

FSM establishes stringent travel ban in effort to turn away the Novel Coronavirus

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

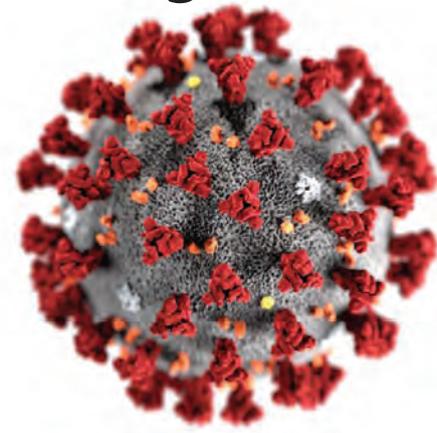
February 7, 2020

FSM—In a concerted effort to keep the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from infecting anyone in the FSM, on January 31, 2020, FSM President David Panuelo declared a public health emergency. The declaration banned all outward bound travel to mainland China or to any country where the virus is present including the U.S. mainland, which as of today has 12 confirmed cases of the virus. Citizens and residents returning to the FSM from a country where the virus is present are not allowed to enter the FSM unless they have first stayed in a country, state or territory with no cases of 2019-nCoV for 14 days immediately prior to re-entry.

On Saturday, February 1, the President released a clarification on the travel ban saying that Guam and Hawaii would be treated separately from the mainland United States. Travel to and from those places was unrestricted with the exception that people returning from the US mainland or any other country where the virus has been identified would be required to spend 14 days in one of the unaffected areas immediately before returning to the FSM.

The clarification also said that exceptions to the outward bound travel ban would be allowed for people requiring urgent medical care that could not be provided in the FSM. That urgent medical care would need to be certified by a physician.

On Tuesday, February 4, President Panuelo amended the travel ban by lifting the ban on outward bound travel with the exception of mainland China. FSM residents may not travel to mainland China. “Although there is no ban on travels to destinations other than mainland China, citizens are nevertheless strongly advised against taking unnecessary



travel to other countries with confirmed cases of the Coronavirus.”

If outward bound travelers do decide to travel to countries where the virus is present and want to return, they will still be bound to spend 14 consecutive days in an unaffected country, state, or territory before they can return to the FSM. Currently air travelers could wait out their time of quarantine in Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, or

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New Pohnpei Sea Cucumber law makes case to bar harvests moot

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

February 6, 2020

Pohnpei—Because of a new Pohnpei law, the claims of young plaintiffs against Young Sun International Trading Company and Pohnpei State to halt the harvest of sea cucumbers are moot. The law established a five year moratorium on sea cucumber harvests in Pohnpei as well as the terms for the establishment of a Sea Cucumber Commission. It became law without the Governor’s signature

See “Sea Cucumber” on page 4

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What novel coronavirus is and what the World Health Organization says you can do to protect yourself

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 7, 2020

FSM—The Internet is rife with blatantly inaccurate information on the 2019 corona virus. It is important to arm yourself with the most accurate sources of information you can find. The World Health Organization is one of those sources. It can easily be found by searching for “what is coronavirus”. www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses is an excellent source of information for what the virus is and what can a person do to protect themselves.

What is it and what does it do?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found in both animals and humans. Some infect people and are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). But, though the new virus is in the same family as SARS and MERS, it is a different virus. A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The new, or “novel” coronavirus, now called 2019-nCoV, had not been previously detected before the outbreak was reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019.

As with other respiratory illnesses, infection with 2019-nCoV can cause mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. It can be more severe for some persons and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More *rarely*, the disease can be fatal.

Older people and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as, diabetes and heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

The 2019-nCoV causes respiratory disease and can be transmitted from person to person, usually after close contact with an infected patient, for example, in a household workplace, or health care center.

The incubation period, time between infection and the onset of clinical symptoms of disease is currently *estimated* in a range of 1-12.5 days with median estimates of 5 to 6 days. Based on information from other coronavirus diseases, such as MERS and SARS, the incubation period of 2019-nCoV could be up to 14 days. According to recent reports, it may be possible that people infected with 2019-nCoV may be infectious before showing significant symptoms. However, based on currently available data, the people who have symptoms are causing the majority of virus spread.

WHO says that people receiving packages are not at risk of contracting the new coronavirus. From experience with other coronaviruses, we know that these types of viruses don't survive long on objects, such as letters or packages.

What can you do to protect yourself

Stay aware of the latest information on the outbreak, available on WHO website, and take care of your health by doing the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-

based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty

Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub eliminates the virus if it is on your hands.

- Maintain social distancing – maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and other people, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing and have a fever.

Why? When someone who is infected with a respiratory disease like 2019-nCoV coughs or sneezes they project small droplets containing the virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the virus

- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.

Why? Hands touch many surfaces which can be contaminated with the virus. If you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer the virus from the surface to yourself.

- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early. Tell your health care provider if you have travelled in an area in China where 2019-nCoV has been reported, or if you have been in close contact with someone with who has travelled from China and has respiratory symptoms.

Why? Whenever you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing it's important to seek medical attention promptly as this may be due to a respiratory infection or other serious condition. Respiratory symptoms with fever can have a range of causes, and depending on your personal travel history and circumstances, 2019-nCoV could be one of them.

- If you have mild respiratory symptoms and no travel history to or within China, carefully practice basic

respiratory and hand hygiene and stay home until you are recovered, if possible.

Should I wear a mask?

Using a mask alone is not guaranteed to stop infections and should be combined with the above prevention measures. WHO recommends using masks only if you have respiratory symptoms (coughing or sneezing), have suspected 2019-nCoV infection with mild symptoms or are caring for someone with suspected 2019-nCoV infection. A suspected 2019-nCoV infection is linked to travel in an area in China where 2019-nCoV has been reported, or close contact with someone who has travelled from China and has respiratory symptoms. The WHO website also has important information on the proper use of masks if you need to use one.

The World Health Organization doesn't say this but when reading articles on the Internet or watching a video on Youtube, use good common sense. WHO says gargling with mouthwash will not protect you from infection. Neither will gargling with garlic. Though it's not a bad idea to protect yourself from respiratory illnesses, vaccines against pneumonia will not protect you from the new coronavirus. Regularly rinsing your nose with saline also will not help prevent infection.

Drinking bleach not only will do nothing to protect you from the new coronavirus, it can also kill you.

Use common sense and check reliable sources and health professionals before you consider following online “cures”.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Chuuk not tracking and collecting money due under US Federal grant programs for more than 20 programs

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 31, 2020

Chuuk—The Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor has discovered that Chuuk State Finance Funds Division failed to collect over \$396,000 in reimbursements for funds the Chuuk government advanced in order to run U.S. government funded programs for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. According to the auditor, some of those funds may now be uncollectible.

“Aside from the Sector grants that Chuuk receives as its share of Compact money, it is also receiving different federal grants from US federal agencies to fund various federal programs such as Special Education, the Substance Abuse &

Mental Health (SAMH) program and the Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) program. These federal grants are the main source of funding for the twenty-plus programs that provide valuable services to the citizens of Chuuk. The nature of these federal grants is generally reimbursable; this means that Chuuk government must first expend its own money before collecting the reimbursement for its expenditures from the different federal agencies. Whenever advances by the Chuuk government were not fully collected at fiscal year-end, an accounts receivable is recorded. Close monitoring of accounts and prompt resolution of issues should allow Chuuk government to be able to fully reimburse its advances the following fiscal year or before the expiry of grant.”

The auditor recommended that the Funds Division Accountant in charge of federal grants should establish an accounts receivable subsidiary ledger for each of the federally funded programs and maintain their own record of collections to reconcile the billed amounts and its subsequent collections with that of the national government.

