

Pohnpei's Legislature refuses to seat Ricky Carl as representative of Madolenihmw

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 4, 2020

Pohnpei—The Credentials Committee of the Pohnpei State Legislature has refused to seat Ricky Carl to the seat that over 1800 voters of Madolenihmw chose him to occupy. Speaker Ausen Lambert has declared the seat to be vacant and has transmitted his request that Governor Reed Oliver hold a special election to fill the seat which by law he must now do.

In August of 2019 Pohnpei's Election Commissioner disallowed Carl's candidacy for the legislature and also disallowed a request for reconsideration. At issue was the question of whether or not Carl was a resident of Madolenihmw. On August 26, Carl filed a legal action at the Pohnpei State Supreme Court and on September 16 the Court ruled in Carl's favor. The Court said in its ruling that though the Constitution does require that a candidate be a resident of the municipality he or she is running

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Economic impacts of COVID-19 related travel restrictions discussed during Committee to Wait on the President

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FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— The 21st Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) began its Fourth Special Session on March 5th, 2020. After the opening session, the Vice President of the FSM, the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, received the Committee to Wait, chaired by the Honorable Ferny S. Perman, with committee members the Honorable Joseph J. Urusemal, the Honorable Aren B. Palik, and the Honorable Paliknoa K. Welly, to discuss their agenda for this session of Congress. It was noted, both in a formal communication to His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, from the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the 21st FSM Congress, as well during the opening session itself, that the primary purpose of the Special

Session is to review the economic impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus on the Nation.

"We are here to listen to the Executive [Branch]," Senator Perman began. "One of the main purposes for this Special Session is to address what's happening with the coronavirus."

Senator Perman first noted that the 21st FSM Congress' legal staff, having reviewed the President's declaration and clarification/s, was uncertain if the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. State of Hawaii were being treated as the rest of the United States (i.e. as a COVID-19 affected country, where travelers to the FSM originating from there are subject to a 14-day delay in a COVID-19 free country). It was requested that the Executive Branch be clearer in its communications.

"For all [COVID-19 related] intents and purposes," said the Honorable Joses R. Gallen, Secretary of the Department of Justice, "...we are treating Guam and Honolulu as being [separate from] the U.S."

See "COVID-19 and Congress" on page 4

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COM signs letter of agreement with USAID Climate Ready

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 1, 2020

Pohnpei—This morning, Patterson Shed, FSM Coordinator of the USAID Climate Ready Project and Karen Simion, acting President of the College of Micronesia FSM signed a letter of agreement previously agreed to and signed by a representative of the University of the South Pacific regarding Climate Ready training courses.

Climate Ready is a five-year regional project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by OT-Global, a United States based institutional contractor with worldwide experience implementing environment programs.

Climate Ready works in 11 Pacific Island Countries (PICs): Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Climate Ready works with Pacific Island Country governments and other stakeholders to prioritize areas of support that align with

their climate and disaster resilience plans and goals to:

- 1) draft and implement policies that achieve national adaptation goals; (2) access and utilize international sources of climate financing; and (3) improve systems and expertise to better manage and monitor adaption projects. As part of its capacity building program Climate Ready contracts the services of local and regional providers to provide training programs, qualified trainers and venues.

Climate Ready seeks to support the delivery of accredited training courses through its partnership with USP, in a range of topics to government and private sector/NGO staff in FSM in a cost-effective way using blended modes and online modes of delivery. The courses, including project management, resilience and procurement and supply will be provided at appropriate venues provided by the College of Micronesia-FSM.

COM-FSM has agreed to provide the necessary logistics for the delivery of the courses including the provision of appropriate venues for the delivery of face-to-face components of courses and trainings. It will also provide additional logistical support as required, including but not limited to internet services and printing.

Climate Ready has agreed to work with country partners to identify suitably qualified and motivated men and women to participate in the agreed training programs; provide COM-FSM and USP with sufficient time to be able to schedule and resource the courses; ensure that there are equal opportunities for both women and men to participate in the courses; and to work with local partners to ensure active participation and on-going monitoring of course participants.



