

FSM Supreme Court issues TRO to stop sea cucumber harvests based on filing by seven young people

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 22, 2019

Pohnpei—Justice Mayceleen JD Anson of the FSM Supreme Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) on November 19 barring the harvest of sea cucumbers in Pohnpei. The issuance of the TRO came after local attorney Marstella Jack filed a civil action on behalf of seven young people with permission of their parents. The Plaintiff are each under the age of 18. Named as defendants in the suit are the Governor, Pohnpei State, the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) along with its administrator, and Young Sun International Trading Company.

Jack, who is handling the case on a pro bono basis says that this is the first time that children in the FSM are plaintiffs in a case, exercising their rights enshrined under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is also the first time that the FSM Supreme Court has been requested to consider violations of rights in a United Nations agreement.

The issuance of the TRO again put at least a temporary

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Two complaints and one request for recount slows official certification of Pohnpei election results

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 22, 2019

Pohnpei—On November 12, Pohnpei voters went to the polls to elect their representatives at the Pohnpei State government. Though results of that election have not yet been certified, it seems clear from the unofficial results released by the Pohnpei Election Commission that current Lt. Governor Reed B. Oliver will be the next Governor of the State and that Feliciano Perman will be the next Lt. Governor.

According to the officially released unofficial results, voters chose not to return several incumbents to their seats in the Legislature. Voters also elected three female candidates to be legislators.

Though it has been 10 days since the election, the Pohnpei Election Commission could not certify the results that they published

because by law it needed to allow for challenges. By the legally established deadline, two complaints and one petition were filed at the Election Commission. A Commission spokesperson could not state the nature of the complaints or who had asked for recounts.

For now, the most definitive word on the election results for the Pohnpei State Legislature is as follows. There are some close vote counts and some of these results could change after recounts and reviews of complaints:

Marvin Yamaguchi and Jack Susaia Harris will represent Kolonia. Stevick Edwin will be the representative for Sapwuahfik. Sendilina Lekka will represent Nukuoro edging out candidate Benjamin H. Ludwig 121 votes to 114

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Franz Hetiback—citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia



FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 7th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), conducted the citizenship ceremony for the Nation’s newest naturalized citizen: Mr. Franz Hetiback. Born in the United States of America to parents from the FSM, the Government of the FSM is proud to call Mr. Hetiback a citizen.

Citizens of the FSM have, among other rights, the right to vote in elections, and purchase and/or inherit land.

PUBLIC NOTICE AMENDMENTS TO MICARE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO TITLE 52 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

This is to inform the general public that MiCare Health Insurance Plan, through its Board of Directors, hereby proposes to amend a certain part of the MiCare Health Insurance Plan Regulations. The proposed amendments are published pursuant to the authority granted by 52 FSMC § 409 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC § 102.

The proposed regulations pertain to the following:

Amend Part 4.4 (Premium Schedule) by increasing the premium for all plan options by 6.5 percent effective December 1st 2019.
For each member, this means bi-weekly rates would increase by \$0.66 for NR; \$1.25 for BA; \$2.75 for SR; and \$3.75 for SN.

In a public notice dated January 2019, MiCare announced for a gradual increase to premium starting with a dollar for all plan options effective April 2019. This second increase is in line with the planned increase of up to 19 percent as recommended by the actuarial study and approved by the Board of Directors. As such, MiCare intends to increase premium by 6.5 percent in December 2019.

All persons, government agencies, business organizations or any person interested in commenting on these proposed regulations may do so in a written submission to the MiCare Health Insurance Plan, P.O. Box 2156, Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941. Copies of the proposed amendments and Regulations can be obtained from the MiCare Health Insurance Plan office located at Moylan's Building ground floor in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

The proposed amendment is aimed to take effect on December 1, 2019 and is in compliance with Title 17 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia.

All written comments must be submitted by November 8, 2019.

Date: OCTOBER 3, 2019

Arlynnne Chuagen
MiCare Administrator

Approved as to legal sufficiency:

Date: 10/17/2019

Department of Justice

Approved by the President:

Date: 10/29/19

H.E. David W. Panuelo
FSM President

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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

Trends in Pohnpei sea cucumber populations

By Dr. Peter Houk
University of Guam Marine Laboratory

November 22, 2019

Pohnpei—Both economic and conservation interests in Pohnpei’s sea cucumbers continue to grow. Sea cucumbers play a very important role in Pohnpei’s coral-reef ecosystem and maintaining their sustainable populations is necessary for healthy reefs. Equally, sea cucumbers represent a source of financial income for Pohnpei fishers when managed properly through time. The difficulty lies in developing and enforcing regulations that can maintain and balance both environmental and economic interests; in other words, knowing when to harvest and when to preserve.

Unfortunately, there is no long-term data over the past decades to assess the status and trends of the sea cucumber fishery. However, a coral-reef monitoring program conducted by our research lab at the University of Guam in partnership with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture can provide some useful information on the status of Pohnpei’s sea cucumbers over recent years. This program conducts surveys on the shallow reef slopes around Pohnpei where many species of sea cucumber live, inside and outside of marine protected areas, on the east and west coast, and on both outer and inner reefs (see map below). The main goal of this program is to understand how the nearshore fisheries and corals respond to human stressors and management programs, such as Marine Protected Areas, and help to balance the social, economic, and ecosystem needs of fisheries. So, while this sampling design can provide a useful indication of recent sea cucumber population trends, key intertidal habitats such as reef flats and seagrass beds are not included.

The data collected reveal clear trends.

First, we have noticed a steady decline in sea cucumbers over the past five years. Second, the decline has been more significant for large species of sea cucumbers compared to smaller species. Large species are more valuable and grow slower. Large species are now found in very low densities across the lagoon reefs (see graphs below). Third, we noticed that declines occurred in reefs formally declared as marine protected areas by legislation and open reefs alike. We next provide some logical guesses regarding the causes.

Several events may have contributed to this decline. First, there was a purported harvesting operation that began collecting and drying sea cucumbers in 2013, but never recorded landings because it was illegal. The status of this operation across the years is unknown to us. Second, there have been reports from communities that unusually heavy rains events and/or extreme low tides with the 2015 El Nino may have led to sea cucumber die-off events in some localities. Third there were coral bleaching events in 2016 and 2017 associated with climate-change induced increases in sea temperature that killed many of the corals, but no direct mortality of sea cucumbers was observed. Regardless of cause, the current status of sea cucumber populations on the shallow lagoon reef slopes is low, especially for larger-bodied species.

Protecting sustainable sea cucumber populations is essential as they feed on sediments and detritus (or decaying organic matter) that get flushed from the surrounding watersheds or are excreted by larger coral-reef fishes and invertebrates (fish poop for example). The very fact that so many species of sea cucumbers exist in Pohnpei highlights just how much of this food source is available for processing. But, what happens if detritus is not processed? Well,

what happens if we never sweep the dirt from our house? Left unchecked, detritus can slowly be consumed by the bottom dwelling algae that live on the reefs, which can eventually outcompete corals for space. Equally, protecting sustainable sea cucumber populations can provide a consistent source of income for fishers for years to come if managed properly. Proper management should lead to more stable, or even increasing, trends through time to ensure the future of sea cucumbers in Pohnpei.

