

New Pohnpei government sworn in and ready to move forward

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 13, 2020

Pohnpei, FSM—As the highlight of the weekend’s Pohnpei State Joint Inaugural events, Governor Reed Oliver and Lt. Governor Feliciano Perman took their oaths of office in front of a large crowd gathered at the FSM China Friendship Gym in Palikir, Pohnpei.

The event was a Joint Inauguration and the members of the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature were in attendance but they were seated and sworn in in their own chambers in Peilapalap. (see separate press release on that event).

In addition to a large local crowd, the event was attended by many government leaders from



throughout the Pacific region, and by diplomats of many countries. State Radio station V6AH aired live video of the event on Youtube. (search for “2020 Pohnpei Joint Inauguration – Enginkehlap” on Youtube). Patterson K. Shed and Suzanne Lowe Gallen

served as masters of ceremonies and did a remarkable job maintaining the dignity of the event. Kenson Santos and Stephanie Edward beautifully sang the Pohnpei Hymn in harmonic acapella. The Reverend Midian Neth provided the invocation. The

crowd stood stunned, some with tears in their eyes as the Seventh Day Adventist Choir performed a beautifully different arrangement of the FSM National Anthem.

See “Pohnpei Inauguration” on page 7

In this EDITION of the KPress:

Archaeologists hard at work to develop Nan Madol World Heritage Sustainable Conservation Plan
Page 2

FSM says goodbye to COM-FSM President Joseph Daisy
Page 6

Sekere man charged with beating the mother of his two children to death

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 23, 2019

Pohnpei—Pohnpei prosecutors have charged Branish “B.R.” Resepwil of Sekere with crimes related to the beating death of his wife, Swihter Roby of Dolon, Sokehs. She was 30 years old.

According to police detectives, Resepwil and Roby’s grandmother brought Swihter to the

See “Domestic Violence” on page 7

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Audit says FSM Consulate in Guam has not implemented majority of recommendations from 2016 audit

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 14, 2020

FSM—The Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) says that the FSM Guam Consulate largely failed to implement most of the findings and recommendations from an audit ONPA conducted in 2016. ONPA also acknowledged the commitment of the current FSM Consul General to complete implementation of the previous audit’s recommendations. Some of the recommendations will require a lot of work and cooperation with the “home office”, the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs.

The 2016 audit made 10 recommendations for improvement, mainly aimed at insuring that the Consulate Office is able to sufficiently meet the needs of FSM citizens who live in or visit Guam, CNMI, or Palau. When it listed causes for non-implementation of its recommendations, it most often listed lack of oversight or implementation by the “home office” or failure of the previous Consulate General to implement them.

One of the recommendations that has received attention by the Consulate is an evaluation of staffing levels at the Consulate Office in order to determine its adequacy in discharging the functions of the office for FSM citizens living in Guam, CNMI, and Palau. In May of 2019, Congress approved funding for a Foreign Officer at the consulate. In December, the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs told auditors that two positions for additional Foreign Officers for the Consulate are also being added.

The follow-up audit said that the previous

management of the Consulate Office did not see the need for additional staff members.

Another of the recommendations that received attention was the recommendation that the Consul General should develop internal controls governing the employees’ reimbursement of fuel costs for personal vehicles on official business. The follow-up audit said that the recommendation was implemented during the audit. It said that the cause of delay in implementation was “change in management...”

The other recommendations were not implemented.

The first was that the Consul General should set up appropriate performance indicators so that the performance of the Consulate can be measured for adequate protection and the protection of FSM citizens as required by law.

The second was that the Consul General should clearly document and delineate the responsibilities expected of staff members.

The third was that the Consul General should require consulate staff to attend training in consular responsibilities. Limited staff, limited funding and lack of training opportunities contributed to non-implementation of the recommendation.

Auditors also recommended that the Consul General should submit monthly activity reports and annual performance activity reports as required by Public Law 2-6. It said that the last activity report the Consulate office supplied was in 2016. The “home office” said that monthly activity reports are compiled by the home

office and the mission offices. They also said that they communicate daily through emails with overseas missions for reporting and monitoring. However, the department could not provide any evidence to substantiate the assertion.

The previous audit also said that there were no written guidelines or regulations to guide the operations of the Consulate Office. In its response, the Department of Foreign Affairs said that there is a general set of guidelines and regulations but that they are not customized to each mission. The current Consul General said that she would implement the recommendation.

One of the findings seemed to duplicate an earlier finding regarding the establishment of performance indicators or targets, but instead of applying to the Consulate General it applied to the home office.

The final recommendation of the previous audit that went unimplemented was that the Secretary of the Department of Foreign

Affairs should revisit the Executive Order that created the Consulate General Office and clearly defines the mandate, roles and responsibilities related to consular management reporting and oversight functions.

The December 20, 2019 response to the draft of the audit filed by the Department of Foreign Affairs that the “Department is still trying to locate a copy of the Executive Order which will be shared with the Consulate General Office in Guam, the Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Division of American and European Affairs at the Home Office, which oversees the Guam Consulate General Office. However, information relating to functions and responsibilities of the Consulate has been shared with the Consul General through email for review and reference to clearly define the mandate, roles and responsibilities related to the consular management reporting and oversight functions.”

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Archaeologists hard at work to develop Nan Madol World Heritage Sustainable Conservation Plan

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 18, 2020

Pohnpei, FSM—Dr. Douglas Comer and his son Jake of the Cultural Site Research and Management (CSRМ) Foundation have studied and advised on restoration projects in such exotic World Heritage sites as Macchu Picchu in Peru, Petra in Jordan, and many other historic sites around the world including in Ireland, Sudan, and Turkey. For just over a year now they have brought their skills and expertise to Nan Madol in Pohnpei in an effort to prepare the Nan Madol World Heritage Sustainable Conservation Plan and to move toward the implementation of that plan.

Nan Madol is a UNESCO World Heritage site, a designation it attained in 2016. It also is on the List of World Heritage in Danger sites. Built, beginning in approximately 1200 and occupied until about 1500 during the Saudeleur dynasty, Nan Madol is a series of 99 artificial islets off the south-east coast of Pohnpei that were constructed with walls of basalt and coral boulders. The islets harbor the remains of stone palaces, temples, tombs and residential domains.

Funded by the U.S. State Department Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation Large Grant Program in support of and in collaboration with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) State Historic Preservation Office (FSM SHPO), the Comer's have embarked on a four year consultancy, providing recommendations for recovery of the historic site and working with stakeholders to build a sustainable management plan for the site. Implementation of plans developed during the first two years will begin during the second two years.

"In essence, the outcome of the first two-year program will be to provide a plan for the interventions needed to arrest natural processes and human activities that are inflicting progressively more serious damage on the Nan Madol World Heritage Site," Dr. Comer wrote in a progress report to Augustine Kohler of FSM SHPO.

The results of the LiDAR study have been especially important to the planning process. LiDAR stands for Light Detection and Ranging. It is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. LiDAR can be used to gather all sorts of data including topography underneath covering vegetation and types

of vegetation.

