relationships go hand-in-hand. "We really need to work on a flight connection between Japan and the FSM," Minister Kono said. "I told Director [Kohei Nakamura of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Oceania Division] that he will be personally responsible for establishing a direct flight connection here." Minister Kono repeated this statement in the Press Conference which followed after the bilateral meeting, emphasizing the sincerity of the commitment and the urgent need for such a development to occur.

"We're going to be doing a lot of cooperation with the United States and Australia," Minister Kono continued, describing initiatives ranging from disaster prevention support to cooperation in tackling illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing. "We are very happy to sign for the project to improve the security of [the FSM's] airports, post offices, and seaports."

"And I am happy to report to you, Minister, that the [Dekehtik, Pohnpei] port [land issue] has been taken care of," President Panuelo replied.

Pohnpei State's port has been assessed and evaluated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to determine how it can be expanded and improved, and the project to expand the port was at risk of collapsing until the legal issues surrounding it were recently concluded.

President Panuelo noted that the Pohnpei port extension project had been requested by the FSM National Government several years prior, "So we're happy to see the progress in terms of the technical assessment with JICA.

This project is so very important; we wish to reiterate it again for your support, Minister Kono."

Minister Kono and President Panuelo then spent most, and approximately equal parts, of their remaining conversation on topics of mutual interest in regional security and people-to-people relationships.

"Keeping the Indo-Pacific region stable and peaceful, with the freedom of navigation, is very important," President Panuelo said. "We have been and want to continue working closely with [Japan] to keep a free Indo-Pacific.... We want to assure you that with the FSM, Japan, United States, and Australia, we can work together to keep the region peaceful."

President Panuelo noted that people-to-people relations are perhaps the most visible and meaningful to citizens of the FSM, who may not know the specific details of regional security arrangements but are highly aware of the JICA Volunteer teaching mathematics at their child's elementary school, the opening of a Japanese film festival, or infrastructure projects ranging from gymnasiums to airport runway extensions.

In the context of enhancing FSM-Japan people-to-people relations, Minister Kono shared good news for the FSM's children.

"The Government of Japan has decided to invite children from the Pacific region to come and watch the [2020] Tokyo Olympic Games," Minister Kono said. The FSM National Government looks forward to advocating for ensuring as many children of the FSM have the opportunity to attend the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as possible.

The FSM and Japan celebrated their 30th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations in 2018, but have over 100 years of shared history. The FSM National Government looks forward to strengthening and enhancing its cooperation with the people and Government of Japan across all sectors for the benefit of the Nation's citizens.



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# Pohnpei bans sale, use, or possession of E-cigarettes Prohibition on smoking and betel nut chewing still stands

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 15, 2019

**Pohnpei**—A recently passed law (9L-113-19) bans the sale, use, and possession of electronic smoking devices or “E-cigarettes” in the State of Pohnpei. It requires that all visitors to Pohnpei who are in possession of an electronic smoking device must surrender the device to the Port Authorities on arrival and can retrieve the device upon departure from Pohnpei. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$500, imprisonment for up to 9 days, or both.

The Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services recently released an educational announcement about the new law. The summary of the new E-Cigarette law was crystal clear. They are banned outright in Pohnpei State. Not so clear were the Department’s summaries of older laws regarding smoking and betel nut chewing, one of them passed in early 2012 and the other in 2016 and amended in 2017.

The Health and Social Services announcement generated comments on social media platforms with some angrily posting that the law infringed

on their rights. The confusion is likely the result of the summary’s listing of “public gathering places” without a clear or accurate definition of what “public gathering places” really are under the law. The summaries seem to indicate that neither betel nut nor tobacco products can be consumed in just about any place a person could possibly be.

The announcement’s summary of the two older public laws say that both smoking and betel nut chewing are banned, “... inside all government offices and public gathering places such as buildings and settings, including churches, traditional houses (nahs), hospitals, clinics, classrooms, cars, boats, etc.”

To be fair to the summarizers, the definition of “public places” in the code banning smoking in certain places is 265 words long.

The law banning betel nut use in certain places has a similar definition of the term “public place”, though the opening paragraph in the definition section of that law is informative. It defines “public place” as, “... any place, fixed or mobile, including any work place, to which members of the general public or segments of the general public ordinarily

have access by express or implied invitation...” It then lists non-exhaustive examples of public places including an area of 25 feet directly outside of each public entrance way into a public place. In all other places, the law prohibits betel nut chewing unless the user is spitting directly into a container that can be closed immediately.

The list of banned places for smoking and for betel nut use is comparable except for a longer list of places where smoking is banned and definitions of places of conditions under which the smoking ban is limited. That law bans smoking “in the enclosed areas of inter-island ocean vessels,” implying that smoking would be allowed in outside areas aboard the field trip ship.

Neither the 2016 law on betel nut chewing that the Department of Health summarized in its notice, nor as that law was amended in 2017 seems to allow for betel nut chewing in any form aboard the vessel.

No one at the Pohnpei Department of Transportation and Infrastructure was able to knowledgeably speak about whether or not that interpretation is correct and both laws are somewhat confusing.

Both laws ban betel nut chewing aboard “taxi cabs, buses and other public conveyances or transportation vehicles” as the smoking law puts it. While the betel nut law bans chewing betel nut in government vehicles, the smoking law doesn’t ‘specifically’ ban it.

“A public place does not include a private residence unless the private residence is used to provide licensed child care, foster care, adult care, or other similar social service care on the premises,” the smoking law says. “This chapter is not intended to restrict smoking in private facilities which are occasionally open to the public except upon the occasions when the facility is open to the public,” it continues. The betel nut law makes no such qualification.

Though the laws, taken together are confusing when compared to each other, the bottom line seems to be that the prohibition of smoking and betel nut chewing applies to public places, and not to citizens’ personal vehicles, homes or other private spaces. Violations of the two laws are misdemeanor offenses that could result in a \$200 fine and/or up to 60 days imprisonment.

# Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Kono hands over four wheel drive ambulance to Pohnpei



By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 7, 2019

**Pohnpei**—In November of 2018, then Japanese Ambassador to the FSM Ryoichi Horie presented a check in the amount \$67,823 to the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety to purchase a four-wheel drive ambulance. Today, Japan’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Taro Kono officially handed over the brand new ambulance to the Department during his historic visit to the FSM. Minister Kono is the first Minister

of Foreign Affairs to have visited the FSM.