All long-term data collected as part of our collaborative coral-reef monitoring program are available upon request from local offices or our research lab at the University of Guam. We hope that providing data can help stakeholders and

decision makers to better understand the situation and make educated decisions. Priority next steps should include a full survey of the shallow reef habitats not included in our program, and a synthesis of all available past data if they become available. Currently, our data are the only available data to the public. Collecting and sharing data is essential to help manage the natural resources of Pohnpei.

This summary was prepared by Dr. Peter Houk from the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, who works in partnerships with numerous technical staff from the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Pohnpei Natural Resource Management Agency.

Pohnpei’s Small Business Guarantee & Finance Corporation strategically positioned for assisting in economic development for the State

In March of 2019, the Small Business Guarantee & Finance Corporation’s (SBGFC) Management and Board made the decision to create a strategic plan that will reorient the way the SBGFC does business. SBGFC executive leadership held a review of the consultations and decided on the activities to be included in this new five-year strategic plan. These activities were selected to deliver the best performance for the Corporation while trying to minimize the threats, both perceived and real, that exist for keeping SBGFC in sustainable operations.

Now under the leadership of a new Executive Director, the team at SBGFC is actively pursuing new avenues of business. They are better aligning their work to promote the implementation of the Pohnpei State Strategic Development Plan and are focused on providing commercial loans to businesses and startups in the fields of tourism and agriculture, among other sectors.

SBGFC over the years has had good success in assisting new and existing businesses to grow here in Pohnpei and spur the economy. Two examples of this are the store Updated owned by Mrs. Ginger Shoniber Arnold, and B2 & M3 owner Mr. Barney Daniel. Here’s what they had to say about their experience using SBGFC to finance their small business needs.

“My gratitude to Small Business Guarantee as they were the first financier to heed my call for support. I got my first break to secure a small loan from them, not once but twice. They continued to believe and invest in my small business. With God’s blessing, I successfully paid back what I owed to them. From time to time, I’ve gotten hints for re-application from the staff who have become like family after all these years they’ve supported me.” – Ginger Arnold

“I would say that Small Business is more efficient and quicker in providing the service (of lending to small business owners). If businesspeople are determined to do a particular business, they would more likely expect to get financial support in a short matter of time or else they would lose the interest. For me, I received two loans from Small Business due to good service, low interest rates and communication-wise, it was good.” – Mr. Barney Daniel

The SBGFC’s new director hopes “to work closely with our communities around Pohnpei to meet your needs for commercial loans up to \$25,000 to either grow your existing business or help you start up something new that will benefit the growth of the economy.” For more information on the services that SBGFC can provide, please call them at 320-2968.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: December 9, 2019

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Wednesday, December 4, 2019

15 boats register for 16th Annual Budweiser Fishing Tournament

By Pohnpei Fishing Club

November 9, 2019

Pohnpei—15 boats and their anglers participated in the 16th Annual Budweiser Tournament sponsored by Budweiser and Ambro/Shimbros, Inc. Overall it was a successful day.

The tournament was set up in a catch six format with six different species as fair game. Since no one had caught one lately, the Club didn't include Mahi Mahi, much to Alloys Malfitani's chagrin after he caught a big one.

Though the weather was reasonable, once again the fish were not as cooperative as we would like. Still Marvey Spencer on Dolphin was able to land four species and take first prize of \$400. A lot of other boats had two species so the weight of the biggest fish in each species determined who won. Ms. Enipein had two nice size fish to take second place for the \$300 prize with 38 pounds of fish. James Wichman won the \$150 third prize with 24 pounds of fish.

There was also a \$100.00 prize to the angler who caught the biggest fish in each species. We had four species landed for this prize.

Melvin Tenorio the representative of the sponsor boated the biggest fish of the day, a 67.5 pound Yellow Fin Tuna. Francisco Kosmas nabbed a big Skip Jack Tuna of 17.5 pounds. James Wichman brought in a 21 pound Wahoo. Marcus Samo hooked a 7.5 pound Barracuda.

The weigh in was held at Mangrove Bay. Each boat got a case of Budweiser from our sponsor along with t-shirts promoting the tournament. Budweiser also provided a lot of other goodies.

There was a barbecue to help the Pohnpei Public Library, thanks Uta, Cheryl and Jim.

The club also wants to thank all of the people who helped out, Bill, Virginia, Serlynn, and all of Kumer's guys. The tournament went off without a hitch and it is all because of our qualified helpers.

We have one more tourney this year, November 30, which is the MCT/CSP conservation tourney.



CFC-PNI joins in celebrating ANCOP Global Walk 2019

Alvie B. Cabañez
Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

November 17, 2019

Pohnpei—The Couples for Christ –Pohnpei (CFC-PNI) organized the annual Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP) Global Walk on November 17, 2019, now on its 10th year, with the theme, "Light Up My Life."

ANCOP is a non-profit organization founded by Couples for Christ, a global lay-organization recognized by the Vatican for its work on the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life and values.

The ANCOP Global Walk is an annual fundraising event which aims to raise awareness and funds for Couples for Christ's programs for the poor, specifically the Educational Sponsorship Program. It is the only day where the world unites in walking towards one great cause which is to answer the cry of the poor.

The Global Walk, now a world-wide annual event, happens simultaneously in various provinces and cities in the Philippines, as well as key cities in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

On a bright Sunday morning, the different family ministries: Servants of the Lord (SOLD), Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD), Singles for Christ (SFC), and Youth for Christ (YFC) of CFC-PNI together with family and friends, dedicated volunteers, and partners briskly walked from Pohnpei Islands Central School (PICS) track and field all the way to the Spanish Wall. Each step allows to raise awareness to residents along the way and eventually join the walk for a cause.

"We had quite a number of participants this year compared to last year. The walk will end at the Spanish Wall where participants could enjoy snacks and raffle prizes," said Brother Numeriano Ilagan, CFC-PNI ANCOP Coordinator.

"If I could borrow the words of Bro. Melo Villaroman, CFC ANCOP Chairman, today is the fulfillment of a dream that every child should be in school and every family deserves a great future. Bro. Melo reminded us to remain in this journey with ANCOP by sharing the light we got from our true source of light, Jesus Christ," he continued.

Upon registration, the participants received a green colored ANCOP Global Walk t-shirt to be worn during the walk. They also had the chance to win raffle prizes like lamps, gift certificates from partners and sponsors. The organizers led by the Couples for Christ - FSM Country Head, Bro. Jojo and Sis. Roselle Tagonon contributed snacks and light breakfast for the participants while the short program was on-going.