Chuuk State Debt Relief Fund shows poor record keeping and ineffectiveness at retiring debt

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 6, 2020

Weno, Chuuk—The Chuuk Office of the Public Auditor has released the results of its recent concluded audit on the Chuuk State Debt Relief Fund. It found that the records of debts or payables under the fund were not properly maintained. It also found that there is no clear plan on how to the retire \$13 million in liabilities for claims and judgments and other payables that have been accumulating. Further, it said, that amount was not transparent to the public because it was not reported and reflected in the Financial Statement.

It said that in 2007, the Debt Relief Task Force started to manage the existing debt of \$46 million that existed at that time. Because of the lack of records, auditors were unable to analyze historical balances and how the original amount has decreased through the years.

“During our audit, the Reconciliation Officer provided an outstanding payable amounting to \$13 million. However, the accuracy of this payable amount is very much doubtful. The Reconciliation Officer was unable to vouch its accuracy because she said she did not keep complete records of supporting documents per claim. Additionally, she did not reconcile the system records with bank reports,” the audit said.

“Since the accuracy of details of \$13 million payable were subject to question, we have decided to omit its details from publicly available reports because of the unnecessary conflict it might create for any differences. We have provided, though, such details to the members of the Debt Relief Task Force and to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for their reconciliation and so that an accurate amount of payable for each creditor could be established, recorded in the books and reflected in the Financial Statement; and, to the Governor and Legislature for their reference.”

Auditors recommended that the Task Force should work towards implementing and reconstructing the account records liabilities to establish firm Accounts Payables for recording and payment purposes. “Additionally, and most importantly, the Task Force should work towards implementing the defined activities in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Chuuk State Government and the Federated States of Micronesia National Government that would generate additional revenue for the Debt Relief Fund. The system management’s achievements will strongly impact the improvement in the collection of revenues, therefore, the debt relief fund,” executive summary on the audit said.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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PUC successfully restores power in Pohnpei after marathon session

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

March 4, 2020

Pohnpei—Power outages earlier this week were caused by problems with cable connections inside Pohnpei Utilities Corporation’s power plant in Nanpohnmal. The cables carry the electronic information necessary for the generators to work together when they are put on line. The generators were not properly synchronizing, causing island wide power outages for customers beginning at 4:45 in the afternoon on March 2 and lasting anywhere from four to seven hours as PUC mechanics and engineers fought to solve the problem.

Though power was restored late that night, the problem had not been completely solved. On the next day, PUC announced a schedule of planned outages on a region by region basis. It only had to implement that “load shedding” plan once and even then for not as long as PUC had thought would be needed. PUC employees were able to complete necessary repairs during that one power outage that lasted from 10:00 until about 10:40 that morning. Since that time, power has been restored to Pohnpei.

PUC General Manager Nixon Anson said that power plant operators noticed a problem with synchronization several weeks ago. PUC notified Hawthorne Power Systems in San Diego whose technicians set up the system several years ago. “We have good working relationships with Hawthorne,” Anson said. The company sent a representative at its own cost. The technician arrived on February 11 to correct the problems with synchronization among the generators.

Three weeks later, the problems appeared again, this time with more detrimental results to the Pohnpei populace. Anson said that he charged his employees with checking each end of the many communications cables on each generator that connect to the switching system. Generators had to be shut down while employees painstakingly pulled each cable end and checked for proper connections. They found that some of the cables had loosened, possibly due to the vibration of the operating generators, an odd situation considering that Hawthorne representatives had been working to resolve the same problem.

The Nanpohnmal power plant itself

has a power generation capacity of 9.2 megawatts. During daylight hours and during rainy times, PUC can draw on approximately 2 megawatts of additional power from solar and hydro sources. Anson said that at peak demand, Pohnpei’s power customers draw down approximately 6 megawatts. Peak hours generally occur between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM on weekdays. There is a much smaller peak beginning as the sun starts to go down as consumers get home. That small peak starts to dissipate beginning at about 10:00 at night as they wind down and head to bed.