The ceremony included a traditional sakau ceremony. While Minister Kono has sampled kava in the past, he had never sampled Pohnpei’s special sakau. When he got up to give his remarks he asked to be excused if he stumbled over his words since his lips were still numb.

Director of the Department of Public Safety was the first to speak and explained that while Pohnpei has ambulances, there have been several instances where those ambulances couldn’t get to where they were needed due to the terrain. He said that the four wheel drive ambulance would help keep the department from being limited in its ability to respond to some medical emergencies.

Governor Marcelo Peterson expressed his thanks to Minister Kono and the people of

Japan for their continued assistance to the FSM and to Pohnpei. He provided a brief synopsis of the various ways that Japan has assisted Pohnpei and particularly thanked the people of Japan for the assistance to extend the airport runway.

During his address, Minister Kono introduced Director Kohei Nakamura of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Oceania

Division, whom Kono said he had charged with organizing direct flights from Japan to Pohnpei.

After the speeches were concluded, Minister Kono handed over the symbolic key for the ambulance to Governor Peterson. Patrick Carl, Chief of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services, gave a tour of the features of the ambulance.

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## FSM Swimmers set new FSM swimming records-World Aquatic Championships in Korea

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 16, 2019

**FSM**—Four FSM swimmers competed in the recently completed World Aquatics Championships in Gwangju, Korea. The championships included diving, artistic swimming and open water swimming and began on July 12. The swimming competitions did not begin until July 21 and concluded when the games closed on July 28. The event was an Olympic qualifying event.

Swimming for the FSM were Tasi Limtiaco, Kaleo Kihleng, Taeyanna Adams, and Margie Winter, all of whom are FSM national record holders and represent each of FSM's four States. It was the first time for the FSM ever to have a relay team at a World Championship. They competed in the 4x100 Mixed Medley relay and the 4x100 Freestyle Relay. The FSM swimmers already had the FSM national record in those events but at the world championships they established new FSM records for the events shaving a full 15 seconds off their time for the Mixed



Medley and approximately six seconds on the freestyle.

Kihleng, Adams, and Winter have all been training under an Olympic scholarship from the IOC and Limtiaco has been training under a FINA scholarship.

The FSM National Olympic Committee announced earlier this week that Tasi Limtiaco and Taeyanna Adams have been selected for the FSM Olympic team for Tokyo 2020 based on the World Championship results, to be later confirmed by the International Olympic Committee.

All four swimmers set several new FSM swimming records in Korea and the final standings were very close.

## Team FSM enjoys every moment of 4X100m Medley Relay at World Swimming Championships

*Simon Smith, Hope Gorton and Glyn McGuire*  
The Reporters' Academy

July 24, 2019

**Gwangju, Korea**—There was a buzz in the air after the 4x100m Mixed Medley Relay, once the team representing the Federated States of Micronesia walked into the interview area, we knew we it was going to be enjoyable!

Kaleo Kihleng, Tasi Limitiaco, Margie Winter and Taeyanna Adams were the team who competed in the relay. With two other Pacific island teams in the same race, they clocked a time of 4 minutes 30.16 seconds. Which is impressive considering this is the team's first time competing in a 4x100m relay. Limtiaco, who has a natural love for the water, was quick to praise the team's efforts. "It was our first 4x100 relay together so I'm pretty happy with the result," shortly followed by Adams and Kihleng who were in agreement with Limtiaco. "It felt great, loved it!"

But when asked whether or not there is added pressure when competing as part of a wider team, Limtiaco was quick to admit there was some weight on his shoulders, but only due to the shared respect and loyalty to his fellow teammates. "I was a little bit more stressed out because I didn't want to let the team

down." Adams also felt some of the pressure by giving a quick glance in her team's way, "I'm with Tasi on that one."

Winter, who would describe herself as "persistent, loyal and strong willed", couldn't help but proudly exclaim "personally I was less stressed out because I was with them, my buddies. It was chill."

Kihleng, who had already swum earlier in the Men's 100m Freestyle, expressed the importance of not giving up on yourself or your team. "Don't quit! Times will get hard and rough but quitting is never the answer", he exclaimed.

We don't think this will be the last time we see the FSM team compete in the Medley Relay, it sounds like they had far too much fun.

*This article was produced by Simon Smith, Hope Gorton and Glyn McGuire of The Reporters' Academy, a media production company run by young people, tasked with the mission of telling the stories of Oceania's swimmers at the World Championships in Gwangju. The Reporters' Academy is integrated into the world of media, education and employment, dedicated to changing the lives of young people across Oceania and the UK.*



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### I.T. MANAGER

#### Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) / FIMS Inc.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) are the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The territory of Tokelau works closely with the PNA. PNA+1, provide a framework for co-operation in the management and conservation of shared tuna stocks. The office was established in January 2010 with its Headquarters in Majuro, Marshall Islands and today controls the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery. <https://www.pnatuna.com/>

Many PNA management measures are world firsts – such as high seas closures to fishing, controls and satellite tracking of vessels, Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and other assets, e reporting, catch documentation, efforts controls etc. PNA fishery controls around 50% of the global supply of skipjack tuna, the most commonly canned tuna. The market value of the tuna resource harvested in the PNA EEZs is more than USD3.5 billion.

PNA office is purchasing iFIMS Ltd, which is world class technology business that has an existing management structure. iFIMS Ltd has been developed in cooperation with the PNA region to provide a "fit for purpose", sophisticated **Fisheries Information Management System**. FIMS, providing unrivalled services to the PNA members and a range of industry users. <https://www.ifims.com/>

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# ...Pompeo

*Continued from front page*

attempt to turn the Pacific Islands into footholds for regional dominance,” Pompeo said.

The Compacts are unique treaties in that the United States has vowed to defend the three countries as if those countries were the U.S.’s own soil while simultaneously recognizing the sovereignty of each of the FAS. But it is more than a defense treaty.

“Beyond defense and security, the United States will continue to offer assistance with natural disasters and will continue to help you build strong societies by supporting the Young Pacific Leaders initiative. And we’ll join with you to tackle health challenges too. We talked about that at some length. We’ll help keep your economies competitive and strengthen your democratic institutions,” he said.