The success of the event was made possible through the generous donors and sponsors including Caroline Fisheries Corporation (CFC), Pacific Landscaping Engineering and Construction (PLEC), MedPharm, Tropics Helicopter, Consolidated Transportation Services, Inc. (CTSI-logistics), Ace Office Supplies, XIX Stores, Scooby's and Blacksand Co.



...Pohnpei Election

Continued from front page

Kasinda Carlos Ludwig will represent Kapingamarangi. Helgena J. Johnson will represent Mwoakilloa. Kikuo Apis, Jr. will represent Pingelap. Madolenihmw's four representatives will be Shelten Neth, Ricky Carl, Nelbert Perez, and Hudson Abraham. Kitti's four representatives will be Francisco Ioanis, McGarry Miguel, Herolyn S. Movick, and Dahker D. Daniel. Steven A. Joseph and Sonster Adalbert Edgar will represent U, though incumbent Aurelio P. Joab received only one vote fewer than Edgar. Nett's representatives will be Salter Loyola and Adelino Edmund. The four representatives for Sokehs will be Ausen T. Lambert, Aisek Artui, Mitaro I. Simina, and Jayson Walter. Walter edged out candidate Francisco Simram by nine votes.

An Election Commission spokesperson said that she expected the results to be certified as soon as the complaints and requests for recount were handled.

...Sea Cucumbers

Continued from front page

end to sea cucumber harvests in Pohnpei, though a harvest had already begun that morning in Madolenihmw. According to the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), 111 permits were issued to locals participating in the harvest.

The court ruling allows Young Sun to keep the sea cucumbers that were harvested before the court ordered the TRO. At press time, no details of how many sea cucumbers had been harvested were yet available.

Several months ago, the Mwoalen Wahu, the traditional leaders of Pohnpei, changed their minds and dropped the civil action they had filed nearly two years before seeking to bar the harvest of sea cucumbers in Pohnpei. The dismissal came not long after one of their members took part in a sponsored trip to China.

When the case was active, a TRO had been in place but it was lifted as soon as the court recognized the dismissal of the case. It opened all of Pohnpei's waters to harvest of sea cucumbers. Since the case had been dismissed, the Court never ruled on the merits of the case.

Sapwuahfik leaders and OFA authorized Young Sun to carry out a sea cucumber harvest there. The impacts of the Sapwuahfik harvest have yet to be assessed.

According to a source who didn't want to be identified, OFA conducted "harvest outreaches" in all of Pohnpei's municipal governments. U, Kitti, and Nett municipalities turned them down but Madolenihmw allowed for a harvest and scheduled it to begin on November 19.

The Civil Action filed by the young people on November 18 seeks declaratory judgments declaring that the government defendants are in violation of the customary law of Pohnpei "by not only refusing to adopt a comprehensive management plan in place, but also by failing to take



precautionary measures to ensure the stocks are sustained for future generations to enjoy customary practice of 'rahn in laid' at Pohnpeian funerals, and therefore in contravention of Article 30 of the Convention by infringing upon the Plaintiffs' right to culture."

It additionally seeks a judgment declaring the government defendants to be in "violation of Article 24 of the Convention by infringing upon the Plaintiffs' right to health." It argues that without adequate sea cucumber stocks, ocean acidification will increase fish acidity which will impact fish populations, thereby forcing future generations to rely on alternative imported foodstuffs that are not recommended for healthy lifestyles.

It also seeks a permanent injunction barring the execution of the contract between the government and Young Sun International Trading Company. That contract provided that Young Sun could harvest 67 tons of sea cucumbers from Pohnpei's waters in exchange for a payment of one million dollars.

"The Plaintiffs, as future generations for these beautiful islands, have banded together based on their grave concern that a commercial harvest of sea cucumbers without a comprehensive management plan in place and scientific data to support the harvest will wipe out the stocks and

deprive them of their rights to enjoy sea cucumbers in the coming years," the civil action said.

"In 1993, the FSM Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the 'Convention'). The Convention—the most widely ratified human rights instrument in the world—obligates nations to respect, protect, and fulfill children's inalienable right to life, from which all other rights flow. Conservation of natural resources and protection of the environment is a human-rights imperative. The Convention enshrines children's rights as universal. All governments have a responsibility to take all available measures to ensure these rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled," the suit says.

"Defendant Pohnpei State Government, by its negligence and reckless failure to adopt a comprehensive management plan for sea cucumber harvest to ensure the stocks are sustained for future generations, have failed to take necessary preventive and precautionary measures to respect, protect, and fulfill the Plaintiffs' rights to health (Article 24), and culture (Article 30) and are thus violating the Convention. Under the Convention, states must 'limit ongoing and future damage' to these rights, including those caused by environmental threats", the filing claims.

After the young people filed their case, the court quickly scheduled a hearing to consider the matter of the TRO. The hearing was delayed long enough for Pohnpei State's Acting Attorney General Monalisa Abello to read through the filing that she had received only moments before the hearing. At the time of the hearing, Attorney Joseph Phillip who had previously served at Young Sun's attorney could not be located. At that time it was presumed that he was still representing the company. It is now known that Young Sun has retained Solomon Saimon who was not present at the hearing. The attorneys who were present stipulated to the issuance of the TRO. The court's legal justifications for the issuance of the TRO stand even without the stipulation.

Again, the merits of the case have yet to be considered. The TRO is to protect the plaintiffs from irreparable damages that could not be compensated by any monetary award.




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Tatasy Laion	P.O. Box 1096	Weno	CHK
Lachhu T. Asnani	RM. 504 Mohan's Bldg. 14-16, Honkow RD.		Hong Kong
Idea Tim	P. O. Box 522	Weno	CHK
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Christa Duren	C/O Kanif Dalipebinaw	Colonia	YAP
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Mwomwodiso En Catholic En	P.O. Box 505	Kolonia	PNI
Deke Pakein			

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform these customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2020. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2019.

Kosraean:

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Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2020. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2019 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

Yap bill proposes to ban the sale of single cigarettes

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

November 23, 2019

Yap—The Yap State Legislature is considering a complete ban on the sale of single cigarettes in the State. If the public outcry on social media platforms is any indication, the public hearing on the matter that will be held at Yap's Legislative Chambers at 1:00 on November 29 will attract a great deal of interest.

FSM residents have come to expect that they will be able to purchase one cigarette at a time either for smoking or for betel nut chewing, a practice that is embedded in the culture of Yap. However, the World Health Organization's Framework Convention for Tobacco Control, a treaty to which

the FSM is a party, explicitly states that the sale of individual cigarettes by units increases the affordability of cigarettes to youth, and Parties shall prohibit the sale of cigarettes individually.

In addition to a complete ban on the sale of cigarettes in Yap, the proposed bill would ban the provision of tobacco products to people 17 years of age or younger.