CSRМ's report to Kohler says that the LiDAR data that was collected on March 11, 2019 by aircraft has proven to be enormously informative in:

- Assessing the state of preservation of islets and structures;
- Determining heights of islets, structures, and structural remains on islets;
- Assessing vulnerability of islets and structures to tidal cycles, including "king tides," and storm surges;
- Modeling the hydrology of Temwen Island and its possible influence on the siltation of the Nan Madol canals;
- Modeling for vegetation management and removal, including identifying trees that might fall in storms or loose limbs that damage archaeological features, and proximity of trees to structures with root systems likely to damage structures,
- Mapping mangroves and assessing density;
- Modeling inter-islet hydrology.

Dr. Comer says that the current biggest threat to the site is vegetation, particularly trees that fall and topple structures or whose roots undermine and potentially destroy them. Mangrove trees and sprouts in the channels contribute to another problem which is siltation. He says that analysis of LiDAR data suggests that the degradation of the ancient agricultural fields on Temwen Island because of rooting by pigs and the dense vegetation that now chokes channels that once connected the fields have introduced so much silt on the coral reef that islets and structures are almost completely covered by it.

Arrangements are currently being made for personnel representing the United States Forest Service to train 16 people on Pohnpei in March 2020 to carry out the selective mangrove removal from key canals at Nan Madol, and to manage vegetation. Those tasks will be undertaken in ways that remove vegetative threats and make them visible to visitors at Nan Madol, while maintaining the shade necessary for a comfortable experience.

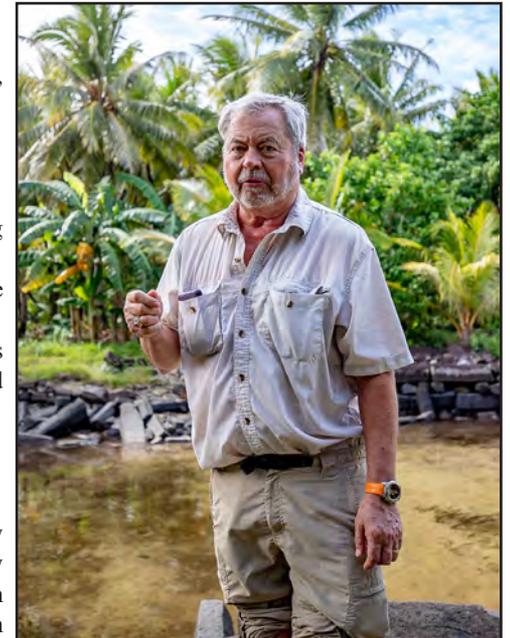
Dr. Comer says that in the last several decades Nan Madol has been cleared of vegetation twice without much regard for what is good clearing and what is bad clearing. It made the sites visible to visitors but, of course, all of the vegetation came back as if it had never been cleared. Any plan for sustaining Nan Madol will require thoughtful consideration of the type and purpose for any clearing and continued maintenance.

When the proper vegetation has been cleared, there will be better water flow to ameliorate the problem of siltation, thereby deepening the channels and making them more accessible by shallow draft boats for tourism purposes and even facilitating the purpose of removing cleared vegetation.

CSRМ is certainly not working alone and has spent a significant amount of time building networks and getting stakeholder feedback. They are currently working on a set of Memoranda of Understanding with several local groups, organization, and with government, in order to continue the process along and to help make it sustainable. Those will be announced at a later date as parties are still in discussion and some MOUs have not yet been signed, though they appear to be imminent.

Dr. Comer says that certainly CSRМ's primary focus and task is the development and implementation of a preservation plan but along the way, they have made some noteworthy archaeological discoveries through analysis of LiDAR data that have led to some anthropological insights into the community of Nan Madol. One of those is the previous existence of the highly advanced agricultural fields on Temwen island which must certainly have served as a focal point for the thriving community that both supported the work force and motivated workers to provide it.

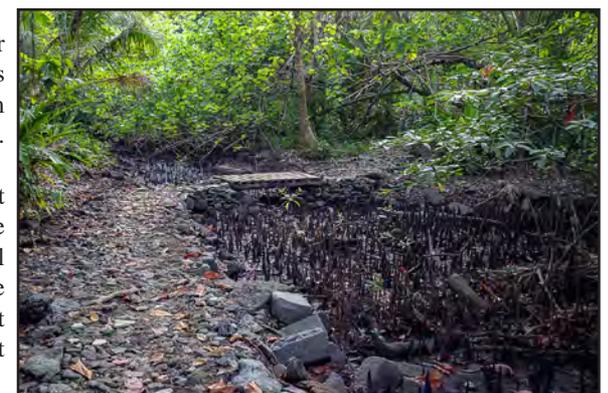
A great deal of work is certainly left to be done and never ending work into the future will be required if the sacred site of Nan Madol is to be preserved. It is hoped that helping to make Nan Madol a more attractive site for visitors while simultaneously



Dr. Douglas Comer of Cultural Site Research and Management



Dr. Comer and Jake Comer discuss impacts on Nan Madol



Heavy siltation in channels in Nan Madol

protecting it from those visitors will generate the revenue through entry fees in order to pay for that work into the future.

"I don't know if it will work," Dr. Comer said, "but it's worked in other places around the world. I don't see why it wouldn't work here."

FSM says farewell to Lt. Commander Milburn and welcomes Lt. Commander Perry

On Friday, January 17, the Australian Defence Force and the Australian Embassy to the FSM hosted a farewell and introduction reception for the incoming and outgoing Maritime Surveillance Advisers. The reception was held at the Kangaroo Court. Lt. Commander Lauren Milburn has finished her tour in the FSM under the Defence Cooperation Program between the FSM and Australia. Lt. Commander David Perry is the new Maritime Surveillance Adviser.



Reflections from Lululeen Santos on the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's Regional Training Program

Australian Aid

January 7, 2019

Fiji-- 'I've taken a keen interest to the domestic violence work,' explains Lululeen Santos, 'because back home, it's still something that's kept behind closed doors. Not everybody talks about it. Not everyone wants to talk about ending violence against women and children.' With funding through the Australian Government's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) program, Ms Santos participated in the most recent four-week, Fiji-based Regional Training Program run by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

She participated as part of her role of seven years, as the Women's Interest Coordinator for the Department of Health and Social Services for Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.

At the end of the Regional Training Program, she has been 'inspired more' by the learning experience.

'[The course has] really cleared or opened my eyes into seeing what has been taught and what is really true in relation to my basic human rights. I really think that this training has given me a lot more than I expected. It's just given me a lot of ideas,' Ms Santos reflected.

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre has run the Regional Training Program since 1995, supporting more than 600 women and men from around the Pacific who work to end violence against women. Violence against women prevalence rates in Pacific Island countries are among the highest rates in the world. The course uses a feminist framework, supporting participants to develop skills to recognise and be able to respond with a survivor-

ONPA says that FSM Finance took appropriate actions on findings of previous audit on Tel-Cards

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

January 14, 2020

FSM—A follow up audit on whether or not the former Secretary of the Department of the Finance and Administration had taken appropriate recommended actions to prevent prepaid calling card abuse and misuse was released today. Auditors determined that she had in fact put into place effective policies and procedures to prevent losses where Tel-Cards are concerned.