“Our talks today remind us that our relationship with the United States isn’t merely economic. It is based on shared history, mutual respect, and shared principles,” RMI’s President Heine said during her remarks. “Together, our three countries control a considerable part of the Pacific Ocean, including valuable shipping lanes. If this is not protected, it becomes vulnerable and can become unstable. We cannot do it alone; we need to work together... There are those who will ask, ‘Why now, after all these years?’ And I say to them, ‘Why not?’ Through all these years, the FAS have never wavered from being the U.S. number one ally. That is what true faithful friends do.”

“Palau feels that its relationship with the United States is a very important one. We truly value and we believe in the United States mission and goal that this part of the world should be free and open to the world,” said Palau’s Vice President Oilouch.

The moderator for the press conference allowed for two questions from the gathered media. The first opportunity was given to The Kaselehlie Press. Having had the question we intended to ask answered by Secretary Pompeo’s announcement, we instead asked whether the United States has considered moving the relationship management from the Department of the Interior to the more appropriate, for a sovereign nation, State Department. The Secretary momentarily chuckled and answered, “I’m aware that there’s a desire to potentially make a shift in terms of how

that’s handled, and we’re happy to take a look and see if we can ensure that we get it right, that – it certainly matters exactly how it gets handled inside the United States government, but often times, it’s make sure you get the process right.”

As expected, the NBC correspondent, Mosheh Gains asked a two part question, one involving the effects of climate change in the islands and the other regarding China’s growing influence in the region.

Pompeo said that they did discuss the concerns of rising sea levels in the island nations. He mentioned the fact that the US had left the Paris Agreement on climate change goals but claimed that the U.S. still has consistently met the goals in that agreement. He said that the “data is very clear that developed nations are less likely to do the things that present the risk of climate change, and so one of the things we can all do... is take nations towards – or to help those nations have lower carbon emissions.”

He said that talked about how the U.S. can present assistance to protect and preserve the island nations through disaster mitigation and disaster prevention.

In his opening statement Pompeo spoke of the role of the Compacts to “sustain democracy and human rights in the face of Chinese attempts to redraw the Pacific in its authoritarian image.” The harsh statement drew the ire of Chinese officials.

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Hua Chunying said during a regular press conference on the following day, “Certain people in the US recently have been smearing China wherever they go. Now they attempt to drive a wedge between China and Pacific island countries. But such attempt will not succeed. China and Pacific island countries share deep traditional friendship. Our relations are built on mutual respect and equal treatment. When developing friendly cooperative relations with the Pacific island countries in various areas, China pursues the greater good and shared interests and upholds the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith. This is sincerely welcomed by all those countries. People of Pacific island countries have the best say in this. The US, on the other hand, has no right or reason to criticize.

“We urge the US to abandon the Cold-War mindset and the outdated zero-sum game mentality, and view China’s relations with Pacific island countries in a fair manner. It should make more concrete efforts for those countries’ development and regional



peace and stability, and stop making irresponsible remarks,” he concluded.

“We know China seeks to engage and to influence this region, but I’m convinced that the people of the Marshall Islands, the people of Palau, and the people where we’re sitting here today understand that having partners that are democratic – the United States, but Australia, Japan – the other Pacific democracies are the best partnerships for the people that will continue to make their lives better in the years and decades ahead,” Pompeo said in his response to NBC.

President Panuelo also responded to NBC’s question. “While visiting the United States, in terms of the issue of China, when we met assistant secretary – or Acting Secretary Shanahan at the Department of Defense, in terms of our relationship with China, I did assure the secretary, and I’m assuring you today again, Secretary Pompeo, that our relations

with the U.S. is first and foremost. In terms of our relationship with China, our relationship with China is purely on economic and technical cooperation. I want to make that clear in this context, and for U.S. providing the peace and stability in the region.”

President Panuelo turned the subject back to what he most wanted to talk about. “The big news is that (Secretary) Pompeo has delivered to us that he’s given the green light on the negotiating authority to begin negotiating the expiring provisions of our compact, and we’re deeply appreciative of that, and our citizens, I know, throughout the nation, were anxiously waiting for the big news, and here it is with the news.”

Secretary Pompeo’s motorcade then sped to the FSM Congress to meet with members there. He participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Pohnpei International Airport before boarding the 757 jet to return to Washington D.C.

# ...Gas Theft

*Continued from front page*

filed on July 22 suggests that the charged employees of Amcres and Vital conspired together to steal the gasoline by modifying the Amcres gasoline tanks so that the tanks leaked into a separate storage container when the Vital tanker truck refilled those tanks.

Joel, Raymond, and Helgenberger have each been charged with criminal conspiracy for the scheme. They have also been charged with grand larceny, a felony charge for theft of items with a value of \$5,000 or more. For separate aspects of the case they were also charged

with cheating, petit larceny, larceny from a building or occupied structure, and theft.

The criminal information did not make it clear whether Vital, Amcres, or both were the victims of the thefts and CEO Jared Morris refused to clarify the matter when we inquired. However, an Amcres employee said that Amcres had bought and paid for the delivered gasoline that without their knowledge had been diverted to the alleged thieves. The gasoline was diverted and stolen between the months of March and July.

“We have reviewed our controls and taken necessary actions as we await findings from the investigation,” said Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation CEO Jared C. Morris.

## Authority proposes new telecommunication and spectrum rules

*By FSM Telecommunication Regulation Authority*

The newly established FSM Telecommunication Regulation Authority is proposing to adopt new rules that encourage effective competition in the FSM for telecommunication services as well as to protect the interest of consumers.

In the first stage of its consultation, the Authority sought feedback on its proposed new rules in June and July. It received submissions from the FSM Government owned submarine cable company and the international telecommunications firm Digicel, as well as submissions from citizens of the FSM.

“We are grateful to those who wrote to us with their thoughts. In the interests of transparency, the Authority will be publishing on our website <http://tra.fm/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/TRA-Response-to-Public-Consultation-Phase-1.pdf> the submissions and the Authority’s response and reasoning. It is essential to the work of the Authority that we disclose our thinking with the

people, listen to the people and reflect on what people are saying, before we make decisions” the Authority Chair and CEO Mr. Takuro Akinaga said.

The Authority is now commencing its second round of consultation on the proposed new rules in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act. Copies of the proposed rules will be posted in various public offices in each of the 4 states, as well as available on the Authority’s website. Public announcements will also be made on radio stations to help increase awareness. Written feedback should be sent to the Authority at [consultants@tra.fm](mailto:consultants@tra.fm) no later than 13 September unless the Authority decides to extend its feedback period beyond that date.

