

Fears that dengue fever has arrived in Pohnpei currently unfounded says an off island laboratory

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

October 11, 2019

Pohnpei—Yesterday morning a 44 year old woman died from a “dengue-like” illness in Pohnpei. Tests for dengue fever conducted at Pohnpei’s lab indicated that it may have been Pohnpei’s first case of dengue fever. They sent the samples to a laboratory in Guam for verification. Late this afternoon those tests came back negative for the disease.

At press time, doctors were not yet certain what illness caused her death.

Dr. Eliaser Johnson, FSM Epidemiologist said that when the patient arrived on October 3 she was in shock and her illness progressed rapidly after that point. They tested her for leptospirosis, a disease transmitted by the urine of rodents and other animals that manifests with similar symptoms to those of dengue. Those locally conducted tests came back

negative. The Guam laboratory also tested for leptospirosis and did not find that infection.

“We want to comfort the family,” Dr. E.J. said, “but we also don’t want people in Pohnpei to panic.” He said that it is important that people understand that the risk of serious dengue is small and it has now been confirmed that though Pohnpei has all of the right conditions for the disease, it has not yet manifested itself as it has in Yap and in Guam.

Concerned that it might be Dengue, the Department of Health Services released a warning in case off island lab results were positive for Dengue. It’s not a bad idea to heed them even though no locally identified cases have yet emerged.

There is no cure for dengue fever other than time and careful professional monitoring by medical professionals if that is needed, but Dr. Johnson, or Dr. E.J. as he is locally known, was quick

to point out that only one in four people who are infected with Dengue experience any significant symptoms if any. Only one to five percent of the people who experience any symptoms will experience severe symptoms. Of those people who experience severe symptoms, only a very small percentage die from severe dengue, known as dengue hemorrhagic fever which causes severe dehydration, leakage of blood plasma and other symptoms.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Center for Disease (CDC) control both confirm Dr. E.J.’s statistical claim. The WHO website says that one study estimates that 3.9 billion people in 128 countries are at risk of infection with dengue viruses. It intimates that of those 3.9 billion people, 390 million are infected with dengue each year and of those 96 million show any symptoms at all.

Most people who contract the disease and who experience any flu like symptoms will recover within a week or so according to

the CDC.

Dr. E.J. said that the most common symptoms of dengue fever, which is often called “breakback fever”, are fever and one or more of the following: headache, eye pain that is typically behind the eyes, muscle, joint or bone pain, a rash like the measles, nausea and vomiting, and unusual bleeding like nose or gum bleeding, small red spots under the skin, or unusual bruising. People who experience any of those symptoms should consult a doctor.

Acetaminophen or paracetamol such as Tylenol can be taken to control fever and pain but it is important that people who experience dengue like symptoms should avoid aspirin and ibuprofen as both are blood thinners and severe dengue is a bleeding disease. Those who feel sick should drink plenty of fluids and get a lot of rest. Again, consulting a medical professional is important.

See “Dengue” on page 5

In this EDITION of the KPress:

Pohnpei State files criminal trespass charges against alleged squatters on Pohnpei State land parcels

Page 3

Pohnpei files \$3.8 million dollar civil action against Pohnpei White Sand

Page 4

Chinese Embassy provides much needed restroom facility for Kolonia-China Friendship Gym

Page 4

Okeanos Pohnpei Provides Urgent Health Care Transport

Okeanos Foundation for the Sea

On Friday September 20, the traditionally based, fossil fuel-free sailing canoe Okeanos Pohnpei departed on a scheduled trip for the Mayor of Pingelap transporting 6,000 pounds of goods and six passengers from Pohnpei to Pingelap.

Upon their arrival into Pingelap, the crew of Okeanos Pohnpei learned that seven passengers (comprised mostly of sick patients including a pregnant women with complications) needed immediate transport to Pohnpei to seek critical medical treatment.

With a swift response, Okeanos Pohnpei took the passengers on board and sailed 160 nautical miles back to Pohnpei within 28 hours, voyaging against the westerly wind while also carrying a 2,000 pounds of cargo.

See “Okeanos” on page 5



Okeanos Pohnpei en route to Kolonia during its 4,000 mile fossil fuel-free maiden voyage, drawing a stark comparison to diesel powered cargo ships.

Photo by Chewy Lin.

First 3 Graduate Students to graduate from the Bill Raynor / the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation Scholarships

The Micronesia Conservation Trust and partners of the Micronesia Challenge (MC) are proud to announce and congratulate the first three students to complete their graduate programs as recipients of two regional scholarships available through MCT.

The Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship Program was inspired by William (Bill) Charles Raynor (Feb. 22nd, 1957-Sept. 1st, 2015), one of Micronesia's lead conservation pioneers. He engaged in significant and meaningful conservation work in Micronesia for over 30 years. He helped to establish/strengthen several non-governmental organizations that are now leading conservation and sustainable development efforts in Micronesia. He supported and mentored emerging environmental leaders who have the passion and the potential to continue the conservation initiatives and maintain the Micronesia Challenge commitment, which he was instrumental in establishing. His initial contributions to the BRMC now allows two students from the region each year to be supported in their graduate education. 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.

In addition to the BRMC Scholarship, the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation, Sophia University and MCT partnered to initiate the APIC-BRMC Scholarship Program. Two students from Micronesia are selected each year to enroll in the Global Environmental Studies Program at Sophia University for two years in pursuit of a master's degree.

With support from MCT through the BRMC Scholarship fund, the students have internships set up with local partner agencies in their home islands where each of them has a workplan to carry out during his/her semester breaks. Their internships are set up to support their studies, particularly for thesis and research work that is of relevance to the environmental issues and priorities of their local communities.

The BRMC scholar to graduate in 2019 is:

Elizabeth (Becky) Furey from Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is the first to complete her graduate program as a recipient of the BRMC Scholarship. She has acquired a Master's in Environmental Policy and Management from the American Public University (APU) online program. She successfully balanced full-time employment at Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA), full-time single parenthood and being a full-time graduate student. After graduating, Becky will continue working for MINA managing several environmental programs. Even as a student, she had already begun to apply what she learned at APU to build and strengthen the programs she managed at MINA. She also contributed to approved grant proposals focused on natural resource conservation. Her ultimate goal is to keep learning about her islands' ecology, environmental problems while helping with solutions through resource management programs. Becky is passionate about the environment and she is driven to serve as a steward of the environment and help her communities stay informed about the status of their natural resources to work towards a sustainable future.

The APIC-BRMC scholars to graduate in 2019 are:

Bertha Reyuw from Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is one of two students to be the first to complete the Global Environmental Studies Program from Sophia University through the APIC-BRMC Scholarship Program. She studied the impacts of climate change on women in the FSM and looked at how their roles in climate change adaptation affect the level of climate resilience of families or communities. She received an invitation to attend the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Switzerland, joining TNC delegation in May. Upon graduating, Bertha plans to return to the FSM to continue contributing to the environmental sector.

Bradford Mori from Chuuk, FSM is also an APIC-BRMC scholarship recipient of the first cohort to graduate from Sophia University through the scholarship program. He studied climate adaptation funding mechanisms to assess how adaptive capacity, resilience, and innovation are incorporated into plans and policies and highlighted the advantages/disadvantages or effectiveness thereof. He attended the validation meeting on the FSM National Environment Management Strategy in Pohnpei and the Adaptation Fund inception workshop held in Chuuk. After graduating, Bradford plans to return to Chuuk to continue working with the Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency.