They also recommended that the Federal Grants Fund Accountant or the Director of the Department of Administrative Services’ designee should study the collectability of the accounts receivable and initiate collection if still collectible. Otherwise, they should initiate a write-off of uncollectible accounts.

“We conclude that the monies advanced

by the Chuuk Government for the purpose of running different reimbursable federally funded program were not fully recollected back. Uncollected amounts were dated as far back as 2015. The old uncollectible amounts from the Accounts Receivable from Federal Agencies/Grants were explained as due to expiry of the grant, amount reimbursed was less than the actual expenditures advanced and some expenditures were not allowable,” the audit said.

“...Non-collection of money advanced by the Chuuk government to run federal programs may also result in a loss of precious local funds for local operational budget purposes. In this case, the possible loss of about \$300,000 is material enough for local budget purposes,” it said.

US Ambassador Riley holds farewell dinner reception

Alvie B. Cabañez
Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

January 23, 2020

FSM—Outgoing United States Ambassador Robert A. Riley, together with his spouse, Ms. Fatima Ynot hosted a farewell dinner reception on January 23, 2020. It was held at the Ambassador’s residence in Nanpohnmal.

“If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound,” Ambassador Riley asked. “Our public affairs section ensures that no such quandaries’ exist regarding our many varied Embassy activities, and they do so with flare and creativity”.

He also expressed his gratitude to his staff for all the amazing contributions they made during his term. “Finally and far from least, I thank my loving, beloved, and beautiful wife, Timmy, who has literally kept me afloat during this ambassadorship.”

The Ambassador said that he couldn’t help but cherish and be grateful for the fond memories, the wonderful places, and the connections with people throughout his term.

He said that the one thing he wants to do after his retirement is to be able to spend time with his daughters.

A number of honored dignitaries

graced the event from the national government, private sector, and partner organizations: Australian Ambassador to the FSM, George Fraser and wife Denise Huang; Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, Hidenobu Sobashima and wife Chikako; Ambassador of China to the FSM, Huang Zheng and wife Yingguang Zhao; Pohnpei State Governor Reed B. Oliver; former FSM President Manny Mori; Takuro Steele, Second Secretary of Australian Embassy; Eugene Kohler, US Veterans of Pohnpei; Alloys Malfitani, Pohnpei Surf Club owner; Navy Seabees representative David M. Allmer; Shinji Shibata, resident representative JICA-FSM; Ausen Lambert, Pohnpei Legislature; Jared Morris, CEO-FSMPC; Mary Joy Dizon, Kaselehlie Diner owner; Department of Education, USAID Climate Ready, Pohnpei Social Services; and Bank of FSM representatives were also present.

His Excellency left Pohnpei last January 29, 2020. He will stay in Washington, D.C office until March 31, 2020 before he retires.

Her Excellency Carmen G. Cantor will arrive in Pohnpei on January 30, 2020 and will present her credentials to the FSM government shortly thereafter.





NOTICE OF INVITATION TO QUOTE Request for Quotations on Office Furniture



The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) of the Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank and intends to apply part of its proceeds towards the cost of Office Furniture. NORMA intends to prequalify vendors for items such as cubicles, filing cabinets, executive chairs etc. amounting to about fifty pieces of furniture to be purchased and distributed by the vendor to its affiliated PROP counterparts within the FSM.

FSM NORMA is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced vendors/suppliers to supply these Office Furniture to be provided for use by its fisheries staff and inspectors.

Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedure specified in the World Bank Guidelines for Procurement of Goods in Fragile and Small States in the Pacific, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

Interested eligible vendors/supplier can obtain further information from and must also request an Invitation To Quote (ITQ) form no later than March 06, 2020 (Pohnpei Local Time) from the following email address.

Mr. Crawford Nimea
PROP Procurement officer
crawford.nimea@norma.fm

Quotations in English in response to ITQs must be delivered to the address below at or before 5:00 p.m., March 27, 2020 (Pohnpei Local Time). Late quotations will be rejected. Quotations may be submitted by email, courier, or delivered by hand to the address below:

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan
Executive Director
FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
2nd Floor of Ambros Building
Attn: PROP
FSM National Government
P.O. Box PS-122
Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia
Telephone: (691) 320-2700/5181
E-mail address: norma@mail.fm and copy to okean.ehmes@norma.fm

...Travel Ban

Continued from front page

Guam, but as the disease widens its global footprint, there is no way to know if those three places will remain virus free.

Though it took some time for United Airlines to receive word of the various aspects of the ban and the various changes and clarification, they will be enforcing the ban for travelers attempting to return to the FSM. They are now informed that outward bound travel is allowable and are again allowing passengers to board outbound flights from the FSM. Recently, Air Niugini also agreed to enforce the ban for their travelers.

Key players in the effort to keep the Coronavirus from arriving on FSM's shores briefed senators of the Pohnpei State Legislature at a committee hearing on Monday, February 3. Department of Health officials said that incoming air passengers would first be met and screened before being allowed to proceed to the immigration kiosks for entry. Pohnpei Port Authority representatives said that an isolation room has been set up at the airport in the event that one of the health screeners discovers a passenger who may need to be further evaluated. So far that has not happened.

The United representative at the committee hearing said that they are doing everything in their power to check the travel itineraries of passengers before boarding them for departure to the FSM and have already turned away many passengers as a result. However, he said that a passenger could lie and if they have broken up their trip so that their ticket shows a point of departure other than their original point of departure, it would sometimes be difficult for ticket agents to know about the deception.

The FSM has created a health and travel questionnaire that passengers will be required to fill out. Representatives at the committee hearing said they didn't know at that time whether there are currently any criminal penalties for lying on the form.

Under FSM law, the President is allowed to make emergency declarations with full effect for 15 days. Representatives of the FSM Congress said during a meeting with the President that it will consider acting to extend the emergency declaration for at least another 60 days.

...Sea Cucumber

Continued from front page

on January 20.

Attorney Marstella Jack orally asked the court to drop the claims of her young clients against the State and Young Sun. The counsel for Pohnpei State agreed to allow the matter to be dropped. Young Sun did not. Plaintiffs and defendants are now awaiting a court ruling on whether or not it will dismiss the court action.

The sea cucumber matter is not over by a long shot.

Young Sun still has a counter claim against the Conservation Society of Pohnpei from an earlier case on sea cucumber harvests that has not been pursued nor adjudicated. Young Sun could file a counter claim against the young Plaintiffs in the current case for losses it says it sustained as a result of the civil action the Plaintiffs filed that resulted in the halting of their ongoing sea cucumber harvest.

Young Sun may also decide to sue the Pohnpei State Government for breach of contract or other causes.



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Grant contract signing ceremony for the project for procuring a portable X-Ray machine in Chuuk State

Embassy of Japan in FSM

On January 9, 2020, the signing ceremony for the Project for Procuring a Portable X-ray Machine in Chuuk State was held at the Chuuk State Hospital to provide Department of Health Services, Chuuk State with the funds up to US\$ 85,850 under the Grant Assistance for Grass roots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan, to this end.

This project will provide a portable X-ray machine, in order to improve the healthcare services in Chuuk State by detecting the prevalent Tuberculosis promptly leading to providing the appropriate treatment for the people in remote islands. The portable X-ray machine to be provided will enable the mobile clinic activities in remote islands in Chuuk and will benefit 6,000 residents in 2 remote islands, to begin with, with X-ray examination and appropriate treatment.

At the ceremony, Mr. Julio Marar, Director of Chuuk State's Department of Health Services expressed deep appreciation for Japan's continuous support to Chuuk State particularly that from the Government of Japan, through JICA and other organizations. He stated that while Chuuk State had various challenges in the healthcare sector, the portable X-ray machine would significantly improve the situation.