According to multiple online research and newspaper articles from several different countries, those countries universally experienced a problem with enforcement of the laws both banning single cigarette sales and provision of tobacco products to minors. Most usual enforcement was assigned to police departments whose officers were too busy with other "more major" crimes to

bother with enforcement.

The lack of enforcement in those countries meant that if a vendor didn't sell single cigarettes, their customers for other products would go to outlets that did and they would buy the other items they might have bought at the store obeying the ban from those places. For business owners, disobeying the law gave them a competitive advantage over those who obeyed it.

Yap's law would set up a sufficiently stringent deterrent to disobeying the law and like in other international jurisdictions, enforcement would be up to police officers.

Studies have shown that many people buy single cigarettes in an effort to try to quit smoking, reasoning that if

they only buy one, they are quitting. However, the practice most often results in simply going to the corner store more often. The availability of single cigarettes can actually make it more difficult to quit smoking. Their availability also makes it easier to pick up the habit.

Additionally, the sale of single cigarettes undermines the spirit of health warning labels since single cigarettes are not packaged. Even tobacco producers have objected to the practice of single cigarette sales though for altogether different reasons. In the US they argued that quality suffers when cigarettes are individually sold. It is impossible for a consumer to know if the cigarettes they are buying are stale, where they have been or who has handled them.

30 years of child rights: Children in the Pacific islands join with governments on World Children's Day

Urgent action and a recommitment to child rights needed to address age-old and emerging threats

UNICEF

SUVA, 20 November 2019 – Today, children in the Pacific region will join millions more around the world to celebrate World Children's Day, together with Prime Ministers, Presidents, parliamentarians, schools and communities, as part of UNICEF's global day of action for children, by children.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC30), the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. Thirty years ago, world leaders united around a common cause and adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), an international agreement on childhood, that helped transform children's lives.

Today, child rights have not changed, they have no expiry date. But childhood has changed. Urgent, concrete action is needed to protect and promote the rights of every child, now, and for future generations.

"We are proud to be working with many governments across the Pacific region who have signed the global pledge to re-commit to the Convention on the Rights of the Child this year and are demonstrating the importance of children having a voice in the development of their countries. We acknowledge the support and commitment of the governments in protecting, promoting and fulfilling the rights of children on this momentous occasion," said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett.

Across the Pacific Region, there are several

events taking place to commemorate CRC30 on World Children's Day:

- In the Federated States of Micronesia, a National Youth Summit and launch of the U-Report programme, a youth-led project utilising digital technology, is currently underway this week with the President, H.E. David W. Panuelo, as key guest. The College of Micronesia is partnering with UNICEF for this event and students will produce films and photos to document the youth summit;
- In Fiji, Ba Muslim Primary School kicked World Children's Day off in the region by 'taking over' the school assembly and emergency evacuation on 14 November as part of the UNICEF-supported disaster preparedness in schools programme. Today, the Prime Minister, Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, signed the global pledge to re-commit to the CRC at a signing ceremony held with children at his Office;
- In Kiribati, there is the launch of U-Report programme with President and youth will launch this new innovative programme utilising digital technology;
- In Nauru, the government is holding a national event on the occasion of CRC30 together with children and communities;
- In Samoa, there is a youth-led media campaign on the occasion of CRC30;
- In the Solomon Islands, the Prime Minister, Honourable Manasseh Sogavare, will be presenting a speech on child rights and there will be child rights activities on the CRC to be held in schools;
- In Tonga, a youth parliament will take place over the coming weeks, with

guidance, supervision and support from the Office of the Legislative Assembly. A steering committee has been commissioned by the Lord Speaker to take the lead of the youth parliamentarians participating;

- In Vanuatu, youth reporters visited communities to learn more about early childhood development programmes to improve the lives of children in the country, and hosted a talkback show with the Government of Vanuatu, UNICEF and Save the Children. A live talkback show on early childhood development will also be aired today.

There have been historic gains overall for the world's children since the CRC was adopted. However, many of the poorest children are yet to feel the impact, according to The Convention on the Rights of the Child at a Crossroads, a new report released this week.

Part of commemorations marking CRC30, the report looks at the undeniable achievements of the past three decades, proof that where there is political will and determination, children's lives improve.

Citing progress in child rights over the past three decades, the report notes that:

- The global under-five mortality rate has fallen by about 60 per cent. There has been a decrease in the rate in majority of Pacific Island countries. The highest decrease has been recorded in Kiribati with almost 50 per cent in the under-five mortality rate.
- 2.6 billion more people have cleaner drinking water today than in 1990. Kiribati has had an increased number of schools with

improved access to clean water from four per cent to 30 per cent.

- The guiding principles of the CRC – non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to protection – have influenced numerous constitutions, laws, policies and practices in the region.

However, this progress has not been even.

- Children from the poorest households are twice as likely to die from preventable causes before their fifth birthday than children from the richest households.

The report also addresses age-old and new threats affecting children in the Pacific:

- Children are physically, physiologically and epidemiologically most at risk of the impacts of the climate crisis: Rapid changes in climate are spreading disease, increasing the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, and creating food and water insecurity. Unless urgent action is taken, the worst for many children is yet to come.

To accelerate progress in advancing child rights, and to address stagnation and backsliding in some of these rights, the report calls for more data and evidence. It calls for more involvement of young people in co-creating solutions along with parents, caregivers, education and social workers, communities and governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and the media.

VISIT SANTA!

KASELEHLIE

Arts & Crafts for kids

MOVIE TIME!

Goodie Bag Giveaway!

Tree

Lighting

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Get into the Holiday Spirit!

Sunday, December 1, 2019 4:30 PM

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AT SPANISH WALL PARK

THANKS TO ALL THE CORPORATE SPONSORS



Special Kalahngan to the Pohnpei Congressional Delegation, Pohnpei State and Kolonia Town Governments

Successful Cocktail-Raffle Draw Raises \$93K

The College raised a total of \$93,000.00 of which \$71,000 in cash donations and \$22,000 in pledges at its Cocktail Fundraising Event on October 25, 2019 at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Tuna Commission). A fun evening filled with surprises, fashion, food, and beautiful people packed the Tuna Commission in anticipation of the Cocktail raffle Grand Prize of \$5,000.00.



The event was attended by close to 200 donors from different government entities, dignitaries diplomatic corps, proud sponsors and members of the community. College President & CEO Joseph M. Daisy made an opening remark thanking and recognizing all the donors including those who were not able to attend the event. He recognized a few of the major donors that included NBK and Honorary Consul General Naoyuki Iwata, and also included the current and former president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The President also thanked all the sponsors including Mel's Wine Rack which accorded a special wine tasting event and many others that provided vital support towards the success of the 2019 event.

The event was held as part of the many initiatives sponsored by the college towards its Endowment Fund. This event wouldn't be a success without the help of our sponsors below:

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- Fish Pizza (Special of the day) \$5.00
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- Chicken soup \$2.50
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- Karat Pancakes \$2.50
- Homemade Cookies with 2 scoops ice-cream \$3.50
- Coffee, Iced Tea, Green Tea \$1.00
- Mocha Frap and Caramel Frap \$3.00




Reserve a table with Ben Voltaire at the HTM Office.