“This is a further opportunity for the Authority to receive feedback” Mr. Akinaga said.

The Authority is proposing that the new rules will be come into legal force on the 30 September 2019.

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### FIMS Inc. - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

#### Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) / FIMS Inc.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) are the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The territory of Tokelau works closely with the PNA. PNA+1, provide a framework for co-operation in the management and conservation of shared tuna stocks. The office was established in January 2010 with its Headquarters in Majuro, Marshall Islands and today controls the world’s largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery. <https://www.pnatuna.com/>

Many PNA management measures are world firsts – such as high seas closures to fishing, controls and satellite tracking of vessels, Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and other assets, e reporting, catch documentation, efforts controls etc. PNA fishery controls around 50% of the global supply of skipjack tuna, the most commonly canned tuna. The market value of the tuna resource harvested in the PNA EEZs is more than USD3.5 billion.

PNA office is purchasing iFIMS Ltd, which is world class technology business that has an existing management structure. iFIMS Ltd has been developed in cooperation with the PNA region to provide a “fit for purpose”, sophisticated **Fisheries Information Management System**, FIMS, providing unrivalled services to the PNA members and a range of industry users. <https://www.ifims.com/>

To ensure a successful transition from iFIMS Ltd to FIMS Inc, a subsidiary of PNA Office: FIMS Inc is establishing its own leadership capability and capacity.

**FIMS Inc** is now seeking to recruit a **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** to be based in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

As a key member of the Senior Executive Management Team, the CEO will report to the Independent Board of FIMS Inc.

The CEO will have primary day to day responsibility to lead and run the business including vision for the organisation, set the annual plans, management reporting, financial management and oversight, manages key customer relationships (PNAO, individual Parties, fishers etc.), ensures the business has the right capability, manages risk and in the interim perform the company secretary role.

#### In addition, the CEO is responsible for:

- Developing high quality business strategies
- Build a small management team in RMI
- Make high-quality investing decisions to advance the business
- Enforce adherence to legal guidelines (nationally and internationally)
- Prudent financial management, include budgeting forecasting and reporting
- Build trust relations with key service providers and sector stakeholders
- Analyse problematic situations and occurrences and provide solutions
- Maintain a deep knowledge of the markets and industry of the company.

#### Essential Competencies & Experience:

- Must have suitable tertiary qualifications relevant to the position
- Must have proven experience working with Pacific nations
- Experience in developing and implementing sustainable profitable strategies
- Strong understanding of contract management and performance management principles
- Familiarity with diverse business functions such as software development, fisheries management, supply chain management, HR and finance etc.
- In-depth knowledge of corporate governance and management best practice
- An entrepreneurial mind-set with outstanding organizational and leadership skills
- Analytical abilities and problem-solving skills
- Excellent communication and public speaking skills
- Ability and experience to initially undertake the role of company secretary.

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## Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) celebrates 40 years of service

**HONIARA, 9 August 2019** – Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) celebrated 40 years of service with a dinner hosted by the Director General, Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen.

The Guest of Honour was the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Honorable Manasseh Sogovare.

FFA was established in 1977 when Pacific Island Forum leaders decided to establish a South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency open to all Forum members and all countries in the region ‘who support the sovereign rights of the coastal states to conserve and manage living resources’ including highly migratory species.

A year before its Independence, Solomon Islands agreed to host the FFA headquarters. First housed in a two-bedroom property in Lengkiki in 1979 with a membership of 10 countries, the headquarters moved to its current location on Kolale road in 1985 with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding areas and now has a membership of 17 countries.

Solomon Islands has continued to support FFA over the years and has remained a valuable partner and host, one that the organization is always grateful for.

To mark the 40th anniversary of FFA, Dr Tupou-Roosen said “that the FFA’s success over the past 40 years has been

about people, and this evening, is to honour these very people who have served the region”.

FFA provides a Forum for Regional Cooperation that ensures our members can leverage our fisheries resources to maximize economic and social benefits for our communities. “Strength Through Cooperation” is the key factor for the success of FFA, Dr Tupou-Roosen said. It is the platform for members to share information and work together. Some of the key achievements for FFA over the years have been Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions for Fishing Vessel Access, Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) framework and the Multilateral NTSA.

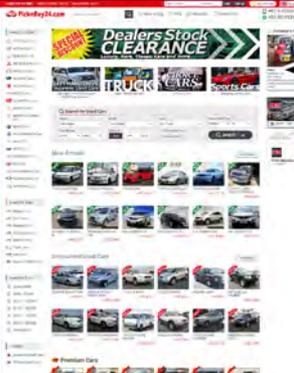
Anniversary celebrations in August began with an open day for primary school children with separate visits the next day for secondary students. Coinciding with the celebration, FFA hosted a is the Judicial Symposium, with the theme “Responsibility in Fisheries”, attended by several Chief Justices and senior members of the judiciary from the region. Dr Tupou-Roosen, reflecting on the 40 years of the organization, said FFA is about making a positive difference in the lives of Pacific people, and thanked FFA members and the past and current staff of the Secretariat, many of whom have served the region for more than 30 years. Cooperation and empowerment has been and continues to be the key to its success.



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# Warm smiles abound at 5th Annual Ace Hardware Kids' Fishing Tournament

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 27, 2019

**Pohnpei**—Every Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament is fun but the one that tugs hardest on the heart strings is the annual Ace Hardware Kids' Fishing Tournament for children 15 and younger. Smiles abounded as young angler after young angler brought their catches in for weighing at Mangrove Bay. One of the anglers was so young that his mother had to hold him so that he could hang his impressive fish on the scale.

Some fish were weighed in live. Parents and children together released those fish back into the waters of the lagoon.

The rules of the tournament required the young anglers and their captains to stay within the confines of the lagoon and the weigh in started at noon after a half day of fishing. Whereas, in the past, fish caught by young anglers have been, for the most part tiny, this year four young anglers caught surprisingly large barracuda aboard three separate boats.