Ambassador Sobashima Hidenobu stated that Japan decided to finance the



provision of a portable X-ray machine to address the problem of the prevalence of tuberculosis in Chuuk State, and that he hoped that the portable X-ray machine would enable early detection and appropriate treatment of tuberculosis, and thus would contribute to the good health of the people in Chuuk State.

The ceremony was attended by the Hon. Mark Mailo, Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Julio Marar, Director of Department Health Services, and other officials of the Government of Chuuk State, doctors and members of Chuuk State Hospital, and members of the Embassy of Japan in the FSM.

FSM says no interruption in incoming sea shipments

FSM Information Services

February 7, 2020

With reference to the emergency declaration issued on January 31, 2020, as amended on February 4, 2020, it is clarified that Article X Section 9 of the FSM Constitution is the constitutional basis for the emergency declaration.

(A) It is further clarified that with respect to paragraphs #3 and #4 to the extent concerning "commercial sea vessels" (which means: fishing vessels, cargo vessels and oil tankers), travelling to the FSM for the purpose of trade and commerce, the following understanding applies:

(1) Commercial sea vessels traveling from or transiting through mainland China or any country, state or territory with confirmed cases of the Coronavirus are allowed to continue to deliver goods, commodities or supplies to the FSM as part of regular trade and commerce; provided, that such vessels have spent an uninterrupted period of no less than 14 days at sea prior to arrival in the FSM. If commercial sea vessels transit or stop in a port or anywhere in a country, state or territory that has no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus, then such transit or stop is not be considered as an "interruption" of the 14 days required in this paragraph.

(2) While operating at sea, should any of these commercial sea vessels come into contact with any other vessel that does not meet the requirement of paragraph (1),

then these commercial sea vessels must comply with the 14 days requirement prior to their entry into FSM.

(3) Upon arrival, crewmembers of such vessels are subject to normal customs, immigration and quarantine inspections; additionally, they will be subject to any additional screening and inspection processes mandated by national and state Health authorities. All crewmembers must remain on board the vessels and comply at all times with directives and instructions by the FSM Emergency Task Force, and Health authorities. Fishing vessel crews may be allowed to proceed onshore provided that their 14 uninterrupted days at sea can be verified, and they are cleared by Health authorities.

(4) Any crewmembers showing any symptoms of the Coronavirus as determined by the FSM Health authorities are subject to quarantine procedures.

(B) It is further clarified that with respect to commercial airlines conducting regular transit service through the FSM, crewmembers and technical support personnel on board the aircraft may exit the aircraft in order to carry out inspection and regular duties around the aircraft, but they are not permitted to enter any airport facilities except for those necessary for the safe operation of the airline.

Congress enacts ban on importation of one-time-use items

Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

January 31, 2020

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – At the end of the first week of its Third Regular Session, the 21st Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia passed three Congressional Acts along with two Resolutions to address current issues of national and regional concerns.

The 21st Congress had convened on January 27, 2020, for its Third Regular Session to address matters pending before the Body and also review matters submitted by the Executive Branch for its consideration. The Committee to Wait met with President

David W. Panuelo where the Executive's issues were discussed at length and prioritized for consideration and action by the Congress.

At the end of Week One of the Third Regular Session, the first measure enacted by the Congress is a prohibition on the importation of one-time-use disposable items. Congressional Act (CA) 21-73, created a new chapter four under the statute on Environmental Protection - Title 25 of the FSM Code, to prohibit the importation of one-time-use disposable Styrofoam and plastic food service items along with plastic shopping bags. The Act allowed for a transition period until July 1, 2020.

Through CA 21-74, the Congress clarified that the allowable recesses to be called by the Constitutional Convention included "one extended recess of between 3 and 30 consecutive calendar days." The Act further noted that those Delegates not paid by the national state and state government are entitled to \$200 daily allowance.

In light of the recent Australia Fires the Congress enacted CA 21-75, to appropriate \$100,000 to fund relief efforts currently underway in Australia due to recent wildfires.

Along with the Congressional Acts, the Congress had during its first week of session adopted Congressional Resolution (CR) 21-96, to confirm

the Johnny P. David to serve as the National Government's representative on the Board of Directors of the FSM Petroleum Corporation.

The final measure of week one of the Third Regular Session of the 21st Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia is CR 21-105. Through CR 21-105, the Congress approved a \$102,640 grant from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to fund and support the Measles Outbreak Responses Program in the Nation.

The Third Regular Session of the 21st Congress is scheduled for 20-days and is open to the interested general public.

U.S. Ambassador presents credentials

*Embassy of the United States of America
Kolonias*

On Friday, January 31, 2020, Carmen G. Cantor presented her credentials to President David W. Panuelo at the FSM National Government compound in Palikir, Pohnpei.

A native of Puerto Rico, she earned her Certificate in International Migration Studies from Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies, an M.A. in Labor Relations from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus.

A career member of the Senior Executive Service, Ambassador Cantor most recently served as the Director of the Office of Civil Service Human Resource Management in the Bureau of Human Resources, Executive Director for the Bureaus of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and International Information Programs (IIP), and Executive Director of the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) at the U.S. Department of State.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of State, Ambassador Cantor worked in U.S. federal government positions at the Federal Maritime Commission, the Foreign Agricultural Service and at the U.S. Postal Service.

In her address to President Panuelo,

Ambassador Cantor shared her excitement about experiencing the culture and visiting the rest of the FSM. She shared with him that upon her arrival into Pohnpei the previous day, she noted the similarities in vegetation and topography between Puerto Rico and Pohnpei and felt almost as if she were coming home.

Ambassador Cantor talked with President Panuelo about the United States' willingness to defend the FSM against the threats posed by transnational crime, terrorism, and illegal fishing in its 1.3 million square mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and about the shared goal of promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Following Ambassador Cantor's remarks, President Panuelo reiterated his statement from his inaugural address, that the United States is FSM's closest ally and partner. "We are super delighted to welcome you to our country. With the wealth of experience that you do have, I am more than confident that you will uphold our relationship between our two countries."

Present during Ambassador Cantor's credential ceremony were: FSM Vice President Yosiwo P. George; Secretary Kandhi Elieisar, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs; Secretary Joses Gallen, FSM Department of Justice; Secretary Kalwin Kephias, FSM Department of Education; Secretary Marion Henry, FSM

Department of Resource and Development, Secretary Livingston Taulung, FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs; Deputy Secretary Ricky Cantero, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Assistant Secretary for American Affairs Kehlen Halbert, FSM

Department of Foreign Affairs; Chief of Staff Leo Falcam Jr; Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Kalvin Ehmes; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multilateral Affairs Stacy Yleizah, and FSM Public Information Officer Richard Clark.



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February 24, 2020**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is
the end of working hours on:**

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward a Communications Strategy Consultant to be working with FSM NORMA in Pohnpei, FSM. The Consultant services include:

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK

Generally, the Communications Strategy Consultant will develop the communications plan that will guide how NORMA communicates on its implementation of the NORMA Strategic Plan (2018-2023). To develop and issue the communications plan, consultant is expected to:

- Undertake research, consultations and other work to develop NORMA Communications Plan in support of the NORMA strategic Plan;
- Work closely with NORMA to determine the communication requirements that must be met to support the goals of the Strategic Plan and Corporate Plan;
- Assess the communication capacities of all relevant key stakeholders and communication needs of identified audiences;
- Propose key summary messages for NORMA to communicate to its stakeholders/audiences;
- Identify and detail approaches for fulfilling the communication requirements in a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to support NORMA's work to implement the Strategic Plan;
- Propose the use of various types of media products, in print and electronic, that can be related to the main elements of the NORMA Strategic Plan;
- Propose a template annual report that will effectively communicate NORMA's work each year under the new Strategic Plan and developing 2016-2017 Annual Report as first example of template;
- Establish how results of communications activities will be monitored and measured.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Eligible consultant must be formally qualified in mass communication/ public relations/ advertising/ communication analysis & planning/social development communication/marketing.
- The individual consultant must have a minimum of five (5) years work experience.
- The consultant must have experience in conducting communications needs analysis and strategic design as well as managing communication campaigns.
- Working knowledge of FSM stakeholders, natural resource management and/or fisheries is desirable.