The generators and the renewable power sources are more than enough to supply power during the high peak hours. Employees monitor a switching system to ensure that no one generator is overtasked. Even with employee monitoring, generators still need to talk to each other in order to synchronize. When they couldn’t on March 2, power generation capacity was reduced to below demand. In order for workers to perform diagnostics, generators had to be shut down while employees worked, resulting in the power outages on March 2 and 3.

PUC recommends that customers get the grounds in their homes checked. Anson said that all too often ground wires are not connected at every outlet or fixture in homes. He said that electricity will seek ground wherever it can be found. If the ground wires are properly connected, excess power will go through the home’s ground rod. If it can’t go there it will take the path of least resistance, possibly through an expensive appliance plugged into the wall.

Anson said that surge suppressors are also effective though he admits that he personally doesn’t use them. To protect against brown outs, low voltage situations, which are more damaging to expensive appliances than power surges especially if a surge suppressor is in place, an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) is effective to raise the voltage if it drops. He said that PUC has a 1.2 megawatt reserve unit at the power plant that raises output frequency and voltage to the proper levels if they drop below standard. If frequency and voltage are over standard, the excess charges the reserve unit. He said that power that PUC delivers is at standard but voltage drops can occur for a variety of reasons including trees on lines.



Tan Siu Lin Foundation donates 21,000 surgical masks to the FSM

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On February 21st 2020, the Honorable Livingston A. Taulung, Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Affairs, received on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) a donation of 21,000 surgical masks from the Honorable Dr. Tan Siu Lin, Founder of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Honorary Consul of the FSM in the People’s Republic of China’s Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, to assist the Nation in its capacity-building efforts to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Representing Dr. Tan was Mr. Lu “Benson” Deng, Base Manager for LianCheng Overseas Fishery Co. Ltd’s operations in the FSM State of Pohnpei.

Over the next several days, masks will be distributed to the FSM States of Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae, along with teams of capacity-building personnel.

The FSM National Government extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Tan for his generosity.



COVID-19 and Congress

Continued from front page

Senator Perman then noted the economic impact in the FSM due to the travel restrictions in place, and requested that the Executive Branch prioritize the development of a plan to assist. “We look at the economy today, and we know how it’s affected,” Senator Perman said, “Is there a way that the Executive are looking at this economic downfall to address it?” Senator Perman cited the hospitality industry as a prime example of an area feeling the economic impacts of COVID-19 travel restrictions right now.

The Executive Branch is aware of formal and informal communications from the hospitality industry regarding the impact of COVID-19-related travel restrictions on their financial wellbeing. To the knowledge of the President, Blue Lagoon Resort in Chuuk State has temporarily closed down, and Manta Ray Resort in Yap State has needed to layoff sixty (60) employees to remain financially solvent.

“The Executive [Branch] is aware of the negative impacts on the Nations economy,” Vice President George replied, followed by requesting Rob Solomon, Macroeconomic Advisor to the FSM, to describe in detail how the FSM is tackling the economic impacts.

“Surveys are going out to all the hotels and travel operators to establish where we’re at,” Mr. Solomon said. “One of the negative impacts will be a decline in tax revenue this year...tourism is about a twenty million dollar (\$20,000,000) industry in the FSM, and that revenue is being spent on people who live here and work here.”

“So here’s what we’re doing,” Mr. Solomon continued. “We have to start

fast-tracking public projects, priority projects, because from an Executive point of view we’ve got to stimulate the internal economy. ...the President has asked [the Department of Finance & Administration] and [the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure] to get together and come up [with these plans]. The immediate thing we can do for the economy is move the projects and the things that we have on our books now, so that there will be a big push on public projects and infrastructure—especially the projects that local contractors can get involved in, so that it turns over money in the local economy.”

The Executive Branch also recommends that the FSM National Government look to increase FSM-based travel, i.e. to purposefully hold conferences, seminars, and workshops across the Nation instead of in Palikir, as a means of stimulating business.

“In the event that we have a surge of cases [of COVID-19 enter the FSM],” said the Honorable Dr. Livingston A. Taulung, Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Affairs, “at least while we’re looking toward a long-term solution, there are options that we can discuss such as stimulating hotels’ revenue by designating them as quarantine zones. Although we already have quarantine zones in the States, this is something to consider...the collective interest of the Nation is important to consider.”