The grand prize winner was the young Kevin Braden Daniel for his 18.8 pound barracuda. He won a boy's bike and a \$50 Ace Hardware gift certificate. The other four big fish prize winners won rod and reel combos and gift certificates of \$40, \$30, \$20, and \$15 respectively. They were Rico Sohl with a 17.6 pound barracuda, Cailen Manuel with a 10.7 pound barracuda, Ashli Manuel with a 9.2 pound barracuda, and Ian Boylan with an 8.5 pound grand trevally.

A popular part of the tournament for the children is the "prettiest and ugliest fish" competition. Participants lay out their contenders for the prizes and the participants vote. This year Aria Wichman won

the top prize for prettiest fish with a .8 pound grouper. There was a tie for ugliest fish between Tre' David for his 2.4 pound grand trevally and Aria Wichman for another .8 pound grouper. The kids' decided with their own accounting for taste. Each of the winners received a \$20 Ace Hardware gift certificate for their aesthetically judged fish.



# Anglers vie for cash prizes in Pohnpei LP Gas and Seven Stars fishing tournament

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 31, 2019

**Pohnpei**—

Pohnpei LP Gas and Seven Stars awarded \$4,350 worth of cash prizes to anglers who were skilled and lucky enough to land the biggest fish in a tournament

in which not many big fish were caught. While hot, sunny, nearly cloudless days might be ideal for an ocean cruise, they're not always particularly conducive to catching big fish.

Still, some nicely sized fish were caught. Oliver Hawley, Captain of his vessel, the "Three Strikes" landed a 46 pound yellow fin tuna, the biggest fish of the tournament, earning him the \$1000 grand prize. June Hawley, aboard the same vessel, earned second place with another yellow fin of 40 pounds and a prize of \$700.

A couple of really nicely sized grand trevallies earned anglers the 3rd and 5th prizes. Francisco Sohl caught a 40 pound GT for a prize of \$500. Bernolina Hedson landed a respectable GT of 20.5 pounds for a \$200 prize. Lauryn Milburn landed a 30 pound dog tooth tuna for the 4th prize of \$300.

Anglers who won the grand prize for big fish earned a total of \$2700 provided by the sponsors. The remaining \$1650 in prizes were awarded for the biggest fish of each



species that did not earn a grand prize, biggest fish caught by a lady angler, and biggest fish caught by a junior angler. Those results are published here.

Seven Stars and LP Gas also sponsored a free barbecue.

BIG FISH CATEGORIES					
C A T E G O R Y	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUND	PRIZE	AMOUNT
		JUNE HAWLEY	YFT	8.50	1ST
	WILBUR DAVID	YFT	8.00	2ND	\$ 100.00
	JUNE SUSAIA	YFT	8.00	3RD	\$ 100.00
	JUNE HAWLEY	SKJ	14.50	1ST	\$ 100.00
	RUBINA K	SKJ	13.50	2ND	\$ 75.00
	HERPERTSON SANTOS	SKJ	13.00	3RD	\$ 25.00
	CHRIS OROSCO	SKJ	13.00		
	MAHI-MAHI				
L A D Y	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUND	PRIZE	AMOUNT
	EMERALD	WAHOO	20.00	1ST	\$ 100.00
	DANTE PETERSON	WAHOO	16.50	2ND	\$ 75.00
	GONZALES	WAHOO	11.50	3RD	\$ 25.00
	EMPERIAM TRUMATINE	BARRACUDA	19.50	1ST	\$ 100.00
	PETERSON FRANCISCO	BARRACUDA	13.00	2ND	\$ 75.00
	KOSMAS ABRAHAM VISIROI	BARRACUDA	10.50	3RD	\$ 25.00
LADY ANGLERS					
A N G L E R	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUND	PRIZE	AMOUNT
	ROHSPEIN (MABIAI)	WAHOO	17.50	1ST	\$ 250.00
	RUBINA KOHLER	SKJ	13.30	2ND	\$ 150.00
	RUBINA KOHLER	SKJ	12.00	3RD	\$ 75.00
	CHEYAN PRETRICK	SKJ	7.50	4TH	\$ 50.00
JUNIOR ANGLERS					
J U N I O R	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUND	PRIZE	AMOUNT
	DANE NIGSWANDER	BARRACUDA	17.50	1ST	\$ 125.00
	ELLA DAVID	SKJ	13.50	2ND	\$ 100.00
	JOSH PANUELO	SKJ	12.50	3RD	\$ 75.00
	SPENCER JR.	SKJ	12.00	4TH	\$ 25.00

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*Guidelines*

- (a) To be able to enter the gate to the event, an individual must present a minimum of 5 tickets to the cashier. Tickets will also be on sale at the gate.
- (b) A ticket holder of a booklet (25 tickets) can bring five (5) additional guests to the event
- (c) Tickets will go on sale no later than May 31, 2019 / **Ticket Price is at \$20.00 each**
- (d) More surprises at the event (Round Trip Ticket to Guam / FSM)

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*By: Denise Oen and Paulo Santos*

Palikir, Pohnpei (August, 5, 2019) - United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Pohnpei to meet with the leaders from the FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. Mrs. Susan Pompeo, his wife, paid a visit to the College of Micronesia-FSM's National Campus to engage in dialogue with several students who have been active in the college's filmmaking group. The students have been working on several projects. One of the projects is documenting the work of the Cultural Sites Resource Management (CSRSM) Foundation to respectfully enhance facilities at the ancient ruins of Nan Madol, which was recently named a UNESCO World Heritage site. CSRSM was recently awarded a United States Embassy Fund for Historic Preservation grant. The COM-FSM filmmakers were included in this grant and were able to purchase equipment and hire Dan Lin, a professional photographer and filmmaker from Hawaii, for technical assistance. The students screened a portion of the Nan Madol documentary film for Mrs. Pompeo, her staff, and Rob Coble from the Community Liaison office of the US Embassy. Mrs. Pompeo was very interested in the short film clip and especially enjoyed the celluloid representation of a Sakau ceremony and the aerial drone footage of Nan Madol.

Mrs. Pompeo was very gracious and asked each student to share why they had become filmmakers. "What inspired me to be part of this was to preserve the history of our islands. Most of our elders are passing away, along with their stories and history of our islands. I want to preserve the culture and history through my videos and pictures," replied Destiny Etse. Other students representing the approximately 25 members were: Dylan Thomas, Pendura Kariti, and Mercyla Ardos. Yuuki Omura, of the college's Center for Entrepreneurship, was also present as was Paulo Santos who heads up the publication and graphics department at COM-FSM. Both Yuuki and Paulo have provided technical support for the group.