DURATION OF THE PERIOD & COST OF CONSULTANCY

The consultancy will be for a period of 6 months commencing in February 2020 and consultant is expected to commit two person-months to deliver outputs. Cost of consultancy is negotiable but to be based on local market rate and qualifications.

APPLICATION

The FSM NORMA invites consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above-mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of Letter of Interest, CV, and support Degrees/Certificates to NORMA no later than **February 28, 2020**. Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition). Full Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from: NORMA, FSM National Government, Ambrose Building in Kolonia. Postal address P.O.Box 122, Pohnpei, FM 96941; Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181; Email: moria.joseph@norma.fm. Copy to okean.ehmes@norma.fm



WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE THAT FSM IS EXPERIENCING?



In the past century more and more heat is being trapped in the atmosphere and has had the affect of increasing the Earth's temperature. This has melted polar ice caps in the Arctic regions and is causing sea levels to rise. Atolls in the FSM are at risk for saltwater intrusion into their taro patches and freshwater wells.

The increases in temperature also affect the strength of the storms that FSM will encounter. While it is predicted that the number of storms will decrease, the intensity and severity will increase. FSM has seen this in Typhoons Dolphin, Maysak and Wutip. Climate change will also bring changes to the amount of rain the FSM sees. During El Nino years, we will see prolonged droughts, and at other times, we can see increased rainfall that can lead to landslides and damage infrastructure like washing out roads and bridges, and cause flooding.



Rising air temperatures, rising sea levels and increases in rain and droughts will also affect agriculture production and affect FSM's food security. Some plants won't grow very well or at all with these changes. Fruit trees, like mangos, will see a decrease in fruit production and dry conditions can lead to poor harvests for other crops.



Governments have been working to create policies and plans on how to climate-proof infrastructure and to help communities with projects to build their resilience, but these initiatives are not fully funded, and FSM is increasingly reliant on aid from the global community to build this resilience.



The more communities become aware of climate change and its effects, the more they can work to see how they can reduce their risks and adapt to the changes in climate.

Brought to you by the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management. This campaign funded by the USAID/SPC ISACC Project



Pehleing Elementary School Ribbon Cutting

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

At the ribbon cutting at Pehleing Elementary School to celebrate the completion of the renovations conducted by the Civic Construction Action Detail (CCAD) Program Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE (NMCB5), Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, Heather Coble, talked about how the work of the Construction Battalion plays an important role in strengthening our ties and special relationship. "Members of the U.S. government funded Construction Battalion, or "Seabees," have been deployed to FSM for decades to continue building the partnership between the two countries, but they are also deployed throughout the Pacific region to include, Guam, the Philippines, Palau, and the Marshall Islands to name a few," she said.

In attendance at the event were Governor of Pohnpei State, Reed Oliver, Senator Dahker Daniel, Pohnpei State Legislature, Chief Magistrate Antonio Sarapio, Kitti Municipality, Acting Director Arwelson Arpona, Pohnpei Department of Education, Principal George Barnabas, teachers, and students.

Governor Reed Oliver noted the enthusiasm of the young school students, expressing utmost appreciation to the CCAD team and telling them that he hoped they had had the time to build many friendships at the school and within the community of Kitti. During the site tour, Governor Oliver, who had previously visited the site with U.S. Ambassador Robert Riley during the initial stages of the renovations, expressed to Lt. Brian Wood, Officer in Charge NMCB5, how he appreciated the quick turnaround and quality of work that was done.

The CCAD program has proven to be successful not only with its projects, but with other activities in the communities in the FSM, including:

- ASVAB tutoring for students who are interested in taking the enlistment test.
- Briefing on various job opportunities in the U.S. Navy.
- Community relations with the various schools and communities throughout Pohnpei.

At the Pehleing school, the CCAD members have been performing renovations, such as painting, fixing



plumbing and electrical functions, framing the roof, installing metal roofing, replacing doors and windows, and providing wall sheathing. Four classrooms now have new tile, new fans, new lights, and new solid core doors. Two bathrooms have new toilets, new sinks, new plumbing, and new roofs. Before this project, they completed the Nan-Uh Dispensary that will be servicing the community in both UH and

Madolenihmw. Ms. Coble congratulated the CCAD Team for their great work, and wished Principal Barnabas, teachers, and the students many fruitful years enjoying their newly renovated school.

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- PA-1-2020 TERMINAL OPERATOR (KSA)



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First graduating class for Chuuk's Trial Counselor's Program

On December 20, 2019, the College of Micronesia Trial Counselor's Program in Chuuk held its commencement ceremony for ten (10) students who completed the program. The commencement exercise was held at the FSM Supreme Court in Chuuk.

Although courses were taught from 2004 to 2007 in Chuuk, because of a lack of instructors, the program did not produce a graduating class. After a 15-year absence, this program restarted in January of 2019, with its first graduating class in December of 2019.

This program serves two main purposes. First, it serves as a stepping stone to those who want to pursue a legal education. Graduates from this program have gone on to continue their legal education in the U.S., China, and at the University of South Pacific.

This program also prepares current and aspiring legal practitioners. The 10 courses offered in the program are designed to give students exposure to basic legal principles and rules of law, and prepares individuals to take the FSM

Bar exam and to enter into the legal field. A one (1) year externship is required before being eligible to sit for the FSM Bar exam.

The program has found on-going success in Pohnpei through the College of Micronesia national campus, where classes have been held since the inception of the program in 1995. Courses were also taught in Yap for a short period, but also because of a lack of instructors, classes are currently not being held.

The courses offered in the program are: 1) Contracts, 2) Criminal Law, 3) Torts, 4) Legal Research & Writing, 5) Constitutional Law, 6) Criminal Procedure, 7) Civil Procedure, 8) Property, 9) Evidence, and 10) Trial Practice. Assuming that there are enough instructors, students usually take one (1) year to complete the ten (10) course program.

The courses in Chuuk were taught by Sabino Asor, Attorney General of Chuuk State, Kembo Mida Jr., Chief Executive Officer of the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation, Daniel Rescue Jr., Directing



Attorney for the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation Chuuk office, Lukas Padegimas, Staff Attorney for the Chuuk State Supreme Court, and Mark Jespersen, Staff Attorney for the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation Chuuk office.

The following is a list of the graduates: Calvin Assito, Ioster Ifenuk, Otoko Kannys, Jonvan Kando, Fanes Meika, Sampora Moses, Redeemer Nelson, Josef Rold, Pastor Suzuki, and Kind Kando.



NOTICE OF INVITATION TO QUOTE Request for Quotations on Marine Safety Gear



The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) of the Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank and intends to apply part of its proceeds towards the cost of Marine Safety Gear. NORMA intends to prequalify vendors for items such as hard hats, reflector vests, boots, etc. totalling to more than five-hundred safety gear articles altogether to be purchased and distributed by the vendor to its affiliated PROP counterparts within the FSM.

FSM NORMA is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced vendors/suppliers to supply these Marine Safety Gear to be provided for use by its fisheries observers and inspectors.

Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedure specified in the World Bank Guidelines for Procurement of Goods in Fragile and Small States in the Pacific, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

Interested eligible vendors/supplier can obtain further information from and must also request an Invitation To Quote (ITQ) form no later than March 06, 2020 (Pohnpei Local Time) from the following email address.

Mr. Crawford Nimea
PROP Procurement officer
crawford.nimea@norma.fm

Quotations in English in response to ITQs must be delivered to the address below at or before 5:00 p.m., March 27, 2020 (Pohnpei Local Time). Late quotations will be rejected. Quotations may be submitted by email, courier, or delivered by hand to the address below:

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan
Executive Director
FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
2nd Floor of Ambros Building
Attn: PROP
FSM National Government
P.O. Box PS-122
Kolonias, Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia
Telephone: (691) 320-2700/5181
E-mail address: norma@mail.fm and copy to okean.ehmes@norma.fm

The Chinese Embassy held the Chinese Lunar New Year Reception: Celebrating The Year of the Rat and China-FSM friendship

By Cindy Huang
Student Volunteer

January 24, 2020

Pohnpei—Festive lanterns hung among coconut leaves in welcoming of the 2020 Chinese Lunar New Year Of the Rat in Pohnpei, FSM. On 2020, January 24th, 6p.m. at Mangrove Bay, the Chinese Embassy held the annual Chinese Lunar New Year reception and gala.

In honor of the event, more than 100 guests were present, including T.H. Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the FSM, T.H. Ferny S. Perman, Senator of the FSM Congress, T.H. Kandhi A. Elieisar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, T.H. Eugene Amor, Secretary of Finance and Administration, Ms. Ginger Porter Mida, Postmaster General; T.H. Feliciano M. Perman, Lieutenant Governor of Pohnpei State, T.H. Ausen T. Lambert, Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature, T.H. Stevick Edwin, Vice Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature; H.E. George Fraser, Australian Ambassador, H.E. Robert Riley III, US Ambassador, and H.E. Hidenobu Sobashima, Japanese Ambassador, among other federal and state officials and members of the diplomatic corps. Representatives of private sectors, social services (commerce, education, health), academia and media in the FSM were also present, along with Chinese compatriots and contractors of the China-aided projects.

Ambassador of China to the FSM, Huang Zheng, gave his speech, first and foremost extending to all distinguished guests warm greetings and sincere wishes of the coming of Year of the Rat, briefly introducing its implications of diligence and vitality. He reflected upon the extraordinary accomplishments in China's domestic reforms and development and major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in 2019. Ambassador Huang said that in 2019, under the strong leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government kept vigorously pushing forward high-quality economic growth, promoting higher standards of living and strengthening social governance with innovation. The 1.4 billion Chinese people celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC, making unremitting efforts while starting a new history of national development and national rejuvenation, enjoying greater sense of gains, happiness and security. Guided

by President Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy, the Chinese people comprehensively deepened friendship and cooperation with countries around the world, promoted high-quality co-construction of the Belt and Road, stayed committed multilateralism to maintain and perfect the existing international order, and mediated various hot issues, making important contributions to uphold world peace and prosperity.

Continuing, Ambassador Huang listed the great progress made in the development of China-FSM relations. Firstly, the two sides had more frequent official exchanges at all levels, further enhancing mutual political trust. Secondly, the two sides continued to deepen practical cooperation in various fields within the framework of the Belt and Road, making concrete efforts toward building a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity. Thirdly, the two sides actively promoted sub-national cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, consolidating the social and public opinion basis of China-FSM relations. And fourthly, the two sides kept close communication and coordination in the international arena on important issues like climate change and maritime governance.

H.E. Ambassador Huang Zheng also emphasized the One-China Principle, a consensus shared by the international community, a universally recognized norm governing international relations and the fundamental cornerstone and bedrock of the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The high-standard development of the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, featuring mutual respect and common development not only serves the common interests of the two countries, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples, but also contributes to the regional and global peace, prosperity and stability, accelerating friendly exchanges and cooperation in various fields and bearing the fruits of abundant achievements.

Ambassador Huang further pointed out that 2020 will be a new milestone in China's development as well as in China-FSM friendship. The Chinese will readily work with the FSM to conscientiously implement the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and President Panuelo and will keep pushing forward the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to

develop in length and in depth with the hope of benefiting the well-being of the two peoples even better.

To conclude, Ambassador Huang called on FSM friends from all walks of life to join hands with China to compose a new chapter of China-FSM relations that goes beyond the past 30 years, to work hand-in-hand with people all over the world to create a cornucopia of the Belt and Road for all to enjoy and make greater contributions to build a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity.

T.H. Kandhi A. Elieisar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, delivered remarks on behalf of the FSM government. He extended warm festive greetings to the Chinese people, Chinese compatriots and contractors of the China-aided projects in the FSM. He expressed the FSM's appreciation of China's full support to the FSM in its seeking of independence in the United Nations, of the abundant generous and sincere aids to the FSM in social and economic development over the past 30 years. He reaffirmed that the FSM will firmly uphold the One China policy, support the great initiative of the Belt and Road, join hands with China in implementing the important consensus reached between the two heads of nation in order to keep enriching the FSM-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and make joint efforts in pursuit of the Belt and Road and a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity.

Guests exchanged New Year greetings and shared smiles while enjoying video clips prepared by the Embassy showcasing "Happy Chinese New Year" and picture slides recalling celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and progress in human rights development in Xinjiang, which received appreciation and provoked enthusiastic discussion. Staff from the Embassy presented calligraphy at the reception by writing and gifting the "Fu (Luck and Happiness)" on red paper. Highlighting the reception with bilateral cultural charm, "China Club" students from COM-FSM performed Chinese songs, "Jasmine Flower" and "Happy New Year"; the Embassy staff and a member of the China-aided Pilot Farm sang two well-known Pohnpei songs in Pohnpeian, winning salvos of applause and sparking joyous dancing.

FSM Cyber-Security Capacity Maturity Model Workshop explores the nation's cyber strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, & threats

FSM Information Services

January 28, 2020

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—As a component of the Digital Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Project, from January 28th, 2020 to January 31st, 2020, the FSM National Government hosted a Cyber-Security Capacity Maturity Model Workshop. Implemented in close collaboration with its partners from the World Bank, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, and the Oceania Cyber Security Centre, the purpose of the workshop was for the FSM National Government, the FSM State Governments, and the FSM's Private Sector to provide and receive information on the Nation's contemporary cyber infrastructure, and its associated strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The physical product expected as an outcome of the workshop and the activities that follow is a report on national cybersecurity capacity, and recommendations for advancing maturity in the future, which will be used by the newly established Office of Information Technology & Supporting Services within the Department of Transportation, Communications, & Infrastructure (DTC&I) as a means of framing its short, medium, and long-term objectives.

"I believe this exercise is timely," said the Honorable Carlson D. Apis, Secretary of DTC&I, "as we will expect that this review...will be significant in providing the policy guidelines necessary in the next phases of our development efforts, to complement and support the on-going and proposed FSM Digitalization Projects beginning this year and consequently the development of our cyber legislation, a necessary component of our [digitization] efforts."

Although the FSM is contemporaneously

See "Cyber" on page 15

UFCP holds fundraising for Taal Volcano victims

Alvie B. Cabañez
Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

To benefit the victims of the eruption of the Taal volcano in the Philippines, the United Filipino Community in Pohnpei (UFCP) sponsored a "Flea Market for Cause" on February 1, 2020.

Held in the parking lot of the Pohnpei Cinema, vendors sold their wares and donated a portion of their profits to UFCP to send to the Philippines on behalf of the victims.

On January 12, 2020, the Taal Volcano in the Batangas province erupted for the first time in 42 years spewing thick clouds of ash and lava fountains. The eruption affected thousands of families and caused millions of dollars' worth of damage.