"Based on our audit, we found that all the recommendations given in Audit Report No. 2016-05 have been fully implemented," the administrative summary says. However, the follow up audit also notes that it took three years after the 2016 audit for the changes to be put into place, "thus continuing to expose public funds to risk of misuse during that period". As a result, the Office of the National Public Auditor recommended that the Secretary for Finance and Administration should ensure that audit findings and recommendations should be fully addressed within six months of an audit.

The previous audit, conducted in August of 2016 made several recommendations. They said that the Secretary should develop and implement policies and procedures to control the purchase and

use of prepaid calling cards. It said those policies and procedures should include:

- Types of cards that can be purchased
- Authorized uses of calling cards
- Personnel lists of those authorized to approve specific usage
- Card issuance and distribution
- Storing unused cards in a locked cabinet or safe
- Card returns and collections
- Monthly detailed reports per calling card to be obtained from FSM Telecommunications Corporation
- Monthly usage monitors and reviews guideline including monthly supervisory review of usage by a designated person in each department
- Card tracking, inventory count and reconciliation
- Maintenance of complete records of purchases, given away, and issued to employees.

The previous audit also recommended that the policies and procedures for the use of calling cards should establish a limit of the amount for the approval of prepaid calling cards considering that there are other cost-effective calling options.

centred approach to those impacted by gender-based violence.

Ms Santos explained this type of work is not easy.

'Even my husband tells me he's worried about me working in this area or talking about violence against women and children because I won't be liked as much as just another person!' she said. 'So, yes, it's a great challenge. It's a big gap that really... if I don't do it, who's going to? If I don't talk about it, who will ever talk about it?'

Course participants learn lobbying and advocacy skills and develop strategies to promote gender equality in their workplaces and in the wider community. 'One of the things that I really wanted to do when I get back home,' said Ms Santos, 'I'm looking towards doing a radio spot ... just to share information on eliminating violence against women as

They further recommended to the Secretary that the policies and procedures should include management authorization and review of reports on actual use of prepaid calling cards.

well as gender topics, anything that deals with our domestic violence and [ending violence against women] and perhaps our gender policy. We just launched our [Federated States of Micronesia] Gender Policy in 2016 and so it would be good to share all of those in this radio spot.'

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre is also the Secretariat of the Pacific Women's Network on Violence Against Women, providing ongoing support for 24 organisations in 13 Pacific Island countries to address the issue of violence against women and children in their diverse communities.

'What's one change that I would like to see?' pondered Ms Santos, in preparing to return home to Pohnpei. 'I guess some sort of equality. Not just with violence against women, just some equality where a woman feels safe to do whatever she wants to; is prospering, progressing because she's done the work.'



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FSM says goodbye to COM-FSM President Joseph Daisy

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 15, 2020

Pohnpei—At a reception this evening at Mangrove Bay, people of the FSM said farewell to College of Micronesia FSM President Joseph Daisy after eight years of noteworthy service to the college.

President Daisy came to COM-FSM at a time when the Western Association of Schools and Colleges had placed the college's accreditation status on probation. The Joint Economic Management Committee that oversees the U.S. Compact assistance also had decided to begin significantly reducing funding to the College beginning in the following fiscal year. It was a challenging time but President Daisy came to the job with a "can do" attitude and a desire to build a team that would be able to work through all of the difficulties. He did just that.

During his first interview with The Kaselehlie Press he said that he had not come on some imaginary "white horse to ride in and save the College. "First of all," he said, "to say such a thing would be to say that nothing that has previously happened at COM has been valuable, and that just isn't true. There are many previous activities that can be built upon." He said at that time that COM staff members were capable people and that he was proud to be the new leader of the team.

"Certainly there are challenges at the college", he said. "I tell anyone who asks that there are things I will be able to do and things that I will not be able to do." He set about to enable his team to do what needed to be done and to build ownership in the process and the college itself. He and his team accomplished that and many other challenges during his tenure.

Certainly he had to make difficult decisions with the support of the Board of Regents. Not every one of those decisions was

popular either but President Daisy did build ownership and pride in COM-FSM and the College has excelled.

Student Body Association President Harry Suta, who spoke on behalf of the SBA at the farewell, said that President Daisy always took time to connect with the students. He ate lunch with them in the cafeteria and always had a word of encouragement for them.

Regents Pelma Mingii and Suzanne Gallen read a congratulatory resolution from the Board of Regents. Vice President for Instructional Affairs Karen Simion presented President Daisy with a hand carved wall hanging and CTEC Instructional Coordinator Taylor Elidok presented him with another hand carved item lined with shark's teeth.

Even the farewell event was instructional in nature for students of the Hospitality and Tourism Management program who kept food coming to each person in attendance.

COM student Le Rose Hebel performed



a hula dance for the crowd. Oscarson Ikalap also performed his exciting fire dance, unique to him in the FSM.

Suzanne Gallen of the Board of Regents says that the selection committee has approached someone to serve as Interim President of the College. "With our current timeline, we hope to have someone permanent in place by the end of the year. It's a long process and we don't want to rush it. We want to ensure we get the right person, best for the college, who will lead us in the right direction," she said.

Joseph Daisy moves next to a position as the Chancellor of Kaua'i Community College.



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...Pohnpei Inauguration

Continued from front page



In his short inaugural address, he echoed the words of former Governor Marcelo Peterson from his farewell speech saying that indeed, many challenges have been met but many more challenges remain. He said that he feels confident that the team elected by the people of Pohnpei will work together in unity to work on those challenges together.

“In the words of JFK (John F. Kennedy),” the Governor said, paraphrasing the former U.S. President’s words. “With history as the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth and lead this place that we love, asking for His guidance and His blessings knowing that His good work on this earth is surely ours to carry on.”

Iso Nahnken Salvador Iriarte gave the ririnpaisohn poaloaloo, the final word from the traditional chiefs of Pohnpei. He challenged the government not to undersell the value of Pohnpei.

On Saturday, January 11 the Joint Inauguration Interdenominational Service was held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Reverend Bethwel Henry, Deacon Berley Aracelly, and Reverend Rullens Phillip participated in various aspects of the service. Father Ken Urumolug provided the homily saying that he believes that it is a good sign that the new government has chosen to express itself by honoring God as the new administration is seated.

Joseph Saimon served as the master of ceremonies for the service.

On the evening of January 13, the Inaugural reception was held at Mangrove Bay. Packed in elbow to elbow, participants crowded in to



greet the new leaders and to welcome them to their new positions.

Though it was very difficult to hear him, Lt. Governor Feliciano Perman gave welcoming remarks to the gathered crowd. He mentioned the issue of Climate Change as one of the major challenges facing Pohnpei.

Speaker Ausen T. Lambert of the 10th Pohnpei Legislature also delivered remarks. He told the 13 new senators that were elected to the Legislature that it is their responsibility to get up to speed as quickly and thoroughly as possible by attending public hearings and by reading the voluminous communications that will show up in their boxes on a daily basis.