Bertha Reyuw and Bradford Mori



Elizabeth (Becky) Furey

I want to have a 26 issue subscription sent by First Class Mail to:

Pohnpei Address
Cost includes shipping \$35 for 26 issues

Chuuk, Kosrae, Yap, or USA Address
Cost includes shipping \$50 for 26 issues

International Address
Cost includes shipping \$100 for 26 issues

RECIPIENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

P.O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
ph:(691) 320-6547
email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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

Habele Robotics League goes nationwide

Habele Outer Island Education Fund

High school students on the tiny Micronesian island of Kosrae will be building, programming and competing their own advanced robots for the first time. Located at the remote eastern end of the Federated States of Micronesia, this island of less than seven thousand inhabitants is renowned for its pristine waters and lush mountain landscape.

In remote communities with limited resources, opportunities for students to meaningfully engage with applied science, technology, engineering and math are extremely narrow, or nonexistent. By partnering with island educators and community leaders, Habele helps expand local capacity for developing students with a rich grounding in the technologies driving much of the modern economy.

In partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, Habele is providing equipment, training and support for the formation of Kosrae's first-ever "Kosrae Robo League." The Habele Robotics League has collaborated with public and private schools across the FSM since 2012, beginning in Yap, and expanding to Chuuk and Pohnpei States in 2018. Now, high school students on Kosrae will join their peers across the FSM in mastering science and technology concepts in an innovative, hands-on way.

"Experimenting with ideas in a tangible way is a great complement to classroom instruction," says Christopher Johnson, a South Carolina teacher and Habele volunteer. "This program engages students who might not think of themselves as 'math and science' types, and gets them on a path they never would have imagined."

Across Micronesia, every participating robotics club has freedom to develop and define their own structure and schedule. Students are encouraged to experiment



and explore with the equipment, making the robots an expression of their club's personality and skills. This culminates in "Robo Day" exhibitions, where clubs from schools in each state gather to compete in problem-solving matches, and demonstrate newfound skills in front of the whole community.

"We see students light up with excitement while they're creating and problem solving with complex equipment and concepts," says Matthew Coleman, Habele's Executive Director.

"Micronesia's future engineers and technology experts are being developed right here."

In addition to the Robotics League, Habele provides tuition scholarships for students across the FSM, and provisions public school libraries.

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

Pohnpei State files criminal trespass charges against alleged squatters on Pohnpei State land parcels

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

October 9, 2019

Pohnpei—Pohnpei State has so far filed criminal charges against 34 people alleging criminal violation of Pohnpei State Trespass laws. The specific charges are for trespass in the first degree and aggravated trespass. The charges are made under a law that took effect on January 7, 2019 that changed the definition of the trespass laws and also allowed for criminal prosecution.

If convicted, those charged could be sentenced to up to three months in jail and/or a fine of \$300 for Trespass in the

first degree and up to one year in jail and/or a fine of \$1000 each for aggravated trespass. They could also face civil penalties as well as forfeiture of the property and all permanent improvements on it to the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust.

The charges came in four separately filed cases, the first of which was filed on September 4 against defendants the State alleges have illegally occupied land belonging to the State near the Pohnpei State hospital. Planned hospital facility expansion on that land has been held off for several years because of allegedly illegal occupancy by private individuals and business.

Today the State filed three more criminal trespass cases against people and businesses who have allegedly illegally occupied land belonging to the State on property near PICS High School, either in structures belonging to Pohnpei State or in buildings or homes that the occupants have built on land belonging to the State, allegedly without the State's permission. A planned renovation of existing homes belonging to Pohnpei State of \$1.8 million has also been stalled for several years due to the allegedly illegal occupancy by private individuals and businesses.

Meanwhile, the State has been paying rent to private individuals for homes on private land to house employees who were hired from off island.

Dana Smith, Pohnpei State Attorney General said that at press time, further criminal charges had been prepared against more alleged squatters on other parcels of land belong to the State but had not yet been filed pending the delivery of notices to occupants to vacate those properties.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
October 28, 2019**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is
the end of working hours on:
Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

**TUNE IN TO
POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO**

PARADISE RADIO

FM 89.5 V6WI

Pohnpei files \$3.8 million dollar civil action against Pohnpei White Sand

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

October 11, 2019

Pohnpei—The Board of Trustees of the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust, the Department of Land, and the Pohnpei State Government have filed a civil action for breach of contract against Jose San Nicolas doing business as Pohnpei White Sand; and VCS Construction and Supplies, Inc. also doing business as Pohnpei White Sand. The action seeks a judgment of over \$3.8 million dollars plus punitive damages, Plaintiff's attorneys fees, and any late fees, penalties or interest.

The filing asserts that in October of 2017, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust signed a Project Permit issued to Pohnpei White Sands for the purposes of sand mining on public lands at Kepkepen, Parem, Nett, designating the amount of sand to be extracted as not to exceed 45,000 cubic yards. The permit was good for one year. It required the payment of a severance fee of \$3 per cubic yard of sand. It also required a monthly report of the materials removed. The severance fee was to have been paid not later than the 15th of each month.

The complaint asserts that in October of 2018, after the expiration of the permit, the defendants sent a letter to

the Department of Treasury saying that they had mined 32,000 cubic yards of sand from the site. It says that in May of 2019, the defendants' attorney saying that the estimate had been incorrect and that they had actually only mined 3,500.46 cubic yards and that they would only be paying a \$10,546.48 severance fee. Later that month they made a partial payment of \$3,163.92 to the State Treasury. In June of 2019, the Division of Revenue and Taxation made a formal assessment of unpaid royalty fee in the amount of \$135,000, plus a late filing penalty of \$100 per month for 18 months and a late payment fee in the amount of \$6,750 per day for 547 days for a total late payment fee of \$3,692,250 for a total assessment of \$3,829,050 as of the date of the assessment. The civil action says that those late filings and late payment fees continue to accrue from the date of the assessment.

As exhibits, the plaintiffs attached a copy of the permit and the conditions of the permit, one of which was the payment of a \$3 per cubic yard severance fee to the State.

Plaintiffs have argued in communications with the Attorney General's office that the permit was a renewal of an original permit that did not require the payment of a severance fee.

The court will hear arguments from both sides when the hearing on the civil action begins and will make a ruling based on those arguments. For now, no court ruling exists for one side or the other.

Regional Pacific Public Auditors implementing the Supreme Audit Institution Performance Measurement Framework

Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo of PASAI, Manny San Jose, Chuuk Public Auditor and Alice Etse, Audit Manager POPA

Chuuk, FSM - On September 9-19, 2019, Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo, Director of Practice Development of Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) and Alice Etse, Audit Manager of Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) conducted an assessment of Chuuk Office of the Public Auditor. The assessment is part of the second regional initiative supporting the implementation of Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) Performance Measurement Framework (PMF). The SAI PMF is an assessment tool developed by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institution (INTOSAI) Working Group on the value and benefits of Supreme Audit Institutions. It is used specifically to assess the performance of a SAI compared to international good practices, as well as to identify SAI's strengths and weaknesses. The SAI PMF has a broad coverage and

includes matters such as SAI internal governance and ethics, audit quality and reporting, financial management, human resources and training, communication and stakeholder management. The target issuance date of report is January 2020, after the reporting meeting in Vanuatu, November 2019 and quality assurance review by the International Development Initiative in December 2019.