At 311 meters high, the Taal Volcano is classified as one of the world's lowest and deadliest volcanoes. It has 47 craters, the main crater being 1.9 kilometer in diameter.

"Upon hearing the news, I was saddened by it and worried at the same time because some families of our fellow Filipinos here in Pohnpei were affected," said Gerry Figueras, UFCP President. "This initiative came as no surprise given the reception of the stall owners and customers especially it's for a noble cause," he continued.

Shoppers could buy a wide array of second hand items ranging from clothing, electronic gadgets, sports apparel, to kitchenware, all at reasonable prices. They could also buy and enjoy Filipino delicacies like vegetable lumpia, palitaw, gotong Batangas, siomai, suman, cakes and pastries, porridge, grilled chicken and pork while shopping.



One World Plaza Coffee shop, Eco-Friendly Options, Walwal is Life, Sheena Mamangon, Dimple Bacareza, and the different regional organizations of UFCP were among the groups and individuals who registered for the event.

The event was headed by Engr. Figueras, UFCP President, the Filipino regional organizations, and supported by Ace Office Supplies, and FSM Telecommunications.



MiCareFederated States of Micronesia
P.O. Box 2156 Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
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• Fax No. (691) 320-5693
• Email: info@micareplan.fm

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Closing Date: February 17, 2020

MiCare Health Insurance Plan ("Plan") is established by 52 FSMC to provide employer group employee and individual health insurance coverage. The Plan is accepting applications for the Administrator position, which is exempt from the FSM National Government Public Service System. The Administrator is an ex-officio of the Board.

The responsibilities include but not limited to: (1) daily administration, management, planning, organizing, coordinating, analyzing, evaluating, implementing, monitoring, and overseeing the operation, affairs and activities of the Plan, (2) human resources, financial, investment, and public relations management, (3) marketing and budgeting for the Plan, (4) compliance with laws, regulations, procedures, process, policies, and standards, (5) relationships with members, public and affiliated service providers, (6) production of necessary reports, covering all aspects of the Plan operation and performance, (7) investigate cost overruns and eliminate them through appropriate and effective planning, coordination, negotiation, timely implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, (8) procurement and contract negotiations with experts, healthcare providers and/or third party administrators, (9) represent the Plan at meetings, settings, and through different medium, (10) work closely with and provide recommendations to the Board on policy matters to shape and ensure effective, efficient and successful Plan's mission, objectives, strategic goals and activities implemented, and (11) perform other duties as needed by the Plan and/or as assigned by the Board.

Qualification Requirements: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a degree in health or medical administration, insurance, business administration, finance, accounting and/or related field plus at least four (4) years of experience in a health insurance organization or HMO. Strong computer and English written, oral communication skills. Strong organizational and customer relations skills required. Suitable candidate is highly determined, motivated and caring, a great plus.

Salary and Benefits: Minimum \$30,700 per annum, or may be negotiated depending on the qualification and experience. Other benefits such as housing allowance, recruitment and repatriation, health and life insurance, pension plan, daily transportation to and from work, may be available.

Application: Complete and file the FSM National Government Employment Application Form with all supporting documentation via regular mail, email or facsimile:

FSM Personnel Administration
P.O. Box PS 35
Palikir Pohnpei, FM 96941
96941
Phone (691) 320-2618
Fax (691) 320-8836

MiCare Board of Directors
P.O. Box 2156
Kolonia Pohnpei, FM
Phone (691) 320-2549/5865/3415
Fax (691) 320-5693
Email: info@micareplan.fm and/or
fmhb@mail.fm

You may contact either or both of above for an application. Full and complete application package will be accepted immediately. The application form can be obtained via: www.fsmpio.fm or <https://gov.fm/index.php/fsm-publicinfo/jobs>

Congress “Committee to Wait” meets with President Panuelo

Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

January 31, 2020

PALIKIR, POHNPEI - The Third Regular Session of the 21st Congress convened on Monday - January 27, and in accordance with the Congress Rules of Procedures, a Committee to Wait on the President was duly appointed chaired by Senator Robson Romolow consisting of members: Senator Joseph J. Urusemal, Senator Dion Neth and Senator Aren B. Palik.

The Committee met with President David W. Panuelo, Vice President Yosiwo P. George and their Cabinet to inform them that the Congress was in session and ready to transact business. President Panuelo welcomed the committee and provided an executive agenda for the meeting.

The agenda in brief, covers the Executive’s concerns and response to the growing epidemic of the Coronavirus; the measles outbreak in the region; the status of the 4th FSM Constitutional Convention; Philippine’s Labor issue in the Nation; the Foreign Investment Bill;

and nominations to the national boards and commissions.

According to the President, in light of the recent outbreak of measles in the region, the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) increased its efforts in extending the availability of vaccinations to the outer islands and remote areas of the Nation. A projected cost of \$500,000 is needed to address the measles campaign but \$200,000 is requested as an immediate startup budget.

On the same note, the President voiced his concerns of the growing global ‘coronavirus’ epidemic and explained that DHSA is coordinating efforts with the Department of Justice to determine the nation’s best approach to dealing with the epidemic. Ongoing meetings between the two departments will be conducted and further updates will be shared with the Congress during the session.

President Panuelo informed the Committee that the Constitutional Convention went into recess. He was informed by the Committee that a budget proposal was submitted by the

Convention for completion of its work. An amount that the President assured the committee was already incorporated into his supplemental budget transmitted for consideration by the Congress.

Regarding the labor issues with the Philippines, the President is optimistic that the ban on Philippine workers will be soon lifted and that by the February a labor treaty between the FSM and Philippines will be in place to avoid future labor disputes.

Finally, the President proposed to the Committee that the foreign investment bill be reviewed by all stakeholders for possible inclusion in the state and national leadership conference tentatively scheduled for May. This would allow ample time for review and discussions to finally move the effort forward.

The Committee returned with the Executive’s concerns and priorities for consideration by the Congress.

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Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement

VESSEL DAY SCHEME MANAGER

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) control the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery. The Nauru Agreement is an agreement between eight Pacific island countries (the Parties) Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu, to cooperate in the management of their tuna fisheries.

The PNA Office (PNAO) was established in January 2010 with its headquarters in Majuro, Marshall Islands, to support the Parties in their work. A key responsibility for the PNAO is the administration of the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) for purse seine and longline fishing in the oceanic waters of the PNA.

The PNAO is a small team of Pacific Island nationals from different Party countries with a culture rooted in the Pacific way of tolerance and regional interconnectedness - a way of doing things that is different to the way things are done in western and Asian countries. The PNAO has diplomatic status in the Marshall Islands.

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the position is office based and has day-to-day responsibility for all matters relating to the administration of the VDS.

Key Challenges:

- Provide accurate, quality information concerning the VDS to the CEO and the Board
- Advise the Parties on compliance issues relating to the VDS
- Maintain strong collaborative relationships with the Parties and with key stakeholders
- Ensure efficient administration of vessel registration and related administrative tasks
- Ensure efficient administration of fee collections
- Ensure timely, efficient, and accurate distribution of Party revenue
- Ensure timely monthly and annual reporting.

Essential Requirements:

- A degree level qualification from

a recognised tertiary education institution in fisheries, natural resource economics, or other degree relevant to the role and the requirements of the position

- Strong understanding of, and familiarity with the VDS, and the FIMS/ iFIMS databases, or similar high-level administrative management function
- A working knowledge of the tuna fishing industry
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills including ability to read and write at a professional level in English
- Working knowledge of contemporary issues in fisheries economics
- Minimum five years of work experience in a related field
- Ability to work as a team and adapt to change and continuous business improvement
- Prior experience in living and working in a similar environment to the Marshall Islands would be highly regarded.