“...It is sad and frustrating from our side to observe our projects implemented poorly, very late or not implemented at all, and our laws not fully enforced as envisioned when working long hours and very hard to pass them,” he said to the

administrative branch of the government. “But, today marks a new beginning and I am hopeful that you will devote yourselves to raising the standards of governance under which we all carry on our daily lives.”

To the judicial branch he said that while he recognized the challenges, he has “enormous confidence that you will expedite the completion of your consideration of pending matters which have been brought to the Court.”

...Domestic Violence

Continued from front page

hospital late on the night of January 19. She arrived with contusions and was unconscious. Detectives say that she never regained consciousness. She died on January 22 leaving behind a three year old girl and a five year old boy. Her funeral was today.

Police were not aware of the situation until hospital personnel notified them of a potential victim of Domestic Violence. They arrived at the hospital at approximately 3:00 on the morning of January 20.

They arrested Resepwil. On January 21, Pohnpei prosecutor Jackson Joseph filed charges of Domestic Violence related

offenses including Felonious Assault and Battery, Assault and battery, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbance of the Peace.

Yesterday, the Pohnpei Supreme Court denied bail for Resepwil.

After Roby died in the hospital, prosecutors filed additional charges against her husband of Domestic Violence of Murder, Manslaughter, and Negligent Homicide.

Though Resepwil is in jail pending trial, he is presumed to be innocent unless otherwise proven in court.

A spokesperson for the Domestic Violence unit of the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety said that it had not received any previous complaints of domestic violence from either Roby or her husband. He also said that he receives many more reports of domestic violence than he once did. “It’s not necessarily because it’s happening more. It’s because people are starting to be more willing to report it,” he said.

DPS officials encourage victims of domestic violence to report every incident.

He commended the Public Auditor’s Office for the audits that have revealed “alarming and unprecedented findings that warrant immediate action.” He challenged them in conjunction with the office of the Attorney General to be sure that cases of financial wrong doing are filed at the Supreme Court in order “to hold those responsible accountable for their improper behaviors.”

“You see, what I am trying to portray here is that our daily duties and responsibilities are interconnected. That is why it is virtually vital for each branch of our government to do its part expeditiously according to the dictates of our rule of law,” Speaker Lambert said.

Jasmine Mendiola served as the Master of Ceremonies for the reception which closed with remarks of the overall chairwoman of the inauguration committee, Daisy Cantero. Performances followed.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

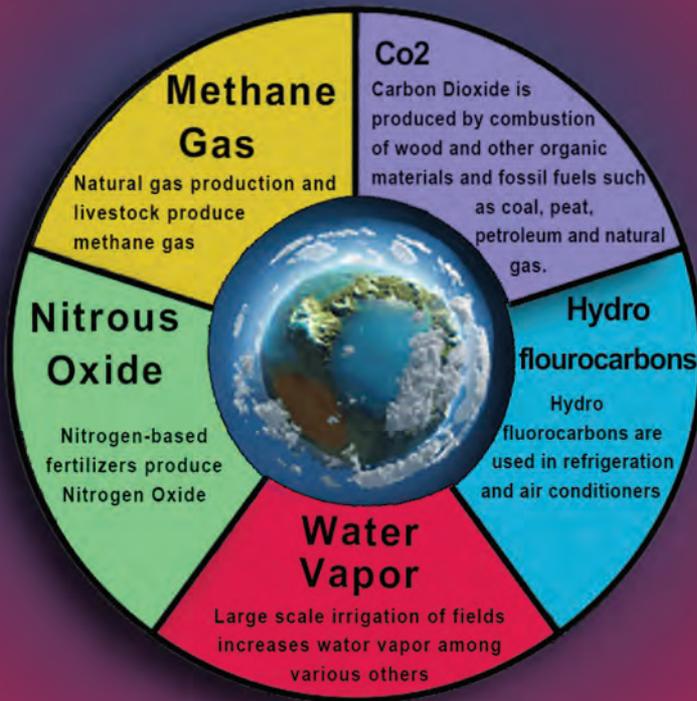


Climate change is widely recognized as the most urgent problem facing the world. We know that human activity is warming the Earth and this warming is causing major changes in the weather.

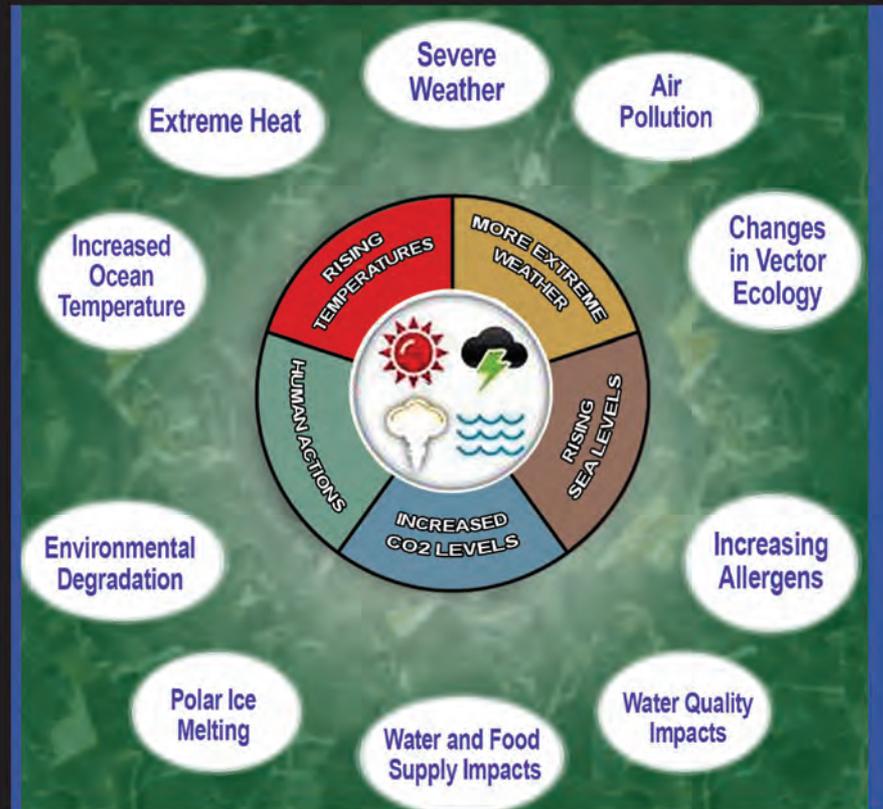


Earth's atmosphere is part of a global system that keeps the temperature of the planet within a habitable range. The burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil, and gas are creating large amounts of carbon dioxide gas.

Greenhouse Gases



The resulting carbon dioxide builds up in the atmosphere, creating the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect traps energy from the sun and raises the temperature of the Earth, and this rising temperature is what most people mean when they refer to global warming or climate change.



This change in temperature is resulting in increased air and ocean temperatures, drought, melting ice and snow, rising sea levels, increased rainfall, flooding and other influences.