For more information, send us an email at: blueplate@comfsm.fm



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Filipino Community in Pohnpei conducts Election 2019



Alvie B. Cabañez
Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

November 17, 2019

Pohnpei—The United Filipino Community in Pohnpei (UFCP), the umbrella organization of Filipinos in Pohnpei held an election on November 17, 2019 to elect its new officers. The election was held at the Computer Laboratory Room, Kolonia Elementary School. The newly elected officers follow:

POSITION	NAME	NUMBER OF VOTES
President	Gerry F. Figueras	105
Vice-President	Rodelio A. Pulmano	99
Board of Directors	Reynan C. Brucal	100
	Margarita A. Tecson	97
	Roberto D. Orozco	95
	Glenda S. Willy	94
	Elmer C. Cuasay	92
	Ma. Esperanza L. Guiuan	92
	Michael P. Lajara	92
	Ramon B. Reyes	90

The newly elected UFCP set of officers have a diversity of backgrounds. They came from different professions, tenure on the island, young ones and the young at heart. They have a good mix of leadership experience and youthful idealism to serve the entire Filipino community in Pohnpei.

This year's COMELEC Commissioners were composed of equally competent and dynamic young professionals including Amy Navarrosa, Emy Santiago, Fatima Dollosa, Hannah Hipolito, Mike Aclan, Dennis Calara, Queen Quiwa, John Nablo, and Alvie Cabañez.



The UFCP New Set of Officers and COMELEC Commissioners 2019

Global Migration Film Festival in Pohnpei: Friday 29th November - Wednesday 4th Dec

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

On Friday 29th November, the Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF) kicks off in Pohnpei, hosted by IOM. This year, the festival is taking place over three weeks in 101 countries around the world, including FSM and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. IOM started the GMFF back in 2016, aiming to use the power of film and storytelling to spark conversation on migration. This year, the GMFF features films and documentaries depicting the promise, challenges, and opportunities of migration, using individual stories from many different contexts around the world.

Friday 29th November is GMFF Opening Night at Pohnpei Cinema, doors opening at 5pm for the screening of *One Way Ticket*, an uplifting, thought-provoking and, at times, humorous documentary which follows the journey of two Congolese refugees as they move to the United States as part of a resettlement program. On Monday 2nd December, Pohnpei Cinema will be screening *The Climate Limbo*, a film which explores the effect of climate change on our world, including the prospect of 250 million people being displaced by climate-related disasters by the year 2050. The film will start at 6pm and conclude at 7pm, supported by COM's Environmental Justice Club. Then, on Tuesday 3rd December, Pohnpei Cinema will be showing *In Times of Rain*, a Spanish-language film (with English subtitles). The film tells the fictional story of a family in a Mixtec community, centring around Soledad, a traditional healer and community elder, and her daughter Adela. The showing will begin at 5pm and conclude at 7pm. Please see movie posters for more information on each feature film. IOM will also be screening two short films for all interested COM students at Palikir campus during free time on Wednesday 4th December, followed by a feature film that evening for Residential Hall students.

Please note, some of the films tackle challenging themes and are aimed at an audience 15 years and over. The films are free to the public. So, come along to discuss and learn about different aspects of migration around the world!

Pacific Measles Outbreak

UNICEF Pacific

19 November, 2019

UNICEF is supporting the Government of Samoa to respond to a measles outbreak in the country. The Government of Samoa officially declared a state of emergency on 15 November 2019, four weeks into the continuing measles outbreak with more than 1000 suspected cases so far. The epidemic has claimed the lives of 14 children under-five years old and one adult.

Measles outbreaks were also declared in the Kingdom of Tonga on 24 October and in Fiji on 7 November. As of 5 November, 177 cases have been confirmed in Tonga with no deaths. In Fiji, the four confirmed and one suspected cases were contained in one specific area of Namosi and Serua Subdivision, west of the capital of Suva.

UNICEF has deployed health and communication staff in Samoa to boost the government's immunization campaign and delivered a total of 110,500 doses of measles containing vaccines (100,000 MR and 10,500 MMR) and 30,000 Vitamin A tablets. In addition, 6 refrigerators and three emergency response trolleys used as immunization service stations are being shipped to Samoa.

UNICEF has also delivered vaccines to Tonga, Fiji and Niue, and has worked with the governments of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Niue, Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in conducting their measles immunization campaigns and developing their preparedness plans for an outbreak.

UNICEF and the World Health Organisation jointly prepared a communication toolkit and resources for measles prevention, which was immediately shared with Samoa, Tonga and Fiji, as the first Pacific Island Countries affected by the measles outbreak.

- Measles coverage in Samoa in 2018 was 40% for the first dose and 28% for the second dose.
- UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Health and WHO in Samoa to target children 6 months to 19 years of age and women who are not pregnant between 20-35 years.
- All schools have also been temporarily closed in Samoa and children under 17 years old have been advised by Government not to attend public gatherings to contain the spread of the disease.
- In Tonga, health officials advise that they have previously achieved herd immunity for measles.
- Tonga had a 99% coverage of measles vaccinations in 2018. To further contain the outbreak, the Tongan Government announced the temporary closure of all government primary schools from 14 to 25 November.
- Fiji has a measles coverage of 81% for the first dose in 2018 based on available data.

FSM combats solid waste collection system issues through J-PRISM II

JICA

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM), in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), hosted the 3rd FSM Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting in support of Phase II of the Japan Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in the Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM-II). The meeting took place on September 26th, 2019 at the Island Palm Hotel Conference Room with state officials from each four states as well as representatives from local or municipal governments.

In her opening remarks, DECCEM's Assistant Secretary for Environment, Ms. Cindy Ehmes welcomed and acknowledged the presence of representative from the Embassy of Japan, Project Coordinators and members from the local municipality of Madolenihmw.

The purpose of this year's JCC meeting was for participants to share updates on the progress of J-PRISM II with emphasis on the need for improvement of solid waste management in each state. A knowledge-sharing workshop was also held after the three-hour long JCC meeting to explore efforts to improve waste collection system. This year's JCC was fortunate to have Mr. Nobuaki Miyata, Chief Advisor of J-PRISM II, to update counterpart officials and experts on his views on the progress of the first half period of J-PRISM II activities throughout FSM.



The signing of the Minutes of Meetings concluded the all day long meeting, following the closing remarks from JICA Resident Representative, Mr. Shinji Shibata, who acknowledged Project Counterparts for their willingness to accelerate improvement

of waste collection system and encouraged all key stakeholders to do the same.

The Minutes of Meeting was signed by JICA, J-PRISM II Chief Advisor, DECCEM, and Project Directors from all four states.

FM 89.5 V6WI

Employment Opportunities

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement
The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic and career & technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.