The successful applicant will be based in Majuro, Marshall Islands and will be offered a three-year contract and an attractive benefits package including tax free base salary, superannuation, relocation, travel, accommodation and education allowances.

This position is open to citizens of the 8 PNA countries only.

APPLY NOW

Please visit our website: http://www.vanguardpng.com/current_vacancies.php

Follow the website instructions and forward the completed application form to Vanguard International highlighting; (i) your capabilities and experiences against the position essential requirements (ii) an updated CV (iii) name, relevant position, telephone, and email details for three current referees

Referees will not be contacted unless you are shortlisted, and you will be notified beforehand. If you have written references, please provide them with your application.

If you have any questions, please call us on (+675) 7500 7500 or email us with the title “VDS Manager” to recruitment@vanguard.com.pg

Applications close COB Friday 14th February 2020

Incomplete and late applications will be deemed invalid and excluded from consideration.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Opinion Editorial

Keep calm and work shoulder to shoulder to fight the 2019-nCoV

Recently, an outbreak of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), first identified in Wuhan City of China, has gradually spread all over China and to 24 other countries in the world. State leaders and high officials around the world have extended letters of condolences to or held telephone talks with Chinese leaders to show their understanding, support of and confidence in China's unprecedented measures to prevent and control the epidemic. I'd like to express my special thanks to H.E. David Panuelo, President of the FSM, for his letter to H.E. Chinese President Xi Jinping, expressing his strong support and sympathy for the Chinese government and people.

Though the 2019-nCoV epidemic looks formidable and menacing, it's actually not as horrible as people may imagine. According to a WHO report released on February 5th, there are altogether 191 confirmed cases outside China, which is less than 0.8% percent of the number in China. With China's unrelenting efforts, the mortality rate in China is about 2.0%. In contrast, according to the media reports, in 2009, the H1N1 flu in the US spread to 214 countries and regions, which was estimated to have infected more than 60,800,000 people in the US with a mortality rate of 17.4%, causing the death of more than 284,500 people around the world. Due to the flu's uncontrolled spread, the WHO gave up counting the total confirmed cases globally. The mortality rate of MERS of 2012 was 34.4% and Ebola 40.4%. Here, I'd like to responsibly tell our FSM friends that the pneumonia caused by 2019-nCoV is totally preventable, controllable and curable.

The Chinese government has always put people's safety and health as the first priority, thus the prevention and control of the epidemic is currently the most important work of the Chinese government and people. H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the PRC, has made important instructions on many occasions and chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, which established the Central Committee's leading group on responding to the epidemic, in order to guide the governments at all levels nationwide to take a series of timely and decisive measures. For instance, we initiated

frequent communication and discussions through media to raise public awareness of disease prevention. We reduced chance of infection by canceling grand assemblies, wearing face masks, reducing private gatherings, extending the Spring Festival holidays. We optimized the protocol of case discovery and management in multiple ways like backtracking the cell phone positioning and doing surveys about travel history and visits by relatives and friends, further reducing chance of transmission. We made additional efforts to prevent and control infections in health care facilities. A substantial number of provinces and municipalities have engaged in public transportation restrictions to various extends. China has established an all-around and multi-level epidemic prevention and control system, centering on Hubei Province and its capital, Wuhan, and covering the central and the local level. The work of all aspects is advanced in an open, transparent, scientific and orderly manner. Up to February 5th, in terms of both total and newly reported confirmed cases, the numbers of those cured and discharged are almost twice as many as the deceased, which clearly signifies that the disease is curable and controllable and that things are turning for the better.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the Chinese government, with an open, transparent and responsible attitude as usual, has conducted active international cooperation, doing its best to safeguard national and global public health security alike. We immediately informed the WHO and relevant countries and regions of the outbreak, and shared technical information and the full gene sequence of the novel coronavirus with them. Chinese agencies abroad have also maintained close communication with the governments of host countries, and updated them on the epidemic and the Chinese side's efforts in a timely manner. The Chinese government will fulfill its international obligations to address the legitimate concerns of the foreign nationals in the country in a timely manner so as to protect their safety with a responsible attitude.

Many of the forceful measures that the Chinese government has taken and will continue to resolutely make sure their effective implementation can hardly be emulated by any other country. With China's institutional advantages and



previous useful experience, and with the strong scientific, technological and material foundation accumulated by the People's Republic of China over the past 70 years, the Chinese government and people, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping at its core, have the determination, confidence and ability to win this battle of preventing and controlling the epidemic at an early date.

Lots of countries and the WHO have positively commented, understood and supported the Chinese side's prevention and control measures. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said repeatedly on many occasions that it is admirable that the Chinese government has shown its solid political resolve and taken timely and effective measures in dealing with the epidemic. He emphasized that President Xi's personal guidance and deployment show his great leadership capability. By taking those measures, the Chinese side is not only making efforts to protect its own people, but also making great sacrifices to staunchly support the global disease prevention and control, protecting the safety of the whole human race. The WHO firmly supports China's measures against the epidemic, speaks highly of and appreciates China's major role in and great contribution to the cause of global public health. Mr. Ghebreyesus expressed his full confidence in China for the effective control and eventual prevailing over the epidemic, attributing it to the advantages of China's system, whose experience is worth learning for other countries.

Mr. Ghebreyesus also pointed out that many prevention and control measures China has taken exceed the relevant requirements of the International Health Regulations (2005) by far, which set a new standard for outbreak response of

all countries over the world. The main reason for the declaration of PHEIC is not to express concern over what is happening in China, but what is happening in other countries, especially countries with weaker health systems that need our support to get better-prepared to deal with the virus. Mr. Ghebreyesus called on all countries to take appropriate prevention and control measures that are scientific and reasonable. He voiced WHO's opposition to excessive reaction, rumors and misinformation, especially the opposition to ban and restrictions on trade and travel, let alone evacuation of foreign citizens from China.

It is the virus we must isolate, not the affection and love among people, for they are exactly the reliance and source of strength for us to overcome the epidemic and all kinds of difficulties against at large. Just as WHO Director-General Ghebreyesus said, the only way we will defeat this outbreak is for all countries to work together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation. The Chinese side fully understands the concern of the FSM side over public health security. The Chinese government is providing sound assistance and service to the 5 FSM students currently in Wuhan in regard to information sharing, disease prevention and daily livelihood as part of the commitments to do our best to protect the safety, health and well-being of all foreign nationals in China, including the FSM students. We hope people of the FSM and other countries heed and comprehend the professional opinions of the WHO, respect facts and science, understand well and actively support China's efforts in preventing and controlling 2019-nCoV, view the epidemic in an objective and rational manner so as to keep away unnecessary panic. The Chinese people stand ready to make concerted efforts with the FSM people to fight and prevail over the epidemic by keeping calm and enhancing cooperation, taking concrete actions in joint pursuit of building a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity.

*Ambassador of China to the FSM,
Huang Zheng,*



K Press Perspective

New coronavirus...diligence, yes...panic, no!

News of more than 500 deaths caused by the new Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has many residents of the FSM, if not panicked, at least highly concerned that the virus might arrive in this country. Some are absolutely certain that if even one infected person arrives in the FSM the disease will wipe out the population in short order. In Pohnpei, all paper masks in retail outlets are entirely sold out. Some have reported having witnessed stockpiling and hoarding activity out of fear that in addition to the extensive travel ban, the government will shut down inbound shipping of crucial dietary and other supplies such as fuel which powers the generators that supply power to the FSM.