The FSM National Government and four state governments are working on policies and projects to help protect our nation from the effects of climate change. As a nation, FSM is not responsible for the changes in the climate of the Earth, but we are one of the first countries to feel the effects of climate change.

Knowing more about climate change can help you and your community build resilience and adapt to the changes in climate!

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President Panuelo establishes Office of Information Technology

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—After completing relevant and necessary tasks, on January 13th, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) announced the establishment of an Office of Information Technology & Supporting Services under the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure. The Office of Information Technology & Supporting Services will be able to, among other duties, better support the Nation’s implementation of the Digital-FSM Project, funded in large part by the World Bank.

Established via a November 22nd 2019 Presidential Order, the Office of Information Technology will consolidate and centralize IT support services throughout the FSM National Government, and develop IT policies

and procedures to strengthen the Nation’s capacity in areas ranging from public information accessibility and record-keeping, to enhancing intragovernmental cooperation and data protection activities, and more. It is the intention of the FSM National Government to support the delivery of e-Government and e-Commerce activities as a means of both empowering citizens to participate in civil society, and as a means to encourage economic growth.

Arguably the most immediately visible result of the Presidential Order is the integration of IT staff presently assigned across the National Government’s line agencies into a centralized unit, as a means of fostering collaboration and eliminating unnecessary repetition of

See “Panuelo establishes IT Office” on page 11

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Coast Guard, partners rescue adrift mariner off FSM

Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew West U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Hawaii Pacific

January 17, 2020

SANTA RITA, Guam — The Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Federated States of Micronesia Police rescued an adrift mariner off the Lukunor Atoll in the Mortlock Islands of Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, Friday.

“Our good working relationship with our partners in the region was vital during this case,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Reilly, a Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam watchstander. “Due to the vast distances involved here in the Pacific, we often rely on both our sister services and international partners to successfully locate mariners in need and get them the help they require.”

A Navy Commander Task Force 72 P-8 Poseidon aircrew located the 23-year-old mariner aboard his adrift, 16-foot white skiff, and vectored in the crew of the FSM patrol vessel FSS Micronesia. Their crew successfully recovered the mariner. He is reportedly in good health, and the FSS Micronesia’s team will return him to Lukunor Atoll.

Involved in the search were:

- A Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew
- The CTF-72 P-8 Poseidon aircrew
- An Air Force 36th Wing B-52 Stratofortress aircrew
- The crew of the FSS Micronesia
- Local search parties

At 7:38 p.m., Wednesday, JRSC Guam watchstanders received a report from the Federated States of Micronesia

...Panuelo establishes IT office

Continued from page 9
various tasks.

“The transition will be gradual and each IT [staff] will continue to perform their duties at their respective department and/or office till the time that funding of this newly formed unit is fully secured,” President Panuelo said.

The FSM National Government

Police regarding the situation. Four fishers departed Lukunor Atoll Monday to fish along the nearby Sopunur Island reef. Once there, three of the fishermen went ashore while the one stayed aboard the vessel at anchor.

Once done for the day, the three fishers returned to the location they anchored and found no sign of the boat. The fishers turned back to Lukunor Atoll, organized search parties, and notified the Federated States of Micronesia Police.

JRSC Guam and Joint Rescue Center Honolulu watchstanders coordinated with partners in the region to search and deployed the Hercules aircrew from Hawaii to search the area. Watchstanders also reached out to the Navy and Air Force, who agreed to assist.

“Searches such as this one often require teamwork across a broad selection of local, national, and international partners,” said Reilly. “Often, the Navy and Air Force assist with searches in this region because their crews are in the best position to respond. We are always deeply thankful for their efforts.”

Friday, the Navy P-8 aircrew used radar to locate the mariner’s boat approximately 51 miles from his last known position. The aircrew then remained overhead until the FSS Micronesia’s crew arrived in the area and conducted the rescue.

The weather on scene was winds of 10 mph and seas up to 6 feet.

*All dates and times in Hawaii Standard Time.

has complete confidence that the Honorable Carlson D. Apis, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure, who is returning from his former duties as Ambassador of the FSM to the People’s Republic of China later this month, will endeavor to ensure a successful implementation of the Office of Information Technology & Supporting Services.

A copy of the President’s letter and the accompanying Presidential Order may be found here: https://gov.fm/files/PRESIDENTIAL_ORDER_Developing_Office_of_Information_Technology_Jan_13_2020.pdf

Tenth Pohnpei Legislature convened for its First Regular Session on Monday January 13

Salter Lohn Public Information Officer Pohnpei Legislature

Twenty-two Senators were sworn in as members of the Tenth Pohnpei Legislature with the exception of Senator –Elect Ricky Carl from Madolenihmw –The Credential Committee whose sole purpose is to review the credentials of the newly elected members (all members) recommended to the assembly to adopt credential committee report 01-20 which recommend the sworn in and seating of 22 elected members and that the committee be allowed to make further inquiries and to tender its report on Senator –Elect Ricky Carl at a later time.

After the swearing in and seating of the members, The Tenth Pohnpei Legislature then proceeded to elect its officers as called for by Rule 1h of the Legislature Rules of Procedures.

Tenth Legislature elected Senator Ausen T. Lambert of Sokehs as Speaker. Senator Lambert served as the Speaker for the remaining months of Ninth Pohnpei Legislature with the untimely passing of then Speaker Fernando Scaliem of Kolonia Town. Senator Stevic A. Edwin of Sapwuaifik was elected Vice Speaker and MacGarry Miquel of Kitti was again selected as Floor Leader.

Senator Sendilina Lekka oh Nukuro was again entrusted with the tall task of chairing the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and Senator Sonster A. Edgar of U was elected Vice Chairman.

Standing Committee on Finance-Senator Salter Loyola of Nett chairman and Senator Stevenson A. Joseph of U Vice Chairman.

Standing Committee on Health and Social Services –Senator Shelten G. Neth of Madolenihmw once again was elected as chairman with Senator Helgena J. Johnson of Mwoakilloa as

Vice Chairman.

Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations-Legislature elected Jack S. Harris of Kolonia Town a new comer as chairman and Senator Dahker D. Daniel as Vice Chairman.

Standing Committee on Land-Legislature elected Senators Adilino Edmund of Nett and Senator Nelbert Perez of Madlolenihmw as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Standing Committee on Public Works, Transportation and Communications-Pohnpei Law Makers elected another new comer Senator Herolyn S. Movick of Kitti as chairperson and Senator Kikuo Apis, Jr, as Vice Chairman.

Standing Committee on Resources and Development-The assembly elected Senator Marvin T. Yamaguchi oh Kolonia Town and Senator Hudson Abraham of Madolenihmw as its chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.



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Robotics training a first for remote island students

Habele

Kosrae, Micronesia - High school students on the tiny Micronesian island of Kosrae are teaming up with experts to get hands-on experience with technologies of the future. Equipped with the latest in competitive robotics equipment, new robotics clubs at Kosrae High School are enjoying a mix of classroom instruction and hands on learning, exploring math and science concepts that run much of the modern world.