In connection with the above assessment and through the help of PASAI a short video of the Chuuk State Public Auditor discussing the importance of SAI PMF assessment and why his office participated in the assessment. The video has already been posted in PASAI social media. To watch the video please visit <https://youtu.be/t8zWiNgRSmQ>

The Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) participated in the first round of SAI PMF assessment conducted on April 17-21, 2017. The result of the assessment was posted to the PASAI social media and

also on POPA's website: opapni.fm

The regional audit offices' assessments initiative is part of the Strengthening of Public Finance Management and Governance in the Pacific Project

funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade also support this initiative.



Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo of PASAI, Manny San Jose, Chuuk Public Auditor and Alice Etse, Audit Manager POPA

Chinese Embassy provides much needed restroom facility for Kolonia-China Friendship Gym

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 30, 2019

Pohnpei—On September 30, Ambassador Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the FSM handed over a new bathroom facility for the Kolonia-China Friendship Gym to Kolonia Mayor Jose San Nicolas. Long events at the gym had previously been uncomfortable. Participants either had to ask nearby businesses to allow them to use their facilities, leave the event to find other facilities, or take matters outdoors, an unsanitary way of handling things. That will no longer be a problem.

Since Pohnpei Catholic School students use the gym and playground for physical education, the school has taken on the commitment of insuring that the bathroom facilities are continually cleaned.

Chief of State Social Affairs Kester James represented Governor Marcello Peterson at the short hand-over ceremony.



...Okeanos

Continued from front page

Upon arrival the ambulance was waiting at the dock and took the pregnant patient immediately to the hospital. The passengers were extremely grateful for the crew's prompt reaction and transportation to Pohnpei, thanking Okeanos Pohnpei Captain Clement Urseram and crew members Tyron Jano, Gino Ladore and Delensa Sackryas in the quick response to bring the patients to Pohnpei.

Since its arrival in November 2018, Okeanos Pohnpei has been dedicated to providing sustainable sea transportation to Pohnpei's neighboring island communities. The 50-foot vaka motu, or "boat for the islands," is a double-hulled, Pacific sailing canoe designed to run solely on renewable resources: wind, solar energy and coconut biofuel.

Fourteen Micronesian sailors from Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap have been trained to safely operate Okeanos vaka motus, receiving three months of training at the Okeanos Maritime Training Center in Auckland. Jano, Ladore and Sackryas sailed over 3,000 nautical

miles in preparation for their roles aboard Okeanos Pohnpei, which has now serviced over eight outer island communities including Sapwuahfik, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi, Pingelap, Ngatik, Pakin, and Mwoakilloa.

Okeanos Pohnpei supports the country's goals for regular, reliable and safe sea transportation between the islands to support adequate health care, education, research, and local food transport. In doing so, the vaka is also used for empowering people and communities, reviving traditional seafaring and navigation skills, and creating local opportunities.

Okeanos Pohnpei and her fully trained Micronesian crew came to Kolonia at the request of Honorable Governor Marcelo Peterson who sought to provide more regular sea transportation to each of Pohnpei's outer island communities.

"I know Okeanos will play a big and major role in how we provide easy, accessible,

reliable and even improved quality of healthcare to the other island populations of Pohnpei," says Pohnpei State Director of Health Kapilly Capelle who has expressed the difficulties in providing regular healthcare services to all five of Pohnpei's outer islands – three of which are inaccessible by plane.

"What I want to tell the world about Okeanos is that the technology is amazing, unique and perceptive to our island settings. We can now get to our islands with or without fuel and then be able to provide the services that we would otherwise have to wait for a year for a cargo ship using fossil fuels. What Okeanos envisioned and is now literally doing for the islands, this is a new era, and as far as the Department of Health Services for Pohnpei is concerned, we are fully supportive," says Director Capelle.

Last month, President David W. Panuelo sailed aboard Okeanos Pohnpei in support of this alternate form of fossil fuel-free transportation.

"As indigenous people reviving our way of life, we can also show how we can revive this traditional way of [sailing] transportation," says President Panuelo, who hopes to establish traditionally-based, fossil fuel-free bus routes throughout FSM using the Okeanos vakas to provide regular, safe and reliable transportation to outer island communities.

There are currently three Okeanos vakas operating in FSM (Okeanos Pohnpei, Okeanos Ambassador and Okeanos Waa'qab) and President Panuelo expressed pride in the crew's professionalism.

To charter a sail with Okeanos Pohnpei, please contact operations manager Alan Semens at alan.semens@okeanos-pohnpei.org.

...Dengue

Continued from front page

According to the CDC website, severe dengue is an emergency. The warning signs of severe dengue begin to occur 24 to 48 hours after the fever goes away. A person who experiences any of the following warning signs should seek treatment right away: Severe stomach pain or vomiting (at least three vomiting episodes within 24 hours); bleeding from the nose or gums; vomiting blood or blood in the stool; drowsiness or irritability, pale, cold or clammy skin; or difficulty breathing. According to the Pohnpei Department of Health and Social Services announcement, the dengue virus is transmitted by two types of mosquitoes, both of which are present in Pohnpei. Internet sources that say that coconut oil is a preventative for dengue have been debunked as ineffective.

Dengue can only be prevented by avoiding mosquito bites by using insect repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants, and eliminating mosquito breeding sites. Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Eliminating some of those sources of standing water can be difficult in Pohnpei where rain water often stands in



the Village Travel

Serving the Islands and abroad since 1980!

Providing your domestic and international flight arrangements

Call us now for your next trip

**Tel: (691) 320-2777
921-2777**

Fax: (691) 320-5375

**email: villagetravel@mail.fm
Villagetravel2@gmail.com**

**P.O Box 339
Pohnpei, FM 96941**

**Office Hours:
Mon - Fri.: 08:30am - 5:00pm
Sat.: 09:00am - 12:00pm**



FSM President His Excellency David W. Panuelo steering the hoi of Okeanos Pohnpei. Photo by Dena Seidel.



Okeanos Pohnpei crew members Tyron Jano (left) and Gino Ladore (right) load cargo in preparation for their trip to Pingelap. Photo by Alan Semens.

pools for days but any man-made water collection containers should be cleaned at least once a week. Abandoned tires are notorious mosquito breeding grounds since it difficult to completely drain them of water.

Dr. Johnson said though people should be vigilant, there is no reason for people in Pohnpei to panic.

He said that the number of dengue cases in Yap, the first FSM state to have cases of dengue have recently been on the decline but that upwards of 750 cases were identified there. Guam has also had several cases of locally acquired dengue fever.

Dengue is not born in mosquitoes. They don't create it. They carry it after biting an affected person and transmit it when they bite a person who isn't infected. It is not transmitted in any other way. You cannot get dengue fever by being in contact with a person who is infected with the virus unless the same mosquito bites you that bit that infected person.

President Panuelo Builds Partnership with Hawai'i Green Growth United Nations Local2030 Hub

FSM Information Services

HONOLULU—On October 3rd, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with representatives of Hawai'i Green Growth United Nations Local2030 Hub, inclusive of stakeholders in Hawaii's academic, public, and private sectors. The purpose of the meeting was to develop, expand, and strengthen the Nation's partnerships that promote the FSM's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in areas ranging from environmental stewardship to community empowerment.