Values

COMMITMENT EXCELLENCE TEAM
LEARNER-CENTEREDNESS
PROFESSIONALISM WORK

The College of Micronesia-FSM is searching for qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

Positions	Location	Annual Salary	Closing Date
Maintenance Worker II	Yap Campus	\$5,955	Until Fill
Instructor – Engineer	FMI Campus	\$17,643 - \$19,880	Until Fill
Instructor – Navigation	FMI Campus	\$17,643 - \$19,880	Until Fill
Instructor – Science	National Campus	\$16,131 - \$17,819	November 27, 2019
Security and Safety Officer I	Kosrae Campus	\$5,196	November 27, 2019
Research Assistant	Chuuk Campus	\$5,955	November 30, 2019 or Until Fill
EFNEP Extension Agent I	Kosrae Campus	\$8,586 - \$9,675	December 5, 2019
EFNEP Extension Assistant	Chuuk Campus	\$6,075	December 7, 2019
Security and Safety Officer II	Kosrae Campus	\$5,196	December 12, 2019
Librarian I	National Campus	\$8,846 - \$9,968	December 14, 2019
College Nurse	FMI Campus	\$10,899 - \$12,270	December 17, 2019
Agriculture Agent I	Kosrae Campus	\$8,586 - \$9,675	December 17, 2019
IT Technician II	CTEC	\$6,565	December 18, 2019
Security and Safety Officer II	National Campus	\$5,351	December 18, 2019

****Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 179, 180, 181 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm.**

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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

Attention citizens: be aware of fraudulent social media postings

FSM Information Services

Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia,

You may occasionally see messages from Facebook users or Pages pretending to be famous celebrities or public officials. Most recently, late last night on November 6th, 2019 an anonymous individual unknown to the FSM National Government developed a Facebook Page pretending to His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The individual used the following text: "Hello Micronesia The Federal government have now extend beneficiaries of the yearly grant awarded by the united nation. The United nation democratic funds and human service are helping the youth,old,retired and also the disabled in the society. I just benefited from the program also....so I thought the people needed the help more that's why I'm informing the public about the Grant. Interested citizens of Micronesia should message on here."

There is no such thing as a United Nations Democratic Fund. There is no such thing as free money. If you see any individual or page asking you to talk to them about how you can get free money through this fund, IGNORE IT and REPORT IT to Facebook. It is a fraud and a scam.

The President will NEVER ask for any citizens' personal information through Facebook. The President himself will NEVER ask ANY CITIZEN for ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.

The President will NEVER ask you for your banking details, your credit card information, or any other financial information.

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia ONLY ASKS for information for OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, such as for passport applications. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia will NEVER ask for citizens' personal information, especially through Facebook or other social media.

The President's PERSONAL Facebook account is www.facebook.com/david.panuelo and if you see ANY OTHER ADDRESS or URL at the top of the website, then that is NOT THE PRESIDENT. It is a scam and/or fraud.

The Office of the President's Facebook account is www.facebook.com/piofsm and if you see ANY OTHER ADDRESS or URL at the top of the website, then that is NOT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. It is a scam and/or fraud.

If you have any questions about how to avoid interacting with fraudulent Facebook accounts and pages, contact the Office of the President's Division of Public Information (i.e. the FSM Public Information Office) at +691-320-2548. You may also email the Special Assistant to the President for Public Information at richard.clark@gov.fm or contact the FSM Public Information Office through the official Office of the President Facebook Page here: www.facebook.com/piofsm

PICRC researchers attend training in Guam to analyze socioeconomic datasets

Palau International Coral Reef Center

On October 14, 2019, researchers Lincy Lee Marino and Shirley Koshiba, from Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), attended a week long Socio-Economic Measure (SEM) Training Program in Guam.

Throughout the workshop, Ms. Marino and Ms. Koshiba learned how to use the IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software; a program designed to analyze socioeconomic datasets. The use of this software will allow researchers to analyze social data for past, present and future socioeconomic research.

Upon their return to Palau, researchers Marino and Koshiba plan to use IBM-SPSS software to analyze the data set from the PICRC Baseline Socioeconomic research project carried out from 2015-2018. In this particular research, Ms. Marino and Ms. Koshiba will analyze Palauan's perceptions of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and their impact on their livelihood; especially on food security and income generation. The data collected in 14 different states will be analyzed, and the production of a national report is expected by the end of December.

Capacity building is one of PICRC's

Fiscal Year 2020 grants now open to U.S. Insular Areas

Interior Accepting Applications for Technical Assistance, Maintenance Assistance, Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative

Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, has announced three grant programs in the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) that are open for applications for fiscal year 2020 funding: the Technical Assistance Program, the Maintenance Assistance Program, and the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative. This funding is made available to support the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states – the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"We encourage as many applicants as possible to apply for fiscal year 2020 funding," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "I look forward to assisting each island area by supporting priority issues through the available funding."

Technical Assistance Program funding is available for short-term projects intended to meet the immediate needs of the U.S. insular areas. Funding priorities include, but are not limited to, projects that foster development in the following categories: accountability, financial management, economic development, education, energy production, management control initiatives, disaster assistance, natural and cultural resources, capacity building, public safety/emergencies, information technology, health initiatives, and invasive species management.

Maintenance Assistance Program funding is used to support, develop, improve, and institutionalize infrastructure maintenance practices in the U.S. insular areas. Activities that support maintenance training to extend the life of island

infrastructure, ensure the safety of maintenance technicians, and/or increase the capacity of infrastructure to withstand extreme events are encouraged.

Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative funding is available to improve the health of coral reef ecosystems and other natural resources in the U.S. insular areas for their long-term economic and social benefit. Priority will be given to projects that help address a variety of threats to coral reef ecosystems and to eradicating aquatic and terrestrial plant, insect, and animal invasive species.

Applications will be considered from insular government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations whose grant proposals directly benefit the four U.S. territories or three freely associated states, in accordance with 2 CFR 200. Complete instructions for applications may be found on the OIA website at: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>.

To apply, visit grants.gov and use CFDA# 15.875. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2020, however, it is highly recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed beginning May 2020 once OIA receives full-year appropriations.

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.

focal points. The SEM Training Program allowed Ms. Marino and Ms. Koshiba to build upon previous knowledge, and helped them become more efficient in social data analysis. This skill will play a major role in future research as they prepare a new project—starting in January—regarding the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS). PICRC is committed to continuing to nurture high-caliber staff to strengthen conservation efforts in Palau.



Lincy Lee Marino and Shirley Koshiba

President Panuelo & President Sato of the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation discuss student Programs, FSM-Japan Kizuna

FSM Information Services

TOKYO, Japan—On November 11th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) attended a function hosted by the Honorable Peter Yoshiyasu Sato, President of the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) and former Ambassador of Japan to the People's Republic of China. The purpose of the function was to maintain and strengthen FSM-Japan relations through maintaining and strengthening FSM-APIC relations, which through partnership with Xavier High School in the FSM State of Chuuk and through partnership with the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) provides scholarships for students to acquire undergraduate degrees (primarily in Sophia University's Department of Liberal Arts) and graduate degrees in Global Environmental Sciences, respectively.