For many students across the Freely Associated States, access to advanced STEM instruction is extremely limited. The Habele Robo League provides a unique vehicle to Micronesian high schools looking to expand the technical preparedness of students. Kosrae recently joined the other three FSM states participating in the Robo League, thanks to Habele's partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Vice President Yosiwo George has been an outspoken supporter of expanding the Robo League to include students in his home state.

Building on the momentum of this training, clubs at Kosrae High School will press forward towards the island's first ever Kosrae Robo Day. Robo Day is the culmination of a school year of

robotics exploration, in which clubs build customized robots to compete in a series of predetermined challenges during a community exhibition. Across participating FSM states, these competitions provide students a venue for robust, friendly competition, as well as giving the community the opportunity to see learning come to life.

"The students are really diving into the challenge of making modifications and improvements, designing for the tasks at hand, making the project their own, and working very well together," says Amelia Weiss, Habele's Director of STEM. "I just can't wait to see what they come up with."

The Habele Robotics League has collaborated with public and private schools across the FSM since 2012, beginning in Yap, expanding to Chuuk and Pohnpei States in 2018, and finally to Kosrae in 2019. 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.



4th FSM Constitutional Convention's Special Committee to Wait on the President informs President Panuelo of temporary recess; public outreach to occur until ConCon reconvenes in February



FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On January 22nd 2020 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received the 4th FSM Constitutional Convention's Special Committee to Wait on the President, accompanied by the Honorable Salvador Iriarte, Vice President of the Constitutional Convention (and Iso Nahnken of Nett), who updated President Panuelo on the goings-on of the Constitutional Convention. The primary outcomes of the meeting include that the Constitutional Convention, as of January 22nd 2020, is in recess until the end of February, wherein the Convention will reconvene; in the meantime, the delegations will begin a public awareness campaign on the various proposals.

The Special Committee to Wait, which is Chaired by the Honorable Akillino H. Susaia in his capacity as a delegate representing Pohnpei State (though he is also the Ambassador of the FSM to the United States of America), began by describing the 4th Constitutional Convention's plans.

"Thank you for this opportunity to meet, Mr. President," Chairman Susaia said. "We stand in recess today [January 22nd 2020], subject to the call of the Chair. Perhaps somewhere around February 22nd [we'll reconvene]. The [current] marching orders from the Chair and Leadership is that each delegation goes back to their respective communities, and do consultations on the [proposed amendments and additions]."

The Special Committee to Wait on the President advised that the Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei delegations would appreciate the usage of the FSM's patrol boats to ensure that remote communities can be fully engaged with the goings-on of the Constitutional Convention.

It was advised that approximately sixty (60) proposals have been introduced so far—but that this should not be taken as alarming, as at present several proposals may be related to just one issue and thus the final number that emerges when the Constitutional Convention is concluded is likely to be different.

"The Constitutional Convention is a crucially important activity," President Panuelo said. "You can all be assured that I will give the strongest support in every aspect going forward."

President Panuelo advised that some of the pending financial matters, that are of deep import to the Constitutional Convention and its delegates, were being addressed by the Department of Finance & Administration as their top priority before the delegations depart Pohnpei for public outreach.

"Thank you, Mr. President," Chairman Susaia said. "I think the committee is satisfied with what you shared with us." The 4th FSM Constitutional Convention is maintaining a website inclusive of public information materials, such as proposed amendments, here: <http://constitution.gov.fm/>

President Panuelo meets with Blue Prosperity Coalition to further advance marine spatial planning, scientific expeditions, and ocean conservation in the FSM

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On January 22nd 2020 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with a delegation from the Blue Prosperity Coalition (BPC), inclusive of representation from the National Geographic Society, the Waitt Institute, the University of California at San Diego, and Micronesia Conservation Trust, to further advance the Nation’s goal of protecting at least 30% of the FSM’s ocean-space. The primary outcomes of the meeting were the discussion on the tentative scheduling of a science expedition across the FSM from approximately the end of August through September 2020, and a marine spatial planning workshop to occur somewhere between the months of April and June 2020, as well as updates on the ongoing work between the FSM National Government and the BPC per the Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2019 and promoted in September 2019 on the margins of the 74th United Nations General Assembly.

Citizens may recall President Panuelo alluding to a partnership with the BPC in his Inaugural Address, as well as the promotion of the MOU between the FSM and the BPC in September. The key idea behind the MOU is that the FSM, which wishes to protect 30% of the Nation’s Exclusive Economic Zone, will collaborate with the BPC and appropriate partners to, firstly, assess the science, legal, fisheries, finance, and Blue Economy frameworks within the Nation; secondly, to develop a Martine Spatial Plan and Blue Economy plan, including the development and implementation of any necessary legislation; and, thirdly, to identify appropriate enforcement, management, and monitoring plans, alongside appropriate business development and financing proposals to fund key related activities.

“I will be meeting [all four of the] FSM’s Governors next month,” President Panuelo said, “and I will make sure that this is part of the agenda. It’s part of the objective of this administration that we keep close communication and collaboration with the State Governments.” Governors were present during the July 2019 discussions.

The President explained that, in February 2020, he looks forward to describing the FSM-BPC partnership at present, and its future plans, to the Governors, with further consultations to occur at the next State & National Leadership Conference. Such consultations will be key in ensuring that all FSM State Governments are on board with the proposed marine spatial planning workshop and scientific expedition, which will be spearheaded by National Geographic’s Pristine Seas and include the development of a video for a global

audience to enjoy.

In the meantime, President Panuelo advised that the FSM National Government is working to bring on board a coordinator to liaise between the BPC and the FSM National Government—particularly since such conservation efforts require collaboration between line agencies such as the Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management and the Department of Resources & Development. The President noted that the coordinator, who will be funded by the FSM National Government, will play a key role in ensuring the success of the partnership.

President Panuelo emphasized that fisheries revenues are the Nation’s largest source of domestic related income, and so conservation efforts are important to maintaining the sustainability of the Nation’s economic development just as much as it is important to maintaining the sustainability of the environment itself.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with President Panuelo advising that the administration will be formally communicating to the FSM State Governments about the FSM-BPC partnership soon along with other components of the February 2020 meeting agenda.



Joint WHO-UNICEF statement on Pacific measles situation Effective outbreak response reduces the risk of measles spread in the Pacific

**UNICEF
WHO**

20 January 2020, Suva, Fiji - In 2019, the Pacific saw the re-emergence of measles, with outbreaks declared in Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and American Samoa, and cases reported in Kiribati. For Samoa, the country experienced a widescale measles outbreak which had significant impact upon the country’s population and health system. The disease has cost lives, with infants and young children being most affected.

In response to the identification of measles in the region, many Pacific countries and areas have made serious efforts to close immunity gaps in their population and strengthen infectious disease prevention, surveillance and response systems. These efforts align to the core public health capacities required by all countries under the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005, and critical to preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases, such as measles.