The meeting began with the President describing his administration's goals and recent activities, but quickly worked towards the primary topic of how island solidarity and island leadership are essential for tackling the existential threat of climate change. "We can talk about a lot of things, but overall the Pacific Island countries are advocating that the strongest position we can all take is to move forward with the Paris Agreement," President Panuelo said. "We're all singing the same song together on this one."

"We agree that this island worldview is really...what will help folks deliver on the [SDGs]," said Celeste Connors, Executive Director of Hawai'i Green Growth, noting that environmental stewardship is an all-encompassing idea that ranges from the protection of oceans to the use of renewable energy. "In Hawaii, we were very much inspired by Micronesia...the Micronesia Challenge inspired the Aloha+Challenge. It's island leaders inspiring other island leaders, and it's island leaders that will lead our island Earth."

The Micronesia Challenge, launched in 2006, is a shared commitment to conserve at least 30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across the Micronesian sub-region by 2020. The Core Triangle Initiative, Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge, Caribbean Challenge Initiative, and Aloha+Challenge are thematically similar commitments inspired by the Micronesia Challenge through the Micronesia Island Forum (MIF).

"So, we have other partners saying: how do we integrate sustainability and climate and have an open data platform to measure progress...and how do we appropriate indicators and metrics that are defined by the local community?" Executive Director Connors said, describing how

implementing, measuring, and tracking local solutions empowers communities and can translate to solutions across other parts of the world. "Islands have a real leadership role—so we invite you and [U.S. Senator Brian Schatz] to join the network which now includes Ireland, Seychelles, and Grenada...."

The conversation broached many subjects on climate change analysis and action, and how all the various layers of society and economy are interlinked.

Trigg Talley, Senior Advisor to Hawai'i Green Growth, noted that there is a huge linkage and integration between what happens in climate and what happens in terms of the SDGs more broadly.

Joey Manahan, member of the Honolulu City Council, described how tapping and engaging the Micronesian community in Hawaii is important to the City of Honolulu's success and the broader success of Hawaii.

Scott Seu, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at Hawaiian Electric Company, described how meeting Hawaii's goal of 100% renewable energy use by 2045 starts with, and requires, local communities informing Hawaii Electric's plans (as opposed to the company telling the communities what it will be doing and having that be the end of it).

Dr. James Scott, Chair of the Board for East-West Center, advised that he was heartened by President Panuelo's optimism in American democracy and emphasized that educating children for a sustainable future is vital.

Amanda Ellis, Executive Director, Hawaii and Asia-Pacific and Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University, described her appreciation for the leadership of island governments, emphasizing that significant breakthroughs such as the Paris Agreement are the result of such leadership.

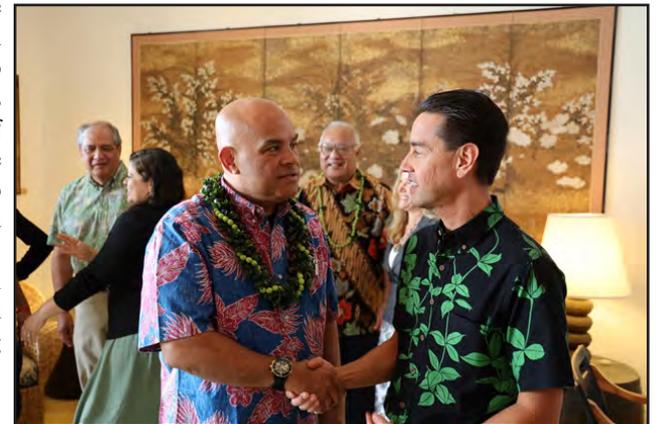
Maya Soetoro-Ng, sister of former U.S. President Barack H. Obama and Advisor to the Obama Foundation, described how the Obama Foundation's Asia-Pacific Leaders program seeks deeply ethical and collaborative young leaders with a commitment to the region so as to mentor and support them.

"In terms of this group and our working together," President Panuelo said in his closing remarks, "I really hope that this



Trigg Talley, Calvin Ehmes, Karena Lyons, Jim Scott, Celeste Connors, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, Maya Soetoro-Ng, Lorin S. Robert, Amanda Willis; Joey Manahan; Scott Seu

is the beginning. We always pass through Hawaii as a hub to reach other parts of the world—so if there's a way that we can get together to share experiences and support each other... [the FSM National Government] would appreciate connecting with you."



The FSM National Government is proud to begin its partnership with Hawai'i Green Growth and its network of academic, public, and private sector stakeholders.

President Panuelo shakes hands with Honolulu City Councilmember Joey Manahan, who earnestly requested the President if Honolulu can create a Sister City relationship with somewhere in the FSM



President Panuelo and his delegation meet with Hawai'i Green Growth and their academic, public, and private sector stakeholders

75th Anniversary Commemoration Program in Ulithi, Yap draws islanders, officials, and U.S. military personnel

U.S. Embassy Kolonia, Pohnpei

rights and sovereignty.”

U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Robert Riley, joined Ulithians to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the entry of the U.S. Navy into Ulithi Lagoon, in Ulithi, Yap, FSM, on September 23. The celebration was one of a series of events around the world this year and next, commemorating World War II military milestones, of which the entry into Ulithi Lagoon is one. Remarkably, for a six-month period during World War II, there were over 700 U.S. Navy ships berthed in the Ulithi Lagoon, making it the largest port in the world during that period of time. Particularly remarkable is the fact that a port of this magnitude was masked from the Japanese. Its disguise was critical to the success of its mission, as Ulithi was a staging area for a number of decisive Pacific naval battles towards the end of the war and was critical to victory in the Pacific theatre.

Yap Governor Henry Falan lauded the occasion, noting that the positive benefits of the U.S. presence in the region resonated then and remain even more relevant now. He described the advantages of societies built upon the foundations of democracy and human rights, and reminded everyone of how Ulithi played a role in the fight for peace.

Two indigenous presentations re-created, through oral histories, chants, and dances, the experience of World War II for the local residents. The Falalop Women Association performed “Tangel Hafohoy” (“A Mourn of Sorrow”) and the Asor ladies performed “Santomaas, a marching dance influenced by the military occupation in the islands. Programs handed out to audience members included a transcript of the lyrics in both the native language and in English. Audience members could follow the story of how the islands feared the Japanese and welcomed “the great mighty USA,” as the fleet “shocked the sand bars .. like an earthquake.”

Commencing with a tour of Ulithi high school, re-constructed by USAID with funding from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, after Typhoon Maysak ravaged the island in 2015, ceremonies proceeded at the USAID-constructed outdoor pavilion, with speeches and local dances, songs, and chants performed by islanders of all ages.

Tapping off the commemorative program, Yap Governor Falan, Chairman Payel, and Ambassador Riley laid a Mwarmwar wreath at the World War II monument in Falalop, followed by a visit to the display of the historic photos, as local residents sang, accompanied by guitar.

Marking the occasion with the symbolism of the large presence of the U.S. Navy there during World War II were two U.S. military ships, the USNS Vadm K.R. Wheeler and the Coast Guard Cutter Kiska. Coast Guard and Navy personnel joined the festivities and hosted U.S. and Yapese officials for lunch on the USNS Vadm K. R. Wheeler, adding to the intercultural exchanges throughout the day.