Senator Palik wondered if the Executive Branch has considered soft loans, low interest, or interest-free loans to the FSM’s private sector, or tax breaks for affected businesses. Senator Palik—a financial expert whose career before politics transformed the Pacific Islands Development Bank—was particularly keen to ensure that the private sector was appropriately represented on the National COVID-19 Task Force.

“Small loans, or grants from the Government... tax relief on [quarterly business taxes]—all of those programs are certainly going to be needed, and I would hope that we can start seriously considering those—assuming that things will not be getting better [any time soon],” Senator Palik said. “I agree [with Senator Urusemal] that we will do a comprehensive assessment; some of the [economic] impact will be felt even after the travel ban is lifted.”

Mr. Solomon, speaking on behalf of the Department of Finance & Administration and its partnership with the Department of Resources & Development and the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure, offered his thoughts on Senator Palik’s remarks. “Those are packages that we can try and look at...at the same time, we need to do what we can internally and quickly. ... As for tax breaks, 50% of the [business tax income] goes right back to the FSM’s States, so we don’t want to strangle the State Governments either. Perhaps tax can be delayed...the President has asked the Task Force to work on the economic issues outside of the health issues.”

Senator Welly, having listened intently to the discussions, offered his view that it’s possible that Governments are reacting to the COVID-19 threat (as opposed to being responsive to it.) He correctly noted that the vast majority of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 result in minor symptoms, with most of the cases resulting in a full recovery. “You only see the bad things [in media], but they don’t tell you how many cases have been recovered. That’s my take—but I want to thank everybody for trying to help the Nation in addressing this issue,” Senator Welly said.



Prior to the Fourth Special Session’s opening, Secretary Taulung shares information with President Panuelo’s advisor for foreign and political affairs, Lorin S. Robert

The remainder of the meeting focused on foreshadowing a 1:00pm hearing with the COVID-19 Task Force, i.e. that Congress would like to know how the presently appropriated funding has been used, the status of the FSM’s students in the People’s Republic of China (they’re healthy and being taken care of), the President’s request to reacquire authorization to access Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) resources, and to confirm or deny whether or not the Republic of Palau had acquired a case of COVID-19.

“No,” Secretary Taulung said regarding a potential COVID-19 case in Palau. “The day before yesterday we received information that they have a Person Under Investigation, but as of this morning we received information that the individual is no longer a Person Under Investigation. A Person Under Investigation means they have fever, cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms.”

Following the Committee to Wait, the 21st FSM Congress held a hearing with the FSM’s COVID-19 Task Force and then—as the day was a Split Session—held session again at 3:00pm.

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NOTICE OF INVITATION TO QUOTE

PROVISION OF FISHERIES MONITORING DRONES CONTRACT REFERENCE: FM-NORMA- 50386-NC-RFP

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) 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 towards the procurement of AERIAL DRONES for its monitoring program.

FSM NORMA is now seeking offers from suitably qualified and experienced vendors/suppliers to supply two small aerial drones for use by FSM NORMA at its office in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. It is expected that vendor shall provide a quotation or proposal that may involve the following:

- a) Propose two small drones to be used NORMA in its anchorage/coastal monitoring of fishing vessels including compatible controllers and installed software.
- b) Provide basic user training on drones proper use and maintenance including the provision of a user-friendly maintenance plan for the expected life of the proposed drones.

Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping procedures specified in the Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 and Revised July 2014 and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

Interested eligible vendors/suppliers can obtain further information from and must also request a formal Invitation To Quote (ITQ) from Mr. Crawford Nimea, PROP Project Officer, crawford.nimea@norma.fm or ocean.ehmes@norma.fm.

Quotations in English in response to ITQs must be delivered to the address below at or before 5:00 p.m., 31 March 2020 (Pohnpei local time). Late quotations will be rejected and FSM NORMA reserves the right to reject any and all quotations submitted. 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
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: info@norma.fm and copy to ocean.ehmes@norma.fm.