The students shared stories similar to Destiny's in that they were passionate about using the power of the use of art, and specifically filmmaking, to tell their own narratives of their histories and cultural practices. Currently, in addition to the Nan Madol documentary, the group is active with producing educational films with COM-FSM's Cooperative Research and Extension, UNICEF's WASH program, and the Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education. They also had the opportunity to work with National Geographic when they were filming on Pohnpei recently. Mrs. Pompeo was clearly impressed and encouraged the students to continue to "work hard, to make every step count, and strive to help the community preserve the history of the islands."

The students were joined at the event by the college President & CEO Joseph M. Daisy EdD, Vice President for Instructional Affairs, Karen Simion, and the Director of the Institute for Student Learning and Excellence in Teaching, Denise Oen, PhD. All three of these administrators have been very active in supporting the students and their projects.

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## Royal Australian Navy Ship, HMAS Leeuwin visits FSM



As part of a ten week regional engagement deployment in the Pacific and South East Asia, Royal Australian Navy hydrographic ship, HMAS Leeuwin, conducted a port visit to Pohnpei, 28 Jul – 02 Aug 19. During the visit, the ship hosted an official reception onboard, including a ceremonial sunset parade. Members of ship's company also attended key Inauguration events, and hosted a Women in Maritime round table.

The Pohnpei Tourism Office assisted HMAS Leeuwin's crew to explore and enjoy the local attractions of Pohnpei, including tours to Nan Madol, Ahnd Atoll, and Sokeh's rock.

## HMAS Leeuwin joins celebrations for presidential inauguration



Guests onboard HMAS Leeuwin, from left, US Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Ambassador Robert Riley; Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Federated States of Micronesia, the Hon Lorin Robert; Commanding Officer HMAS Leeuwin, Commander Richard Mortimer; US Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Hon Robert Wilkie; Assistant Minister for Defence and Minister for International Development and the Pacific, the Honourable Alex Hawke, MP; and Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Mr George Fraser.

Royal Australian Navy Ship, HMAS Leeuwin, arrived in Pohnpei, July 28 2019, ahead of the inauguration of President David W Panuelo.

The ship provided a setting for a celebratory luncheon honouring President Panuelo, jointly hosted by the Honourable Alex Hawke, MP, Assistant Defence Minister and Minister for International Development and the Pacific and the Honourable Robert Wilkie, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Both Leeuwin and the United States Coast Guard Cutter Kiska hosted ships'

tours prior to the luncheon, demonstrating the flexible and innovative capability of both vessels to the assembled guests, who included Ambassador Robert Riley, US Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia; the Honourable Lorin Robert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Federated States of Micronesia; and Mr Pat Conroy, MP, Shadow Minister Assisting for Defence, and Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific.

Commanding Officer of Leeuwin,

## HMAS Leeuwin hosts Women in Maritime round table

During HMAS Leeuwin's recent visit to Pohnpei, a Women, Peace and Security round table was conducted, focussing on Women in Maritime and the unique challenges they face.

Guests from the Federated States of Micronesia included Norleen Oliver, Chief of Social Affairs at the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs; Emy Musrasik, Director of Court Administration for the FSM Supreme Court; and Dion Bernard, Senior Project Manager at the Australian Embassy; as well as personnel from the Australian and US Embassy staffs, US Coast Guard Cutter Kiska, and HMAS Leeuwin.

Leading Seaman Kelly Goosen, from HMAS Leeuwin, appreciated the opportunity to hear the experiences of women from a variety of backgrounds in a supportive environment.

"It was really nice that everyone felt like they could open up about the issues they face, and that everyone could support each other in sharing their experiences," Leading Seaman Goosen said.

"Some of the stories were really eye

opening and beautiful to hear.

Ms Laine Lane, Admin Assistant to the Australian Defence Cooperation Program in FSM, commented that she is "really proud of the women serving in the National Police Maritime Wing who excel in their roles, even though they face cultural obstacles being women".

Lieutenant Commander Kylie McNamara, soon to be Leeuwin's Executive Officer, believes events of this kind are critical to international engagement, and that encouraging participation of women in peace and security roles is critical to joint efforts to achieve regional stability and security.

"Encouraging these discussions is hugely valuable for all personnel in military, policing and governmental organisations," Lieutenant Commander McNamara said.

"Maritime roles in particular have specific challenges for women - we need to actively support each other, regardless of our country of origin. We all experience similar problems - sharing our stories and the way in which we have overcome difficulties in our careers and lived is valuable to all of us."



Commander Richard Mortimer, appreciated the opportunity for the crew to be part of a momentous occasion for the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Leeuwin is very happy to be able to play a part in the inauguration of President Panuelo, and to be able to co-host today's luncheon with the US Coast

Guard Cutter Kiska," Commander Mortimer said.

"This is the culmination of a ten week deployment conducting regional engagement with our Pacific and South East Asian partners, and we embrace these opportunities to build on established relationships with our friends throughout the South West Pacific.

## Pohnpei State Social Services hosts The Children Exchange Program with Micronesia Islands 2019

*Alvie B. Cabañez*

The Pohnpei State Social Services Division hosted The Children's Exchange Program with Micronesia Islands 2019. The delegation came from Japan on July 31, 2019 and stayed until August 06, 2019.

The Japan-National Institute for Youth Education (NIYE) is in charge of the program, which includes Republic of Palau (ROP), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI).

This year, the one week inbound program was represented by 16 students, eight boys and eight girls from Grades five through eight, and seven chaperones including the NIYE Director, Mr. Yamaguchi Keigo; the Program Coordinator, Ms. Tomoko Okawara; the nurse, Ms. Yuka Kusumoto; two (2) program leaders: Ms. Chikako Higashi and Mr. Naruto Fukuyori and the interpreter, Ms. Kahori Shoji.

At a farewell reception Mr. Kester James, Chief of the Social Services Division expressed his gratitude to the NIYE Director and the staff. "You did develop friendship that unites everyone," he said. "...In Japan, we have less and less opportunity or places that we enjoy. Pohnpei state became our second home," Director Keigo said.