The event began with an invocation by Lawrence Yaimangruw, followed by remarks by U.S. Ambassador Riley, Governor of the State of Yap, The Honorable Henry Falan, and Chief Ramon Payel, Chairman of the Council of Tamol. Master of Ceremonies, Peter Manglor, acknowledged the following World War II survivors of Ulithi:

Asor: Pedrus Polmal and Louis Haglerus
Falalop: Pisenti Paiyudul, Teresa Rulmal, and Father Nick Rahoy

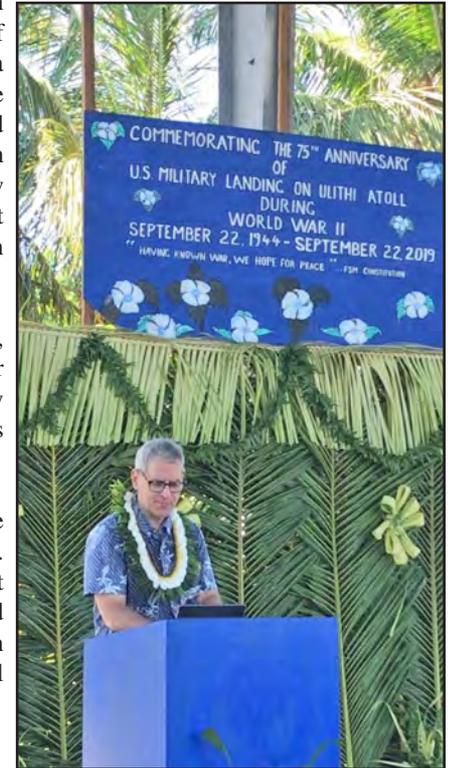
Fedrai: George Hofalul, Tagoladep, Tomasa Lehorlyel

Mogmog: Cicilia Hachegelmog, Hilary Tacheliol, Conception Leper, and Rosa Tarulemel.

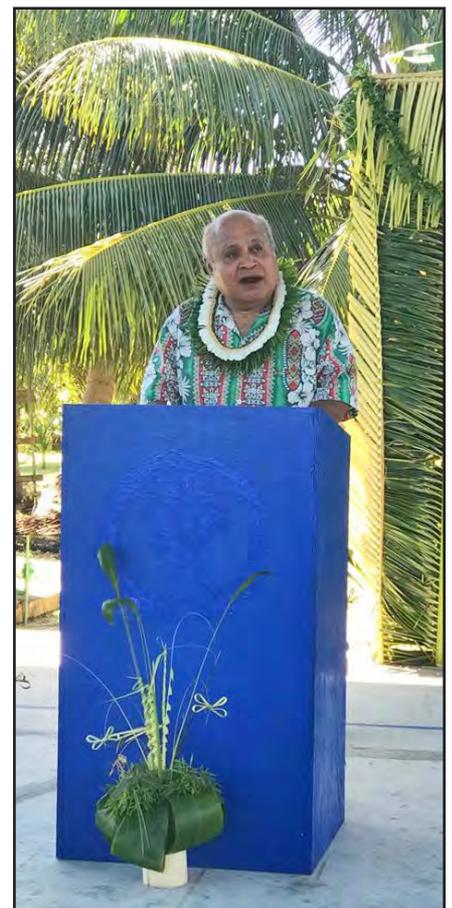
U.S. Ambassador Riley addressed the historic importance of the Ulithi effort in World War II, and reminded everyone that this event was the beginning of “our unique and special relationship, forged decades ago.” He described the heretofore unheralded interactions among the Americans and the local residents during the Ulithi operation. He reminded the audience that “although the history books may give them short shrift, we know about them in the chronicles of Ulithi residents, and of U.S. soldiers.” In that spirit and in honor of the occasion, the U.S. Embassy bequeathed to the island 10 historic photographs, donated originally by U.S. soldiers and sailors who remember their time in Ulithi with great fondness. The photos show not only the scope of the operation but the engagement among island residents with U.S. military personnel. Chief Ramon Payel, who spoke movingly of local residents’ reminiscences of the kindness of U.S. Navy soldiers, further personalized his connection to the event when he pointed out his father in one of those historic photos.



Chief Ramon Payel Point to his father in historical photo



Ambassador Riley in Ulithi



Yap Governor Henry Falan speaks at 75th Anniversary Commemoration in Ulithi

Ambassador Riley used the occasion to remind everyone that “the U.S. takes Title III provisions under the Compact seriously and will defend the FSM and its people to ensure that we all continue to live in peace and exercise our human



热烈庆祝中密建交30周年 中华人民共和国成立70周年

In Warmest Celebration of
the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of
Diplomatic Relations Between China and the FSM
& the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of
the People's Republic of China



" China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership "



" Joint Pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative
and the Building of A Community with A Shared Future for Humanity "

中华人民共和国驻密克罗尼西亚联邦大使馆
EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



College of Micronesia-FSM
Invites you to
Cocktail FUNDRAISING & RAFFLE DRAW

October 25, 2019 | 6:00 PM

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Grand Prize
\$5,000.00

1st Prize **Round trip Ticket Honolulu / FSM**

2nd Prize **Flatbed Truck**

3rd Prize **Brand New Generator**

4th Prize **Brand New Mini Refrigerator and MANY MORE!!!**



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)

Hurry and Buy your Tickets now!!

*For Ticket Inquiries Contact:
 Amy Santiago at (691) 320-8766*

Proceeds of this activity will go to the College's Endowment Fund

Are you interested in pursuing a career in Health?

Sign up for COM-FSM's

Nursing Program



KOSRAE CAMPUS



YAP CAMPUS



CHUUK CAMPUS



CTEC

COMET DATES 2019

College of Micronesia-FSM Entrance Test

Don't miss these Dates!!

National Campus

P.O. Box 159
 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Phone: (691)320-2480
 Fax: (691)320-2479
 E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus

P.O. Box 879
 Chuuk, FM 96942
 Phone: (691)330-2689
 Fax: (691)330-2740
 E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

FSM-FMI

P.O. Box 1056
 Colonia Yap, FM 96943
 Phone: (691)350-5244
 Fax: (691)350-5245
 E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm

Kosrae Campus

P.O. Box 37
 Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944
 Phone: (691)370-3191
 Fax: (691)370-3193
 E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm

CTEC

P.O. Box 614
 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Phone: (691)320-3795
 Fax: (691)320-3799
 E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm

Yap Campus

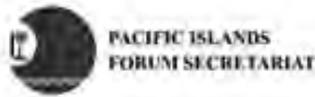
P.O. Box 286
 Colonia Yap, FM 96943
 Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
 Fax: (691)350-5150
 E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm

Student Success is our Success

www.comfsm.fm

Follow us online:





Vacancies

Permanent (Forum) Representative to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and United Nations (UN) in Geneva

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Forum Secretariat) is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation, with a vision of helping to create a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The international organisation works to achieve this vision by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members - including directly engaging with community members in order to identify pressing needs of the region.

The work of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) as: The expression of a common sense of identity and purpose, leading progressively to the sharing of institutions, resources, and markets, with the purpose of complimenting national efforts, overcoming common constraints, and embracing sustainable and inclusive development within Pacific countries and territories and for the Pacific region as a whole.

The FPR is underpinned by the Blue Pacific narrative, endorsed by Forum Leaders in Samoa in 2017, which calls for a long-term regional commitment to act as one "Blue Continent" as the means to achieve its development aspirations. The Leaders vision was that it would serve as the platform to reinforce and inspire the region in its shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and to reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods.