The governments of Samoa, Tonga and Fiji, have conducted vaccination campaigns aimed at closing immunity gaps in their populations to stop the transmission of the virus. These immunization activities are bringing the outbreaks under control. In Samoa, the mass immunization campaign which targeted individuals aged six months to 60 years achieved 95 per cent vaccination coverage, the rate needed to prevent measles transmission in a population. Fiji and Tonga continue immunizing those most at risk of measles to meet the target of 95 per cent and ensure that populations are protected. Other Pacific countries and areas have also conducted supplementary immunization activities to reduce the risk of potential measles outbreaks.

Due to the public health efforts of Pacific countries and areas, the risk of measles spreading in Samoa and in other Pacific Island countries and areas has notably reduced.

WHO, UNICEF and other partners continue to work closely with Pacific health authorities to respond to new measles cases; strengthen their systems to ensure the rapid detection and response to cases; and increase and sustain high immunization coverage rates for all vaccine-preventable diseases. Additionally, technical collaboration continues to ensure that all have strong health emergency management systems in place at all times.

Travel Advice

WHO recommends that all individuals exercise standard health precautions when travelling abroad. In the Pacific, all individuals travelling between Pacific Island countries and areas, or to and from the Pacific are strongly advised to ensure they are up to date with their vaccinations at least two weeks prior to departing. Travelers should consult with their health provider about their immunization status and other health needs prior to departure.

Letter to the Editor

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Dear Editor:

Your May 17, 2019 article [Pohnpei Taxi Driver sentenced for Trafficking in Children and Exploitation] discussing the issue of sex trafficking highlighted the existence of trafficking and human exploitation in the Federated States of Micronesia. Since the publication of that article, Pohnpei State has successfully prosecuted a human trafficking case, revived its State Human Trafficking Inter-Agency Task Force, and became a supporter of the United Nations Blue Heart Campaign Against Human Trafficking. The Task Force, made up of government agencies, civil society representatives and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is in the process of planning a variety of human trafficking awareness programs and activities throughout the year, including the month of January which has been designated internationally as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The Task Force will use these opportunities to raise awareness in the community about human trafficking and to highlight the fact that we must take steps to ensure that victims are properly identified and assisted. While it is important to raise awareness during the month of January, we urge everyone in the community to remember that prevention and education efforts should be a focus every day of the year. Our events for the month of January include: (1) A Human Trafficking panel discussion on Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Radio Station and YouTube; (2) A Human Trafficking Display at the Pohnpei Public Library; (3) A Human Trafficking Presentation for high school students at the Pohnpei Public Library on January 29, 2020 at 3:30 pm; (4) A Human Trafficking Awareness Presentation for the Pohnpei State Council of Churches; and (5) the placement of a Human Trafficking Awareness Billboard at the entrance to the Pohnpei State Administration Building. We invite all members of the community to educate themselves about Human Trafficking so that collectively we can eradicate this terrible crime from our community. If you have information regarding human trafficking activity, please call the designated FSM Human Trafficking hotline at (691) 923-2000 or contact the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety at 320-2221.

Sincerely,
Members, Pohnpei State Human Trafficking Inter-Agency Task Force

Constitutional Convention delegate Susaia addresses his colleagues

Mr. President, colleagues and fellow citizens. With your indulgence, I wish to join the previous speakers and offer a few words as we prepare to go into recess, subject to the call of the chair. At the outset, I wish to pay my respects to the traditional leaders of our country, especially the guardians of Pohnpei, on which ground we assembled today. Keipweni pahn samatail Eni Lap, Kauno Koht. Keipweni pohn Ereko Nanmwariki kan en Pohnpei uh, Wahulap pohn Iso Naniken ko, lapalap kan en palien tiahk, mwoadisou kan, government en Pohnpei State, Municipal Koperment kan, oh karoasie tohn pei Sarawi en Pohnpei. Re ketin kupwure pwe ien kak doadoahki masen de pato en English.

Recalling those hot summer days, 41 years ago in Saipan at the White Sands Hotel, our founding fathers debated at length over the government structure, the taxing authority, public finance and the separation of powers between the national, state and municipal governments. From these discussions, they were able to agree to the existing provisions of our FSM Constitution. We, the delegates to this 4th FSM Con-Con cannot re-walk the exact footprints they left behind, but we may be able to add or improve on some of these provisions, if we work together and strengthen our resolve to live as one people under this same Constitution. If we are sincere in our commitment to work together, we will be able to agree to the changes or amendments which will strengthen Unity in the FSM.

I am confident in our efforts and dedication to do the best for our people. In fact, I believe our first order of business after we return from this recess should be to commit ourselves to work harder and together as a unified body. This is essential. Despite any differences we may have, it is incumbent upon us as duly elected representatives of the people to this Convention that we commit to these noble causes of strengthening our Unity.

In our deliberations, we must recognize the changing world and emerging realities in front of us. No longer is the outside world a far-off entity over the horizon which we used to think of as innocent children running around on our remote island atolls, towns and villages many moons ago. No longer is the land of opportunity beyond the reachable stretch of our imaginations. We have grown and matured as a nation. We have rightfully assumed our place as a village among the global community of villages. The world has expanded in the face of globalization. So change we must, and when one third of our citizens find homes in the United States and elsewhere, it is imperative that we respond to these changing dynamics and let our conscience bring out the best of us. We must do what is best for our people given the circumstances we live in today. Our people living in faraway places like Springdale in Arkansas, in Milan, Minnesota, in the deep Southern cities of

Alabama, Georgia, and Florida have one thing in common. They are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, and I know they are proud of it. We must address the issue of Dual Citizenship for the sake of our people who deserve this privilege.

It stands to reason that we also must not be so quick to change things solely for the sake of change itself. After all, some things are better off if we leave them untouched and intact. And among these, which is fundamental in my view, is the preservation of Unity as the fundamental pillar of this Federation. Any action that compromises the fabric of Unity for our federation must be opposed with every ounce of our energy. As a small island country in a big world, we are better off together as one country. The world order these days favors the forces of globalization and the building of regional alliances. It is in our best interest to remain united and continue to live together as one people.

In preserving the Unity of this Federation, we also have to be mindful of the needs of the States. After all, the uniqueness of our federation lies in the extent of the constitutional authority and resources given to the States to manage their own affairs of state. Our goal is to ensure that the States are equipped with adequate financial resources and the tools

to carry out their constitutional mandates. I am very aware of the challenge and the daunting task of addressing revenue sharing with the States. However, I believe it is prime time that this dicey issue of revenue sharing is addressed head on. I believe also that our work in this Convention can be successful if we are able to agree to a better formula of revenue sharing. It will be difficult, but we must find a way to do it. If we are serious about strengthening and preserving Unity, let us dedicate ourselves to the spirit of the work our founding fathers achieved in the summer of 1975. Creating a nation which has sustained the winds of change over the years is a more daunting task than agreeing to make the necessary changes to our Constitution and devise an acceptable and workable sharing of the revenues between the National and State Governments.

Mr. President and my fellow delegates, this 4th FSM Constitutional Convention provides us an opportunity to heed the challenges of our times. It provides us the opportunity to make real changes for the sake of our people. Let us not fail them or we will waver between utter despair and glimmers of hope for a better tomorrow.