The students and chaperones, accompanied by the staff of the hosting program had a hectic schedule. After arrival, they checked in at Cliff Rainbow Hotel, they had a late lunch at PCR Nantehlik Restaurant. They went to the Japanese Embassy for a courtesy call and had an orientation of Pohnpei state. They were briefed on the ongoing FSM-Japan relationship and current programs, and later took part in a friendly question and answer session. They had a welcome dinner with the FSM Ambassador to Japan, His Excellency John Fritz at the Governors' Conference room.

On the next they had an opportunity to tour the island. They visited Nan Madol, Kepirohi Waterfall, and had two overnight stays at Nahlap Island Resort. The students also experienced home-stays with Pohnpeian families for a night. "The home-stay is for the students to experience the lifestyle in Pohnpei with no special treatment," said Mr. Santos Abraham, Acting Youth Coordinator, Social Services Division.

"Since I go to a Catholic school in Japan, my expectation is to have an intellectual conversation with others. I would like to reiterate face-to-face communication," said Ms. Natsuho Suenaga, one of the delegates. After the program she hopes to tell people in her country what she learned in Pohnpei.

On their last night, a farewell dinner was prepared. The host families, alumni of the program, and guests graced



the event. It was highlighted by a sakau demonstration and cultural presentation. The delegates showcased their talents and skills that entertained the audience. Some of the boys played Kendama (ball-in-a-up), a Japanese game of skill, made of wooden toy, cross-shaped and a hole connected with a string. The girls gracefully performed a song and dance number while some showcased their gymnastics skills. Kenshin Goto and Hirohata Yoshita demonstrated Judo, a traditional Japanese martial art. Lastly, Natsuho Suenaga and Noma Akari showed Japanese calligraphy, the art of writing by hand to create letters or symbols.

On their last day, the delegates had a short visit at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School (OLMCHS). They were welcomed by Sr. Krista Namio, Principal along with the school community. Director Keigo briefed the students about the program. He also encouraged the students to do their best and they might have a shot at the program. The delegates performed a vocal number for OLMCHS students to the delight of everyone.

Last June 2019, the Japan-Micronesia Student Exchange Program was held sending 12 students and 2 chaperones from Pohnpei and a total of 84 FSM, RMI, and ROP (Micronesians) for a cultural exchange.

## Federated States of Micronesia's continued rapid improvement with International Tax Standards recognized by OECD'S Global Forum

*FSM Information Services*

**PARIS, France**—On July 30, 2019 the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received an overall rating

of 'Largely Compliant' from the Organization for Economic Co-operative Development's (OECD) Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes. The Global Forum is mandated to ensure that jurisdictions around the world adhere to, and effectively implement, the international tax transparency standards. These reviews assess jurisdictions against international standards, which incorporate beneficial ownership information of all legal entities and arrangements.

In 2014, during the first round of peer reviews the FSM's legal and regulatory framework was evaluated and it was concluded that it did not meet international standards, i.e., the Nation was considered Non-Compliant.

Since the previous review, the FSM has implemented the Exchange of Tax Information Act of 2016 and its Regulations, as well as two further Regulations dealing with the availability of ownership information. The new Act and Regulations reaffirm the FSM's commitment to combating illegal tax evasion, money laundering, and financing of terrorism, through the implementation of effective international measures to exchange information for tax purposes.

The Honorable Sihna N. Lawrence, Secretary of the Department of Finance & Administration, led the FSM Delegation to the OECD Headquarters in Paris in June to address the Peer Review Group (PRG). "I'm very pleased that the FSM received such a positive report and that our efforts in improving our transparency and tax standards have been recognized internationally," she said. Other agencies of the FSM National Government that contributed to this positive outcome include the FSM Registrar of Corporations, the FSM Banking Board, the FSM Insurance Board, and FSM Department of Justice (DOJ), which provided legal support and advice to ensure that FSM laws and regulations were considered and respected during the PRG's review process.

A brief breakdown of the Report shows that the FSM is "Compliant" in six of the ten elements assessed, and "Largely Compliant" in a further three elements, resulting in the "Largely Compliant" rating. Other jurisdictions with a "Largely Compliant" rating, include, among others, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Germany, Denmark, Japan and India.

His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, has been following this work closely, and stated that he is "...tremendously pleased with the progress that was achieved by outgoing Secretary Lawrence in this area," and noted that "As I said in my Inaugural Address, transparency and accountability will be key focal areas during my presidency."



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Office of the Pohnpei Election Commission

P.O. Box 1180

Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Commissioner's Office

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 <b>second Tuesday in November</b> .
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 no more than one hundred (100) 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 Confiner 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 envelope and the affidavit shall be enclosed and sealed in the covering envelope and shall be postmarked <b>NOT</b> later than <b>MIDNIGHT</b> 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



Director's Office

Office of the National Election Director

P.O. Box PS 156

Federated States of Micronesia

Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Phone: (691) 320-7805; Fax: (691) 320-7534; Email: ned@mail.fm