...Pohnpei Legislature

Continued from front page

to represent for three years, both the Constitution and the Pohnpei State Code are silent on whether those years need be consecutive.

Carl had presented evidence that during his lifetime he has lived in Madolenihmw for over 30 years. He also presented affidavits from Kerpet Hebel, Isipahu, Nahmwahrki en Madolenihmw, and John Adolph, Iso Nahniken en Madolenihmw both testifying that Carl holds the high title of Luhk en Lengso in Madolenihmw. Both affidavits testified that the title is never bestowed on a non-resident of Madolenihmw.

The ruling said that it had been proved to the Court that Carl owns land in Madolenihmw and often lives there.

The Election Commissioner appealed the Courts decision but the Appellate Panel did not render a ruling before the election and the Election Commissioner asked the Court to dismiss the appeal. The September ruling of the Supreme Court is therefore still in place.

In a February 20 letter to Speaker Lambert, Carl asked the Speaker to reconsider. The letter claimed that he had asked the Credentials Committee to appear before them to provide evidence in support of his position in the matter but that the Committee did not give him that opportunity. He said that failure was a denial of due process.

Speaker Lambert did not respond to the request but did declare the seat to be vacant and notified the Governor.

The report of the Credentials Committee was issued and adopted on February 11, 2020. It says that the Election Commissioner's underlying reason for denying Carl's petition for candidacy was that in 2003 Carl had registered to vote in Kolonia and didn't transfer his voter registration until February 4, 2017. The Election Commissioner determined that as a result, Carl did not fulfill the three-year citizenry requirement. "Stated somewhat differently," the report says, "Ricky Carl's February 4, 2017 registration date falls 22 days short of the commencement of the Tenth Pohnpei Legislature Term (e.g. January 13, 2020)"

The Committee Report said that its members, cognizant of the

Constitutional provision that "the Legislature shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its members", met three times to discuss whether Carl had satisfied Constitutional requirement for qualifications for membership. It said that the Committee decided that in construing the intent of the Constitution, "one should endeavor to divine the plain meaning of the words utilized by the framers." They decided that the plainest explanation of the requirement that a candidate "has been a citizen of the local government that he represents for at least three years" is that of an action that began in the past and is still in progress—in other words, it requires at least three consecutive years of residency. The Committee therefore recommended that Ricky Carl not be seated as a member of the Legislature.

The Committee provides no indication that it ever considered the Pohnpei State Supreme Court's ruling that said the opposite of what they decided.

A petition demanding that the Legislature seat Ricky Carl as their representative as the voters chose to do during the election has begun widely circulating in Madolenihmw. It is not certain whether a petition would in any way sway the current course that has been set in place by the Speaker's declaration of the seat as being vacant other than perhaps a political one.



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March 10



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The Artist's Habitat
(Drama)



March 11



Destiny: The Tale of Kamakura
(Drama, Fantasy)



Tremble All You Want
(Romance, Comedy)