Kalahngan, Kilisou Chapur, Kamagar, Kulo Mulalap



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES - FIRMS SELECTION)

COUNTRY: Federated States of Micronesia provide evidence of strong corporate track record and financial standing.

NAME OF PROJECT: Climate Resilient Road Project (P172225) The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Assignment Title: Road Network Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Resilient Road Strategy
Reference No.: FM-DOTCI-148484-CS-QCBS
Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

The Federated States of Micronesia has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient Road Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the climate change and natural hazard vulnerability assessment, and climate resilient road strategy. It is expected that the study will be completed within six (6) months of commencement and is expected to require approximately 20 person-months of professional input. The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained from the contact person below.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Cost and Cost Based Selection Method (QCBS) set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1700 Pohnpei Time (Local Time).

The Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DoTC&I) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: (i) relevant experience: provide evidence of multiple similar projects especially in the core areas of infrastructure planning, feasibility studies, design and construction supervision, and capacity development in the similar environments; (ii) managerial: provide evidence of technical and managerial capability; (iii) corporate:

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by Friday, February 14th, 2020.
Robert Goodwin,
Program Manager
Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DoTC&I)
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Tel: (+691) 320 2080
Email: rscgoodwin@hotmail.com
Web: www.tci.gov.fm
And cc to:
Ciu.tci@gov.fm
Central Implementation Unit

President Panuelo discusses compact impact, foreign investment, & regional tourism with the Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On January 14th 2020 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received the Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor of the U.S. Territory of Guam, in a courtesy call. The Governor was visiting the FSM to attend the Joint Inauguration of the FSM State of Pohnpei's Leadership, and for other matters. The purpose of the meeting between President Panuelo and Governor Leon Guerrero was to follow-up on issues discussed in the 24th Micronesia Islands Forum (MIF) held in the FSM State of Chuuk in July 2019, and to broadly discuss negotiations for the Compact of Free Association (COFA), as Amended.

"Thank you for coming to Pohnpei to join in the celebration of the Inauguration of the [Pohnpei State] administration," President Panuelo began. "And of course, Governor, the Nation continues to thank you and the people and Government of Guam for hosting our citizens."

After discussing subjects of mutual interest, the conversation quickly moved to the topic of Compact Impact, which is funding the U.S. Government appropriates to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the U.S. State of Hawaii to assist local governments in dealing with FSM citizen migration-related matters. Governor Leon Guerrero emphasized that the Compact Impact funding is critical to Guam and other U.S. regions with high populations of FSM citizens on the premise that the funding augments and supports crucial public services, including healthcare and education services.

To the knowledge of the FSM National Government, Compact Impact funding is presently capped at a ceiling of thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) per year to the U.S. Territory of Guam. Governor Leon Guerrero advised that Guam's hospital spends approximately thirty million dollars each year on non-U.S. citizen healthcare services alone (although that figure was advised to include not only FSM citizens, but all citizens from other countries who receive care in Guam).

"We believe," President Panuelo said, "That thirty million cap is not adequate to respond to the [COFA Impact] costs by citizens in [Guam, the CNMI, and Hawaii]. The focus should be to work with members of the U.S. Congress to increase those appropriations of the COFA Impact." Although the FSM National Government is sensitive to the needs and concerns of U.S. Territories and States with regards to the COFA Impact, it is the view of the Government that, in order to ensure a sustainable and successful process for both the COFA negotiations between the FSM and

the U.S., and the COFA Impact discussions internally in the U.S, the two processes remain separate.

The conversation then shifted to the notion that, since FSM citizens who emigrate typically do so out of a perceived lack of economic opportunity at home, part of the answer to the question of retaining both talent and tradition must lie in building opportunities for citizens. Governor Leon Guerrero spoke at length about how Guam's private sector is profoundly interested in investing in and partnering with the FSM and wondered whether there was any movement on enhancing the Nation's foreign investment climate.

"[Historically] the FSM States have wanted to have their own focus on foreign investment," President Panuelo began, "but this an area that I believe the Nation must really be united on. The Nation will benefit from an umbrella investment climate and set of laws that are complementary with one another, and that's why at the next FSM State & National Leadership Conference (SNLC) this will be a priority agenda item."

There is proposed legislation on foreign investment that the FSM Congress has reviewed, and that is contemporaneously being reviewed by the FSM State Governments. It is the hope of the FSM National Government's Executive Branch that the next SNLC will discuss this proposed legislation in depth, with the aim of achieving a Nation-wide consensus that the proposed legislation will incentivize growth and work seamlessly with other proposed legislation, such as the FSM Petroleum Corporation/Vital Transformation Act which the FSM National Government's Executive Branch is hopeful that the 21st FSM Congress will vote to endorse.

Continuing on the subject of economic development, and particularly how it relates to the 24th MIF's Joint Communique, Governor Leon Guerrero described Guam's ongoing work with the FSM to grow the Micronesian cruise industry. The Governor noted with enthusiasm that cruises that serve approximately 250-450 passengers would fill a particular tourism niche, and advised that she has made an Executive Order to form a committee dedicated to the task of growing the cruise industry in the Micronesian subregion.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with President Panuelo and Governor Leon Guerrero reaffirming the close friendship between the FSM and Guam.

"You're very pro-Micronesian, all of us are," President Panuelo said. "Our doors are open any time you want to talk, whether it's in the context of the MIF or any other, so we can find solutions to issues that both of our Governments need to continue work on."



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College of Micronesia-FSM

COMET Dates

SPRING 2020

- Pohnpei January 27 to February 7, 2020
- Chuuk January 29 to February 4, 2020
- Kosrae January 17 to January 28, 2020
- Yap February 5 to February 7, 2020

Please contact COMFSM state campus for reservation and details.

Mark these Dates!

Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC)

CTEC is located in downtown Kolonia, enrolls over 550 students each semester in various degree and certificate programs. The Division of Hospitality and Tourism offers an associate degree in hospitality and tourism management and conducts short-term hospitality training for area businesses. The Division of Technology and Trade offers applied associate of science degree programs in Electronics Technology, Building Technology, Telecommunications, as well as certificates in Carpentry, Cabinet making/Furniture-making, Construction Electricity, Electronic Engineering Technology, and an Apprenticeship program in Building maintenance and various other trades. The Division of Technology and Trade also serves as the center for a computerized distance education system for electronics (NIDA) throughout the FSM.

Other certificates offered at Pohnpei Campus include general studies, bookkeeping, secretarial science, trial counselors, community health sciences—health assistant training program, and agriculture and food technology. Pohnpei Campus hosts two TRIO programs- Educational Talent Search Program and Upward Bound—that serve elementary and secondary school students in cooperation with Pohnpei State Department of Education. Pohnpei Campus is also home to Pohnpei Business Development Center (PBDC). By recruiting experts from within the college system and community, Pohnpei Campus is able to offer customized training programs and continuing education classes, including computer skills, English, business management, building technology, customer service, and leisure classes such as cultural dance and local language classes. The Cooperative Extension Services (CES) component of the Land Grant Program is integrated into the operations of the Pohnpei Campus to better serve the local communities and people in Pohnpei.



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