About the Opportunity

The Forum Secretariat invites suitably experienced and qualified individuals to apply for the position of Permanent Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations (UN), based in Geneva, Switzerland. The position is under the overall direction of the Director of Programmes and Initiatives of the Forum Secretariat. The work of the PIF - Geneva Office and that of the Permanent Representative will be guided by the following objectives:

- Represent the interests of Forum Members at the WTO and UN agencies in Geneva as and when mandated by Forum Leaders through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Manage the Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the WTO and UN in Geneva in an efficient and responsive manner, including management of budgets, monitoring and reporting requirements and supervision of staff in line with the agreed Work Programme according to the Forum Secretariat requirements;
- Manage a team to support Ministerial attendance at WTO and UN meetings in Geneva, and provide training, and managing and facilitating the work attachment of rotating representatives at the Permanent Delegation; and;
- Provide high-quality technical advice and assistance to stakeholders in matters relating to WTO and relevant UN issues and negotiations in Geneva.

While the PIF-Geneva Office has predominantly focused on supporting Forum Member Countries at the WTO, it has recently become accredited to the UN in Geneva. It is envisaged that the role of Permanent Representative over time will encompass greater engagement at the UN in Geneva on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum region, contingent on the availability of resources and the priorities of Forum Leaders.

The position of the Permanent Representative is for a term of 3 years. Applicants must have a relevant advanced degree in development economics, international trade or Business Administration. Applicants must also have at least five years' experience in international representation including through leading delegations at the WTO, UN and other international fora on behalf of Forum Members. Experience leading trade negotiation teams with sound knowledge and understanding of trade, socio-economic issues and challenges facing Forum Members in relation to international, regional economic integration, trade and development issues.

Applicants must also have extensive management and leadership to produce high-quality outcomes and managing teams of 5-15 staff to deliver representational and policy outcomes plus have extensive experience engaging with Government Officials and Ministers in direct reporting, liaison and coordination roles.

Capabilities

Applicants are also required to demonstrate their abilities in accordance with the Secretariat's Core Capabilities of: planning and prioritising, communicating with purpose and effect, leading and collaborating, applying critical thinking, developing & strengthening relationships and delivering value. To understand what these mean at the different levels of the organisation, applicants should view the Secretariat's Capability Framework on our website.

Supplementary Capabilities required for these positions include: building for the future, promoting effective workplace practices, managing and coordinating projects as well as using systems, tools and technology.

About the Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance as well as housing allowance. Paid in US Dollars, this range is within SDR42,297 to SDR52,871. At the 1st August 2019 exchange rates this was equivalent to FJD125,622 to FJD157,027 per annum. In addition to this salary a Cost of Living Differential Allowance will be paid. This allowance will be within a range equivalent to FJD40,743 to FJD47,033. This salary is also dependent on foreign exchange rates at the time of payment.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the position description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees. To be eligible for these positions, applicants must be a national of a Forum Island Country that is also a member or observer of the WTO. *

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 31 October 2019.

*Eligible countries are: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Handover ceremony for the project for procuring medical waste incinerator in Yap State

Embassy of Japan

On September 27 2019, a handover ceremony for the "Project for Procuring Medical Waste Incinerator in Yap State" was held at Yap State Hospital. For this project, \$61,640 was donated to the Yap Department of Health Services (DHS) under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects to install a medical waste incinerator at Yap State Hospital. This project will guarantee the safety of the hospital building as well as proper incineration of hospital waste.

In his address, Mr. Dominic Taruwemai, Deputy Director of the DHS expressed his appreciation for the generous donation from the Government of Japan. Mr. Sugiyama, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, stated that the new incinerator will benefit the people of Yap through improvement of medical waste management. He also encouraged the hospital staff to conduct proper maintenance so that the donated equipment will last longer. After the ribbon cutting by the representatives of each organization, hospital staff explained the usage of the incinerator to Mr. Sugiyama.

The representatives of the DHS, Yap State Hospital, and JICA senior volunteers witnessed the ceremony.



Interior and Energy Leverage Resources and Expertise to Conduct Analysis of Runit Dome on Enewetak

Office of the Assistant Secretary
Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech announced that Interior has signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Energy to provide \$1,689,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2019 funding to conduct a radiochemical analysis of groundwater surrounding and in the Cactus Crater waste-containment structure on Runit Island in Enewetak Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

“The U.S. Departments of the Interior and Energy are partnering on this important analysis of Runit Dome so that we can be responsive to both the U.S. Congress and concerns expressed by the Enewetak community in the Marshall Islands,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech.

During the period of 1947 to 1958, the United States conducted 43 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests at Enewetak Atoll. Prior to populations resettling in Enewetak in 1980, contaminated surface soil and radioactive debris were removed from Enewetak and surrounding islands, mixed with cement, and buried inside Cactus Crater above and below sea level. Built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cactus Crater, also known as Runit Dome, was then transferred to the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands under the Compact of Free Association. In 2012, in response to concerns raised by the

Enewetak community about the structural integrity of Runit Dome and possible adverse impacts on the environment and human health, Congress enacted Public Law 112-149 to provide continued monitoring of the structure. Since 2012, the U.S. Department of Energy has monitored conditions at Runit Dome.

The FY 2019 funding by the Office of Insular Affairs will leverage Department of Energy experts to conduct a radiochemical analysis and perform an engineering survey to assess the integrity of the structure. Monitoring will take approximately 18 months and, as required under the law, Energy will submit a subsequent report to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resource and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, describing the results of the radiochemical analysis and provide a determination as to any significant risks to the people of Enewetak.

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

Joint U.S. Congressional Committee Hearing on “Sustainable U.S. Pacific Insular Relationships”

FSM Information Services

WASHINGTON D.C.—The U.S. Congress House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a joint oversight hearing on September 26th, 2019 on “Sustaining U.S. Pacific Insular Relationships.” His Excellency Akilino H. Susaia, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to the U.S., and His Excellency Gerald Zackios, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to the U.S., joined the panel of witnesses inclusive of the U.S. Department of State, Department of Defense, Department of Interior, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

The general discussion centered on the need for the U.S. to step up its engagement and presence in the Pacific region, with particular emphasis on the need to strengthen U.S. relationships with the three Freely Associated States (FAS): the FSM, the RMI, and the Republic of Palau.

“The United States is and has been the closest friend and ally of the Federated States of Micronesia as the FSM continues to grow and flourish as a young nation,” testified Ambassador Susaia. “The U.S. and the FSM have a longstanding strategic partnership that reflects the values of our two countries, including our commitment to promoting sovereignty, the rule of law, democracy, and regional security.”

The testimony from the U.S side was collectively positive in the U.S.

overall effort to continue strengthen the longstanding relationship with the three FAS. This was a rare opportunity for both sides—the U.S. and the FAS—to further speak to the strength of the relationship enshrined in the Compacts of Free Association. It was also a rare event to have two House Committees in a joint hearing—the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs—having oversight jurisdictions over the FAS countries.

The three FAS of the FSM, RMI, and Palau have a Compact of Free Association with the United States, certain provisions of which are expiring in 2023 for the FSM and RMI, and 2024 for Palau.