**TIMETABLE**

For November 5, 2019 Constitutional Convention Election

This Timetable is based on the Revised National Election Act of 2005

Sections	Dates	Definitions
Appropriation (9FSMC) Sec. 107	September 26, 2019	40 days prior to a Special Election, Congress shall appropriate a sum adequate to defray the administrative and contingent expenses of conducting National Election.
Open and close of absentee request by mail (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2) a	September 16, 2019 October 1, 2019	Request to vote absentee ballot by mail must be received by National Election Commissioner (NEC) not more than 50 days but not less than 35 days before Special Election Day.
Closing for filing Nomination Petition (9FSMC) Sec. 202 (4)	September 26, 2019	The name of any candidate shall be printed on an official ballot only if, at least 40 days prior to a Special Election the nomination paper is filed in the office of the National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state concerned.
Last day to appoint various boards and Counting and Tabulating Committee members (9FSMC) Sec. 302 (3)a		The National Election Commissioner (NEC) of each state with the approval of the National Election Director shall appoint election board and tabulating committee members on or before January 2nd of each election year.
Designation of Special Polling Places (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (2)	September 21, 2019	Not less than 45 days prior to a Special Election, the National Election Director (NED) shall designate the locations of the special polling places, (one in Guam and one in Honolulu)
Printing of official ballots (9FSMC) Sec. 503 (1)	October 1, 2019	The National Election Director (NED) shall complete the printing of the official ballots no later than 35 days before a Special Election.
Request to vote at the special polling places (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (3)	October 26, 2019	Request to vote at a special polling place must be received by the National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state of registration not less than 10 days prior to a Special Election.
Last day to send absentee ballots by mail (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2)b	October 6, 2019	The National Election Commissioner (NEC), shall, at least 30 days before a Special Election, mail an absentee ballot to any absentee voter who has requested an absentee ballot in accordance with this section.
Closing of Registration and Voter ID	October 6, 2019	No person shall be entitled to vote in any National Election, or to be listed upon the National Voter Register, or upon any Signature List, who fails to register to vote with the National Election Office or State Election Office at least 30 days prior to Election Day.
Absentee for Travelers (9FSMC) Sec. 606 (1)b	October 6, 2019 November 4, 2019	Not more than 30 days and not less than 1 day before the Special Election; a voter must submit in person a written request to cast a ballot prior to traveling.
Preparation of signature lists (9FSMC) Sec. 303(7)	October 16, 2019	National Election Director (NED) shall prepare signature lists from National Voter Register for each of the polling places not later than 20 days prior to each election.
VAAPP Requests (9FSMC) Sec. 604(1)d	October 29, 2019	National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state of registration receives the written VAAPP requests at least 7 days before the Special Election.
Posting of Signature Lists of SPP (9FSMC) Sec. 605(4)	October 30, 2019	No later than 6 days before a Special Election, National Election Commissioner (NEC) shall post at the National Election Offices in their states signature lists of each special polling place in their state.
Posting of Signature Lists for Guam and Honolulu (9FSMC) Sec. 605(5)	October 30, 2019	No later than 6 days before a Special Election, the National Election Director, or his designee, shall post the Special Polling Place Signature lists for Guam and Honolulu in a publicly accessible place in each location to be set out in the regulations promulgated pursuant to this title.
Constitutional Convention Election Day	November 5, 2019	The election of delegates shall be held during a special election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2019.

Ioanis Salm  
Acting Director  
FSM National Election  
Federated States of Micronesia

8/12/19  
Date



Office of the President

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) seeks well qualified individuals to fill position of National Project Director in the Department of Education, FSM National Government, Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941.

**The Position:** The National Project Director is to ensure overall effective communication, coordination and supervision of IQBE (Improving the Quality of Basic Education) activities with project institution (COM-FSM), consulting firm/individuals, PIU Staff in relation with the States Department of Education and within FSM Government; monitoring progress of project activities against the targets set in an annual work plan and report progress including issues, if any to the Secretary of Education on a quarterly basis; supervision, monitoring, and assessing the performance, outputs, and outcomes of project institutions and consulting firms/individuals against their Terms of Reference; supervising, providing technical advice, and providing support and direction to the PIU Staff as required; monitoring the performance of the Procurement Specialist, Finance Specialist and the Technical Coordinators at the national and state level periodically and providing feedback, guidance, and recommendations to improve their performance and the PIU operations every six months; performing functions and duties as may be assigned that relate to the IQBE scope; communicating orally and in writing, and making presentations as necessary for communications related to the IQBE project.

**The Incumbent:** Graduation from accredited college or university with a Master Degree in Education plus at least ten (10) years of work experience in education and complex project management.

**Benefits:** A salary range will be \$40,404.00 per annum depending upon the qualification of the applicant. Housing travel and relocation will be provided if applicable.

**To apply:** Send resume, application by mail or fax to the following addresses:

Department of Education  
P.O. Box PS-87  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Phone: (691) 320-2609  
Email: marlynn.halbert@national.doe.fm

FSM Personnel Office  
P.O. Box PS-35  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Phone: (691) 320-2618/2642  
Email: dwight.edwards@gov.fm

The Office of Personnel will be accepting application/resume from August 14, 2019 to August 28, 2019.

**THE FSM IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

## Congratulations to the FSM's Graduates of James Cook University's Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development Post Graduate Program

*FSM Information Services*

**NADI, Fiji**—On July 31st 2019, five citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) graduated from Australia's James Cook University's (JCU) Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development Post Graduate Program, making the FSM cohort one of the largest groups of the approximately 30 Pacific Islanders that enrolled in the program.



*Mr. Jorg Anson; Ms. Faith Siba; Mr. Hans Skilling; Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman; Mr. Marston Luckymis*

Ms. Faith Siba, Mr. Marston Luckymis and Mr. Hans Skilling of the FSM State of Kosrae, Mr. Jorg Anson of the FSM State of Pohnpei, and Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman of the FSM State of Yap, were part of the graduation ceremony held on July 31st, 2019 in Nadi, Republic of Fiji, where the JCU Deputy Vice Chancellor of Tropical Environments and Societies, Professor Marcus Lane, presented each graduate with a postgraduate certificate. The ceremony celebrated two years of hard work and tremendous commitment to the students' online and classroom studies, which was on top of their regular day-to-day careers in public service.

The intensive postgraduate program is a component under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Ridge to Reef Projects (both national and regional) aimed at enhancing integrated whole-of-system management capacity in Pacific Island Countries, underpinning effective action for sustainable biological, social, and economic resilience.

The FSM scholars who participated in the program are primarily the coordinators of the Ridge to Reef Projects that are being coordinated by the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM) in the four FSM states. The five FSM graduates will continue their studies for another two years to earn their postgraduate diploma, totaling four years of studies supported under the projects.

"We are very proud of our young graduates who not only were able to complete the first phase of their studies successfully, but have also been assisting us in various roles to protect our fragile environment in the FSM," said Cindy Ehmes, Assistant Secretary of DECEM. "I trust this program will help them to continue to serve our islands into the future."

Graduate Marston Luckymis of Kosrae expressed his gratitude at the ceremonies with the humility that is the embodiment of the FSM's culture: "this is a very special moment for me and I thank you all for your support."

Graduate Jorg Anson of Pohnpei stated that he was "honored to be part of this graduate program among his young peers."

The Pacific Ridge to Reef program is a GEF global test case and programmatic initiative involving multiple United Nations', Regional, and National agencies, and Small Island Developing States, to support and address national priorities

and development needs while delivering global environment benefits in line with the GEF focal area strategies—Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Climate Change, International Waters, and Sustainable Forest Management.

The FSM National Government extends its sincere congratulations to Mr. Luckymis, Mr. Skilling, Mr. Anson, Ms. Siba, and Ms. Yatilman, and looks forward to supporting their Ridge-to-Reef actions today for our Nation's environmental prosperity tomorrow.



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