Ambassador Sato provided updates on the students engaged in the scholarships. The APIC/Sophia University Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient list includes Mary Helen Tamae Mori from the State of Chuuk, who began their term in September 2014 and graduated in 2018; Risa Mariana Abello Oue from the State of Pohnpei, who began their term in September 2015 and graduated in 2019; Andrei Miguel Diolola Ronquillo from the State of Chuuk, who began their term in September 2016 and will graduate in 2020; Shaun Riley Nanpei Perman Mingii from the State of Pohnpei, who began their term in September 2017 and will graduate in 2021; Chloe RoseAnne Arnold from the State of Chuuk who began their term in September 2018 and will graduate in 2022; Paul Edison Charley Jr. from the State of Kosrae who began their term in September 2018 and will graduate in 2022; and Ubai Robert Kingzio from the Republic of Palau, who began their term in September 2019 and will graduate in 2023.

The FSM National Government congratulates its APIC/Sophia University graduates, and wishes its contemporary students all the best in their studies, whether they hail from parts of the FSM or our neighbors in the broader Micronesian family.

Ambassador Sato also provided updates on the students engaged in MCT graduate school studies in Global Environmental Sciences. The list includes Bradford Geoffrey Mori from the State of Chuuk, who began their term in September 2017 and graduated in 2019; Bertha Mochieg Reyuw from the State of Yap, who began their term in September 2017 and



President Panuelo and Ambassador Sato share a laugh as each try to offer the other a chair to sit on for the group photo

graduated in 2019; Tamae Erick Waguk from the State of Kosrae, who began their term in September 2018 and will graduate in 2020; Lajkit Matthew Rufus from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who began their term in September 2018 and will graduate in 2020; Annette Rose Ludwig from the State of Pohnpei, who began their term in September 2019 and will graduate in 2021; and Elchung Glays Hideyos from the Republic of Palau, who began their term in September 2019 and will graduate in 2021.

The FSM National Government congratulates its MCT graduates, and wishes its contemporary students all the best in their studies, whether they hail from parts of the FSM or our neighbors in the broader Micronesian family.

After Ambassador Sato provided updates and shared brief remarks on the friendship between the FSM and Japan, President Panuelo spoke about the Nation's appreciation for the people and Government of Japan.

"We're deeply honored to reconnect with our friends at APIC. My dear friend, Ambassador Sato, on behalf of our delegation," President Panuelo began, "I wish to bring you warm greetings from our people and our Government. My heart is very glad to meet friends like you; my heart rejoices with a lot of the memories that we have shared together, and I would like to say that I am very proud of the work APIC does to promote our friendship. Japan and the great ethics you put into your Nation-Building process shows why your country is so powerful...because of the respect you have for each other, and for other countries."

"I want to express our deep appreciation to you for building and promoting our special relationship, our Kizuna, between our two Governments," President Panuelo continued. "It was beyond an honor to attend the Enthronement of His Majesty, the Emperor of the Reiwa or Beautiful Harmony era... that day began so windy and rainy, but as we sat down during the special ceremony...the sun rose and came out, and I felt it in my heart that the heavens are looking after the great people of Japan and the Government of Japan. We're proud of Japan as our friends, and the generosity and the heart of the Japanese is the reason why countries respect Japan so much. You're such a productive nation, and in your heart you're willing to express cooperation with the rest of the world. We feel it in the FSM. We know it...and we look forward to working with you for the further promotion of our countries' mutual interests, rooted in the foundation of true respect and true friendship with Japan."

The President concluded his remarks by emphasizing that—as profoundly as the Nation appreciates Japan, so too is the FSM keen to support Japan in the capacities that it can.

"Japan does so much for our people in the FSM that I will make it a point when I meet with [His Excellency] Prime Minister [Shinzo] Abe to note that our Nation prioritizes its relationship with Japan, and that we want to help Japan, too, however we can."

President Panuelo will be meeting with Prime Minister Abe on November 14th, 2019.

Certified winning candidates for the Constitutional Convention election

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 12th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received the certified FSM Constitutional Convention Election results from the Office of the National Election Commissioner. The election was held on November 5th, 2019.

The At-Large winning candidate in Pohnpei State is Iso Salvador Iriarte, with 3,160 votes received.

The Election District 1 winning candidates in Pohnpei State are Akilino H. Susaia and Tedy (Tesiwo) Liwy, with 1,461 and 1,019 votes received respectively.

The Election District 2 winning candidates in Pohnpei State are Berney Martin and Salomon Saimon, with 1,062 and 1,372 votes received respectively.

The Election District 3 winning candidates in Pohnpei State are Mason Albert and Ricky F. Cantero, with 1,611 and 1,191 votes received respectively.

The At-Large winning candidate in Chuuk State is Redley Killion, with 6,149 votes received.

The Election District 1 winning candidates in Chuuk State are Peter Sitan and Marcus Samo, with 1,438 and 936 votes received respectively.

The Election District 2 winning candidates in Chuuk State are Camillo Noket and Nickson M. Bossy, with 1,316 and 1,271 votes received respectively.

The Election District 3 winning candidates in Chuuk State are Jack S. Fritz and Myron I. Hashiguchi, with 2,335 and 2,969 votes received respectively.

The Election District 4 winning candidates in Chuuk State are Cindy Siren Mori and Kind K. Kanto, with 1,706 and 1,130 votes received respectively.

The Election District 5 winning candidates in Chuuk State are Asterio R. Takesy and James A. Naich, with 1,028 and 1,085 votes received respectively.

The At-Large winning candidate in Yap State is Victor Nabeyan, with 2,243 votes received.

The Election District 1 winning candidates in Yap State are Andrew R. Yatilman and Andy P. Choor, with 1,200 and 968 votes received respectively.

The At-Large winning candidate in Kosrae State is Johnson A. Asher, with 1,818 votes received.

The Election District 1 candidates in Kosrae State are Yoslyn G. Sigrah and Canney L. Palsis, with 1,152 and 1,094 votes received respectively.

The memo of these results can be accessed via PDF here:

https://gov.fm/files/Certification_of_Winning_Candidates_FSM_CON_CON_Nov_12_2019.pdf

“I believe in you” President Panuelo tells youth at the 2019 Youth Conference

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 19th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), addressed the attendees of the 2019 Youth Conference, whose theme was “Youth Action for Climate Change & Sustainable Development.” The week-long conference will cover topics ranging from the Pacific Youth Development Framework and progress on the Youth Policy’s implementation across the FSM, to the State of the Youth in areas such as Health, Education, and Economic Development. The President’s remarks, however, largely focused on Youth empowerment as the key towards taking action.