Residents of the FSM can rest easy at least regarding the incoming shipping concerns. The FSM released yet another amended emergency health declaration today saying that as long as shippers abide by FSM quarantine policies, shipping will go on uninterrupted. Fishing vessels will also have to comply (see page 6).

It is absolutely vital to remain diligent and protect ourselves from the virus in every way we possibly can, both on individual levels by diligent hand washing and other recommended practices, and by country wide policies. It is important to be diligent. It is a serious virus and it is spreading, but it is counterproductive to panic.

Sometimes just having information on what scares you can stave off hysteria and overthinking. It certainly has helped

me as I've lived and breathed the 2019 coronavirus crisis and FSM's response to it. Statistics sometimes help.

According to a tracking site provided by Johns Hopkins CSSE (Center for Systems Science and Engineering), as of this morning there have been a total of 28,353 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) since the beginning of the outbreak in late December, 2019. Of those cases, 565 people (approximately 1.99%) of those people have died from the infection.

Of the total number of cases identified, only 265 have been in countries other than mainland China. So far, the virus has been identified in 28 countries. Of the 565 deaths, two have occurred outside mainland China, one in the Philippines and one in Hong Kong. So far, 1,382 people have recovered after being infected. 11 of those recoveries were outside mainland China in six different countries.

The science of epidemiology which deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health is a complicated one. It relies heavily on Mathematics: dynamic systems and differential equations, graph theory, probability theory and more disciplines are at the heart of epidemiology. It is far too early to say how far 2019 coronavirus will spread or how devastating it will be. I'm told that since SARS and the new coronavirus are related but different viruses, drawing comparisons between

the two viruses isn't very helpful. The Doctor who told me that didn't make an effort to explain why. The World Health Organization draws comparisons on their website while making it clear that they are different viruses and so I will do the same.

Perhaps, at least in layman's terms and without heavy Math, it would be helpful to know that, according to experts, while the 2019 Coronavirus spreads differently and perhaps faster than SARS did, it causes less damage. SARS had a mortality rate of approximately 10% while 2019 Coronavirus has had a 2% mortality rate.

So far, NO Pacific Island State has yet had a confirmed case of 2019 coronavirus and all are working to ensure that remains to be the case. That's encouraging as well.

The response of the FSM government, while intense and personally difficult for some of its residents has also been encouraging to the people of the FSM who are worried about the spread of the virus.

One professional member of the FSM task force said that each lab in the FSM now has at least one certified Biological Safety Cabinet that are each certified to meet Australian and US standards. They have a bio-safety program and all lab techs have gone through a series of bio-safety trainings and so now understand, and are able to perform risk assessments for Laboratory Acquired Infections. Labs in Australia and in the US can evaluate

samples sent from labs in the FSM and lab technicians know how to properly handle them. FSM doesn't have the capacity to determine whether a flu like virus is 2019-coronavirus or a common flu but personnel know how to get the answers and that's encouraging.

Pohnpei has developed a plan of action for response to the international crisis. It said that the SARS outbreak of 2003 that we were cautioned not to mention, led to the building of an isolation ward at the Pohnpei State Hospital. Other states have their own action plans. That's encouraging.

Physical quarantine sites have been identified to keep potential victims of the 2019-coronavirus away from the general populace. That's encouraging.

On a less encouraging note, the World Health Organization has said that older people and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as, diabetes and heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Unfortunately, the FSM has a higher number of people with diabetes and also of people with respiratory ailments. If the virus lands here and IF it spreads here, those people might have a more difficult time fighting the virus off.

Still, vigilance is required. Panic is not.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor
The Kaselehlie Press

...Cyber

continued from page 11

one of the least digitally connected countries in the Pacific, the democratization of accessibility to the internet (and thus the democratization of knowledge) is a key agenda item in the administration of His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, and the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the FSM. As an example, with affordable access to highspeed internet in main and remote islands, the presently impossible task of an FSM citizen submitting a passport renewal request to the FSM National Government through a one-stop-shop service would become possible. However, such a task would also necessitate that accessing Government services online be intuitive, and that the security for such services be sufficient to

protect citizens' personal data and privacy.

"The Digital FSM project, in collaboration with the World Bank, FSMT Cable Corporation, the FSM Telecommunications Regulation Authority, the FSM Telecommunications Corporation, and others, is preparing to expand fiber optic accessibility to schools, homes, and hospitals," President Panuelo said. "Beyond the main islands, I also expect to see a useable level of internet accessibility on most remote islands [in the coming years]. Through this cyber-security workshop and accompanying report, I trust that we'll be given the appropriate guidance on how to improve upon our strengths, eliminate our weaknesses, take advantage of our economic opportunities, and mitigate digital threats."

The President emphasized that an increasing level of internet usage, and by extension the Government's capacity to provide digital services, requires that the Government be capable at

building trust and confidence in the Nation's digital security. Amongst the technical tasks that will need to occur this may also require some changes in the Government's philosophy towards the execution of official duties.

"Less than 100% of our public servants in the FSM National Government currently use a Government email address to complete their official Government duties," the President said. "Even without having a background in IT, one can see that this can pose a cybersecurity threat."

The Oceania Cyber Security Centre's Project Lead for the Capacity Maturity

Model Workshop, Dr. James Boorman, welcomed the priority that the FSM has given to cybersecurity and thanked the FSM National Government for its leadership in this area. "We are delighted to work with the FSM National Government and our partners in deploying the [Capacity Maturity Model] and hope that the resulting report will assist the FSM to continue to strengthen its cybersecurity capacity," Dr. Boorman said.

The FSM National Government extends its appreciation to the World Bank, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, the Oceania Cyber Security Centre, and all of the other partners and participants in the Cyber-Security Capacity Maturity Model Workshop for their invaluable contributions to the Nation's digital development.



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FSM FISHERIES AND MARITIME INSTITUTE (FSM-FMI) is located on the island of Yap, occupying the facilities built in the late 1960's for the Loran Station operated by the United States Coast Guard. The Institute is situated some six miles north of the capital, Colonia.

All Aboard!



Pohnpei Small Business Development Center opens at National Campus

The grand opening ceremony for the Pohnpei Small Business Development Center (Pohnpei SBDC) took place on January 16, 2020 with dignitaries, embassy representatives, bank representatives, special guests from abroad, resource partners, and members of the College community present. Special remarks were given by the College of Micronesia-FSM National Campus former President Dr. Joseph Daisy, the Dean of the School of Business and Administration from University of Guam (UOG) Dr. Annette Santos, and the Pacific Islands SBDC Network (PISBDCN) Acting Network Director, Ms. Denise Mendiola. The ceremony then proceeded with the cutting of the ribbon by Dr. Daisy followed by a short tour of the new center.

Officially opening at the start of the new decade, Pohnpei SBDC marks as the seventh PISBDCN location in the Micronesia region. With years in the making, Pohnpei SBDC finally joins the Network consisting of Guam, the FSM States of Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae, the Republic of Palau, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. PISBDCN is a member of nearly 1,000 centers nationwide providing technical business assistance to existing businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. The Pacific Islands SBDC Network's mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated Pacific islands in the Western Pacific region by providing high quality training and one-on-one confidential counseling to existing and prospective small businesses.

The Pohnpei SBDC team is excited for this partnership. We would like to thank PISBDCN for enabling us to assist the Pohnpei business community and grow the island's economy through business startups; expansion; job creation and retention; and youth, women, and veteran entrepreneurship, among others. We would like to also acknowledge COM-FSM for hosting the Pohnpei SBDC. To find out more information or to request for counseling and training services, contact us at (+691) 320-2480 ext. 149 & 150, or email us at pohnpeisbdc@pacificsbdc.com

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Yuuki Omura, Tel: (619) 320-2480 (ext. 149 & 150), or email pohnpeisbdc@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.



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