The hearing in its entirety, along with the written testimonies, can be access and viewed at the following link: <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/2019/9/sustaining-u-s-pacific-insular-relationships>

Citizens of the FSM are particularly encouraged to read Ambassador Susaia’s testimony, which can be found here: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA00/20190926/110046/HHRG-116-FA00-Wstate-SusaiaH-20190926.pdf>

For more information on the hearing and the enduring, special, and perpetual relationship between the FSM and the United States, please contact the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Washington, D.C. at +1-202-223-4383, dcm@fsmembassydc.org, or through its online contact form here: <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/webform/contact-us>

INTOSAI representative visit Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA)

Pohnpei, FSM - Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Freddy Ndjemba, of International Organization of Supreme Audit Institution (INTOSAI) on September 12, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss POPA’s Strategic Management and Operational Plan (SMOP) for Fiscal Years 2018 to 2022. The SMOP generally describes what POPA is aiming to achieve during the plan period. It also discusses in summary the strategies and activities to achieve POPA’s goals and objectives during the plan period. During the meeting,

Mr. Ndjemba commended POPA for prioritizing the completion of its SMOP and taking ownership of it. He pointed out POPA’s strategies are within the context of the office needs and capacities. Mr. Ndjemba also shared some insights on how to improve those strategies based on what the office already has in place. Mr. Ndjemba is originally from Africa but working in Oslo, Norway as the Manager of Capacity Development of INTOSAI. He was able to try Sakau and visited Nanmadol ruins during his short visit to Pohnpei.



Freddy of INTOSAI with Public Auditor and POPA staff

State Chuuk Office of Public Auditor's performance assessed

Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI)

Weno, Chuuk (30 September 2019) - The Public Audit Office of the State of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was accorded an assessment by a review team from the Pacific Supreme Audit Institution (PASAI) to measure their performance against international standards.

Referred to as the SAI Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), the assessment is an opportunity for the Public Audit Office to review its core functions, legal framework, internal governance that will be able to allow the Audit Office to confidentially communicate with its internal and external stakeholders.

This is the final SAI PMF assessment for this round of evaluation in the PASAI region which was implemented as part of the activities of the Strengthening Public Finance Management and Governance in the Pacific Project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office in Fiji. PASAI is a responsible party to the project and delivers the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) component and contributes to the strengthening of the budget oversight capacities of PAC from the perspectives of SAIs.

The assessment included interviews with

the Public Auditor, Mr Manny San Jose Jr and a series of evidence-based enquiries and documentary reviews throughout the two-week assessment process.

Mr San Jose, who has been in office for just over 18 months said, "I'm looking forward to the report from this assessment to set an objective platform for me to work on in improving the Office's performance."

He added, "As a SAI with a small number of staff who, at present, is able to complete only a limited number of audits each year, I am most hopeful that the results of the SAI PMF will help us progress as a team and an office."

Mr San Jose Jr says that he is particularly keen to learn how to demonstrate to all our stakeholders, including Chuuk's citizens, that the Public Auditor plays a valuable role in strong governance and the close inspection of public expenditure.

As manager of the SAI PMF initiative across the whole PASAI region, PASAI's Director of Practice Development Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo said, "Every SAI presents its own unique set of circumstances and challenges, and it is our role as assessors to ensure that the SAI PMF assessment generates the most helpful and pertinent feedback for the SAI."

"We are very grateful to the Chuuk Public Auditor and his team for their openness and responsiveness to the whole SAI PMF process," she added, "and trust that this will impact positively on the SAI's performance into the future."

The Chuuk SAI PMF review team comprised of Sina Palamo-Iosefo and the Audit Manager from FSM State Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor, Alice Etse. They presented a summary of key findings from the assessment and provided an overview of the framework to all staff for their understanding about the relevance of the assessment to

their individual role within the Office.

PASAI extends its gratitude to EU and UNDP for their support through the 'Strengthening PFM' project, and to development partners MFAT and DFAT for their ongoing support and contributions to PASAI's core funding.



Front row): Manny San Jose Jr and Troy Chiwi (back row) Alice Etse, Gina Lokopwe, Sina Palamo-Iosefo

Grant contract signing ceremony for the project for refuse collection compactor truck in Yap State

Embassy of Japan

On September 25, 2019, a Grant Contract Signing Ceremony was held at Yap State Governor's Office for "the Project for Refuse Collection Compactor Truck in Yap State", which provided to the Department of Public Works & Transportation, State of Yap, with \$89,546 under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects. This project intends to provide one (1) Refuse Collection Compactor Truck, in order to ensure effective refuse collection service to make the residents living in Yap main island clean, safe, sanitary and happy.

The Hon. Henry S. Falan, Governor of Yap State, showed his gratitude for the generous assistance from the Government of Japan. He also mentioned that with this project people in Yap will be ensured a clean and safe environment. Mr. Sugiyama, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, introduced Japanese assistance in Yap State and stated importance of appropriate waste disposal.

The Hon. Governor Henry S. Falan, the Hon. Lt. Governor Jesse Salau, officials from Yap State Government, representatives from the Department of Public Works & Transportation, and JICA senior volunteers, witnessed the ceremony.



Bank of Guam donates cash and furniture to youth organization

Bank of Guam Pohnpei Branch Manager, Mary Simmering headed a small group that presented a check for \$700.00 donation to Youth 4 Change Director Sylvia Elias as a modest support for the organization. Board of Director Chairman Joseph Diaz and Counselor Mason Rosario accompanied Director Elias at the presentation ceremony.

Along with the cash donation, the bank also donated executive desks and office chairs in support of the organization.

The cash grant was the total amount of voluntary contributions made by the employees of all the Bank of Guam branches, including Guam Headquarters who participated in Bank of Guam's "dress down" fundraising event. Each Friday is designated as BOG's "dress down" day during which an employee may elect to forego wearing the bank's uniform for which the employee pays a fee that is deposited to a chosen beneficiary. The beneficiary is selected and sponsored by each branch or department; Pohnpei Branch selected Youth 4 Change to benefit from Pohnpei Branch's dress down fundraising event.

The Bank of Guam prides itself as a community bank, therefore it supports non-government organizations, such as Youth 4 Change that builds community spirit.



HALLOWEEN SMS GAME

TEXT TO WIN!

Start Date: Oct. 07,19
End Date: Oct. 30,19
Charges: 40 cents/SMS

TEXT TO 505



Rank 1

**\$1,000 &
Samsung Galaxy
Note 10+**



Rank 2

\$750

Rank 3

\$500

Instant top-ups: 10 winners x \$50 to-pup

Terms and Conditions: Campaign starts October 07, 2019 at 12:01am (Pohnpei local time) and ends October 30, 2019 at 11:59pm (Pohnpei local time). To participate in the HALLOWEEN SMS GAME, the customer will need to text the keyword TRICK or TREAT to short-code 505 to collect points. With a chance to win promotional and eventually win the grand prize, customer will need to play the game on a daily basis to accumulate points. Each text (correct or incorrect keyword) sent to short-code 505 will be charged 0.40/txt (GST incl.). For more information call customer care at 691-320-2740.





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 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 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 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

Letter to the Editor

My Fellow FSM citizens:

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of our country's diplomatic relationship with the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). Several celebrations have taken place to commemorate this historic event in the history of our country. Officials from the Peoples Republic of China and the China's resident ambassador and his staff have hosted several festivities to observe this important event.