“If there’s only thing you take away from my address this morning,” President Panuelo began, “I want it to be this: I believe in you. The FSM National Government believes in you. I am sure, and hopeful, that you have family that believe in you, too. But what is most important is that you also believe in yourself.”

The President described how part of believing in oneself—including believing in one’s capacity to take action against climate change and to promote sustainable development—is to ask “What does success look like?” at each stage of one’s life, for tasks both big and small, and for Youth to give it all they have towards reaching that success. In addition to recognizing what success looks like, the President explained, it’s equally important that Youth themselves define what it means for them.

“You are in control of who you are, and who you will become,” the President said. “Your body belongs to you—it doesn’t belong to anybody else. Your dreams belong to you—they don’t belong to anybody else. Your life is your life—it doesn’t belong to anybody else, either.”

The President then segued into describing how—while it’s important, even necessary—for Youth to believe in themselves, that it’s not always enough. “I became a Foreign Service Officer and thus began my career as a public servant in the 1980s because [the late and Honorable] Andon Amaraich believed in me,” President Panuelo said. “I’ve told our Youth that if there’s one thing you learn from me today, it’s that you must believe in yourself. But to our Adults—if there’s one thing I want you to take away from me this morning, it’s this: believe in our Youth. Give them a chance. Show them you care, [like Andon Amaraich had confidence in me].”

President Panuelo relayed the view that tackling an existential threat such as Climate Change requires the whole of society, including the Youth, to play an active and participatory role in democracy and to take action in bettering the lives of themselves and those around them. The President referred to numerous topics wherein public opinion can vary highly between agreement and disagreement, with corresponding levels of passion—such as sea cucumber harvesting in Pohnpei State (and whether it should occur or not), and a proposed Nation-wide ban on most forms of plastic (and whether it should, and how it could, occur or not)—and asked the Nation’s Youth to form their own opinions on issues that affect them and their future.

“The best law is your conscience,” the President said. “I want you to listen to it, and take action and be part of our Nation-building process in whatever passion you have.”

The President’s remarks ended on a high note, requesting that Youth and Adults alike believe in themselves and each other as the FSM takes Youth Action for Climate Change and Sustainable Development for our Nation’s prosperity tomorrow.



President Panuelo receives former President of Nauru, His Excellency Baron Waqa

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 20th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, Ninth President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received His Excellency Baron Waqa, Fourteenth and former President of the Republic of Nauru, in a courtesy call.

The purpose of the meeting was primarily to pay formal greetings and respects—President Waqa was visiting the FSM for pleasure—but over the course of nearly two hours President Panuelo and President Waqa discussed a wide array of topics of mutual interest, with President Waqa recalling and sharing some of his experiences as the President of Nauru for six years. President Panuelo was highly receptive to the experiences, anecdotes, and advice shared by President Waqa, and expressed his very sincere appreciation to President Waqa for visiting the FSM.

“What an honor to receive you, my friend,” President Panuelo said. “You’re always welcome to visit.”

The FSM is proud to receive a guest as distinguished as President Waqa, and is equally proud to stand in solidarity with the people and Government of Nauru as fellow Micronesians.



FSM Maritime Investment Project officially launched

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 20th, 2019 the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and its States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, in partnership with the World Bank, officially launched the FSM Maritime Investment Project. The approximately \$38.5- million-dollar project's main feature is the upgrading of the Nation's seaports to meet international safety, security, and physical design standards. Reflecting the growing trust in the FSM's relationship with World Bank and the confidence in the Nation's capacity to implement a large portfolio of diverse infrastructure projects, the FSM Maritime Investment Project began as a \$15-million-dollar project, quickly grew to \$29 million, and was finally approved the World Bank's Board at \$38.5-million-dollars. The FSM Maritime Investment Project is the FSM's second largest ever World Bank-related project.

“Meeting international standards lays the foundation for other major infrastructure and economic development projects, facilitates safe maritime travel between our Nation's ports, and grants the FSM dignity in an area that has been absent for too long,” His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, said in his remarks. “The FSM should be the example other nations follow, not the other way around.”

President Panuelo emphasized that the FSM Maritime Investment Project is considered a top priority in the Panuelo-George administration.

“This administration attaches top priority to this project and related infrastructural development, which can result in benefits to the Integrated Coconut Processing Facility on Tonoas and expand the fisheries industry across the country,” President Panuelo said.

The President noted that the FSM Maritime Investment Project—due to its priority and its effect on a host of other development cooperation projects, ranging from U.S. Coast Guard assistance to Japan's highly anticipated expansion of Pohnpei State's commercial and fisheries dock—should receive a distinguished amount of public awareness. “I will be expecting frequent reports on the progress of this project,” the President said, “and through these remarks I am directing you to send them to my [Public Information Officer] as they are available. I will be asking him to turn these reports into Press Releases so that our Nation's public can be informed and up-to-date.”

His Royal Highness Iso Nahnken of Madolenihmw (John Adolph, Administrator of Pohnpei State's Office of Transportation & Infrastructure) noted the FSM Maritime Investment Project represents unparalleled cooperation amongst the FSM National and State Governments in the Nation's quest to “strengthen the sustainability of our economy...[and improve] the livelihood of our people and community.”

To date, a project manager has been hired and the FSM National Government has received the expression of interest for a needs assessment for the main ports in each of the FSM's States to enable the ports to meet minimal international standards.

“We can expect that, with our current schedule,” said Dickson Wichep, Acting Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure (DTC&I, “We can have minor works started by the end of the last quarter of 2020...and more significant works commencing by mid-2021.”

Ms. Almud Weitz, World Bank's Practice Manager for Transport in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, described World Bank's commitment, and excitement, towards the FSM-World Bank cooperation and the FSM Maritime Investment Project in particular.

“This is a mix of looking at safety, [and] improving climate resilience...across all four states,” Ms. Weitz said. “We're very happy to be able to together with the [FSM]...it'll be a mix of hard infrastructure investment, and quite a bit of technical assistance and capacity building...[including] activities taken jointly with the [United States, Japan, and Australian] embassies and their programs on security, search and rescue, as well as looking at elevating awareness and prevention on human trafficking and gender-based violence.”

The FSM National Government is enthusiastic in its partnership with the World Bank and the model example of cooperation across the Nation towards the implementation of the



President Panuelo shares a laugh with His Excellency Robert A. Riley III, Ambassador of the United States of America to the FSM



Ms. Almud Weitz from the World Bank discusses the World Bank's commitment to the FSM's development and prosperity



Tos Nakayama Jr., Director of Transportation & Public Works (Chuuk State), shares Chuuk's enthusiastic commitment to the FSM Maritime Investment Project

FSM Maritime Investment Project.

“The FSM Maritime Investment Project is a wonderful opportunity for our Nation to accomplish something that it needs that will have tangible, long-term benefits for our citizens,” President Panuelo said. “This is what public service is all about, and I look forward to what happens next.”




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