We have good reasons to celebrate. Our friendship with Peoples Republic of China is upright and sincere. It is based on mutual respect of each other's full sovereignty, cultures, and political systems. China has given us several projects: most notably, the gymnasium at the College of Micronesia, the two field trip ships, the Pohnpei Capital building, the Chuuk capital building, and the FSM national convention center at the capital in Palikir which is still under construction. Several hundred of our young men and women are studying in China. Some have completed their studies and returned to our country to work and contribute to the development of country; some are still in China studying and learning, and new students are going every year.

China has also helped to repair our roads and bridges in the outlying communities, and has provided appropriate and practical lighting technologies for use in villages. Most importantly, China has contributed about \$4 million to the FSM trust fund.

Remarkably, China has helped with economic and social development and has contributed to our trust fund without asking for any concession from us to satisfy its national interest need.

The Micronesia-China Friendship Association (MCFA) is working closely with the Chinese ambassador and his staff to flesh out our relationship with China. The Chinese have sent several cultural performance groups to Pohnpei and to the other states in the FSM. In the future, we hope our cultural dance groups will visit China. This type of people-to-people contact will deepen and strengthen the relationship between

our two peoples.

From our nation's perspective, our relationship with China has yielded an unexpected benefit. After we concluded the last negotiation of Compact with the United States, the latter announced that it was going to be last compact, and when it terminates in 2023, there would not be any renewal. Well, now the United States cannot wait to renew the compact. What has caused the turn around? I think what caused the United States to turn around and favored compact renegotiation is (1) our continued excellent diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China, and (2) events in the South China Sea.

When I signed the MOU in 1989 to establish diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China, it was compelling because I wanted China to assist us in the Security Council of United Nations to terminate the trusteeship and help us to secure a membership in the United Nations. If our continued diplomatic relationship with China helps to push the United States toward renegotiating the compact, then it is another added benefit for us.

And last but certainly not the least; I take this opportunity to congratulate the leaders and the people of the Peoples Republic of China on the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of their country. During this seventy-year period, China has gone from internal revolutionary upheaval to the second biggest economy in the world and a superpower status. It is a miraculous rise and China deserved all the praises, and congratulations. So please accept our whole-hearted congratulations on the seventieth anniversary of your national day.

I strongly encourage our Micronesian sister-states to consider establishing diplomatic relation with the Peoples Republic of China as the overwhelming majority of countries in the world have done. The Peoples Republic of China is the future. Needless to say, the Peoples Republic of China is the second largest economy in the world, and it is a military superpower.

John Haglegam
Second President of the FSM

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

June 6, 2019
Date

What is the risk of getting the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to Pohnpei or other FSM States?

From the Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei iSTOP, drafted by Konrad Englberger



The risk of a Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) invasion of Pohnpei and other FSM islands is very high. The reason for this high risk is the presence of CRB in neighboring countries, like Guam and Palau where there are uncontrolled outbreaks and the movement of people and goods exist. The Guam International Airport is surrounded by active CRB breeding sites mainly in the form of dead standing coconut trees. The likelihood that a beetle gets into a cargo hold or ship hatch during loading at night is very high. The CRB is nocturnal and flies at night.

The damage caused by the CRB can be devastating. In Guam, almost all coconut trees are showing the v-shaped damage symptom from the CRB. The yield losses cause by the beetle, especially from the new biotype CRB-G are very high. Guam has many dead standing coconut trees which are killed by the CRB and these dead standing trees create breeding places for the eggs, larvae and adult beetle.

Eradication of CRB from invaded islands is almost impossible. There have been many CRB eradication attempts, but only one was successful. In the 1930s, CRB was eradicated from a small (16 km²) outer island of Tonga. This was accomplished by sanitation, detection and destruction of all breeding sites. Recent attempts to eradicate the CRB from Oahu, Hawaii have failed despite of having a well-coordinated and well-funded rapid response.

CRB has been introduced in Saipan in 2006 as a single adult beetle but recently adults and grubs were found by Quarantine in a shipment of packaged soil.

Current outbreaks of CRB on Pacific Islands are caused by a recently discovered biotype, CRG-G. This biotype has characteristics which makes it more invasive than CRB genotypes which invaded Pacific Islands prior to 2007.

Evidence indicate that:

- CRB-G causes much more damage than other biotypes.
- is resistant to the virus Oryctesnuditovirus (OrNV), previously used as a very effective biological control

agent for CRB.

- CRB-G is not very responsive to the oryctalure aggregation pheromone.

Adequate knowledge and understanding of the consequences of a CRB invasion must be emphasize to prevent the introduction of CRB. Quarantine officers need to be vigilant in their inspection.

Public awareness of imminent risk of CRB invasion needs to be promoted. People need to know what the CRB symptoms look like (v-shaped cuts to coconut fronds) and to report if there are any sightings.

The Invasive Species Task Force of Pohnpei, iSTOP has produced an ALERT leaflet for public awareness. Public is asked to report CRB damage symptoms which looks like a V-shaped cut on the frond and a hole in the center the base of the frond, see photos below.

Before reporting the leaf damage, please ensure that the damage was not made by humans cutting coconut fronds.

The Invasive Species Task Force of Pohnpei is presently preparing an Emergency Response Plan in case there is a CRB invasion.

Early detection and activation of an immediate response is the goal for a possible successful eradication of a CRB invasion.

If you see the damage symptoms or a beetle, please report to Agriculture, Phone 320 2400 or Quarantine Phone 320 4969, Conservation Society of Pohnpei CSP, Phone 320 5409





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 submits 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 Sahn
Acting Director
FSM National Election
Federated States of Micronesia

8/12/19
Date



Ramp & Mida Law Firm

Suite 2W Varner-Boylan Building No.2
Nett, Pohnpei FM 96941
Phone (691) 320-2870
www.rampmida.fm

Chuuk's Premier Traveler's Destination



L5 Hotel



"I've stayed at L5 for quite some time now and am always impressed by the customer service and how the staff are always up to ensuring your stay is more than you would expect." - Sep 6, 2016

"My family and I have stayed here 3 times during our visits to Chuuk. The staff welcome you with gleaming smiles and are always helpful and upbeat. Our take away from this hotel is the feel of its family atmosphere." - Jan 22, 2016

"So glad this place has re-opened and is where I will stay from now on in Chuuk." - Apr 6, 2016

reservations@l5hotel.fm
(691) 330-7048/7049
www.l5hotel.fm

Opening Date: **October 10, 2019**
Closing Date: **October 25, 2019**

We're hiring!

PROCESS & QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

Position Announcement No.: PA-18-2019
Based at the Pohnpei Coconut Industry Development Unit

Essential Knowledge & Experience:

- ✓ 5-7 Years work experience in Food Grade Coconut Milling Plant
- ✓ 3-5 Years Research & Analysis; Management
- ✓ Chemical or Mechanical Engineering degree
- ✓ Ability and confidence to work with limited supervision; solid understanding of HSSE Management; strong ICT system competencies

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER ORDER-TO-CASH

Position Announcement No.: PA-19-2019
Based at the Pohnpei Terminal

Essential Knowledge & Experience:

- ✓ 2 years work experience in customer service
- ✓ 3 years work experience in office management responsibilities, developing the ability and confidence to work with limited supervision
- ✓ Solid understanding of administration field, customer importance
- ✓ High School education

Download the Vital Employment Application at www.vitalenergy.fm/careers