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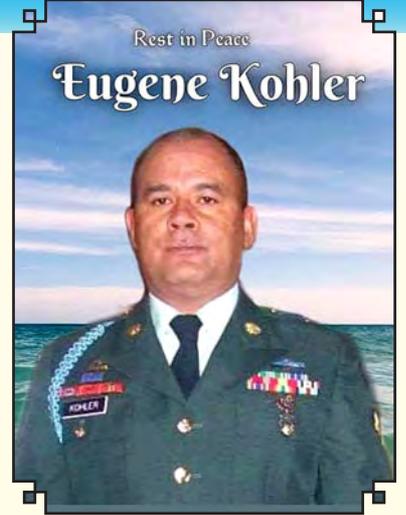
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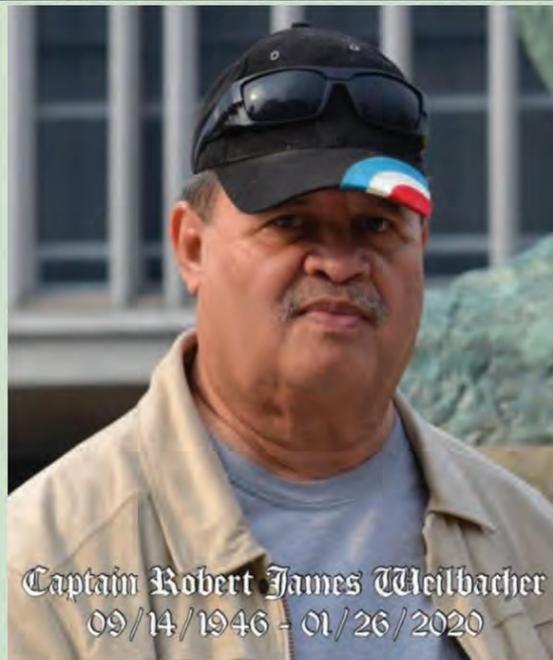
The Lord called our beloved son, father and husband to rest on Thursday February 20, 2020. The sudden departure has left us grieving, but the support from family and friends has been tremendous. As a father and a Nahnmwarki of Sokeh's, it is with respect that I laid my son to rest, and I am honored by the outpouring of kindness that was shown at the first day of the funeral, which is a testament to Eugene's friendships and his support of family. I especially want to thank the Pohnpei Veterans and the US Embassy for their touching tribute. As Eugene was my only son to serve in the US military, I have just one regret, and that is that I did not have more sons to serve. The military presence at the funeral touched my heart and I want to publicly thank you for showing up in strength and unity. As Eugene was the current President of the Pohnpei Veterans Group, I know he will be missed as this group grows and gains strength.



Our prayers go out to Eugene's wife Rumi and their daughter Kaley as they go through this difficult time of loss. I can only say that our family will remain strong and committed to each other. I also want to thank our family from the Marshall Islands that came. It truly shows that the oceans do not separate us, but they link us together.

Kalahngan and Peace be with all of you.

*Herutano Kohler
Nahnmwatak Pkeniap
Nahnmwarki of Sokeh's*



Captain Robert James Weilbacher
09/14/1946 - 01/26/2020

The Family of the late Captain Robert James Weilbacher aka "Papa Sem" who was called to his eternal rest on January 26, 2020, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all friends, relatives, the People of Kosrae, Kosrae State Government, FSM National Government, Vicariate of Pohnpei & Kosrae, the Micronesia Shipping Commission, Kyowa Shipping Co. LTD, Matson Inc, Palau Shipping Co, Eurasia Pacific Lines, Saipan Shipping Company Inc, Friends of Xavier - Kosrae, United Airlines - Pohnpei & Kosrae, College of Micronesia - FSM (CTEC), Palm Terrace, the Marianist Center of Hawaii, and many more for your expressions of sympathy, prayers, love, and generous support throughout this difficult time. We are saddened by the passing of a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather but find comfort through each and every one of you and solace in knowing that our Captain continues to be with us as he sails the heavenly seas in everlasting peace.

May God Bless You All!

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Kalahngan, and Kulo na ma lulap!

FSM going forward with the Technical Cooperation Project for the introduction of hybrid power generation system with JICA

JICA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has started the “Project for the Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System in Pacific Island Countries” since March 2017. This is a 5 years’ technical cooperation project targeted for 5 pacific island countries; Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati, RMI, and FSM. The aim of this project is to promote the deployment of a hybrid power generation system composed of Diesel Generators (DG) and Renewable Energy (RE) by providing technical support for the appropriate & economical operation and maintenance of DG as well as for the appropriate integration of RE, and operation and maintenance of RE. For this purpose, JICA offers technical assistance through Chief Advisor, Mr. Ogawa, from JICA Headquarters and a consulting team from Okinawa Prefecture, Japan in each states of the FSM, as well as inviting counterparts for trainings in Okinawa, and Fiji.

On January 24, 2020, the 3rd Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC)

meeting was held in Yap at the Yap Early Childhood Education Conference room with attendance from the Department of Resources & Development of the FSM, Lieutenant Governor of Kosrae as a special guest, Kosrae Utilities Authority (KUA), Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC), Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation (CPUC), Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC), JICA Micronesia, and the expert team.

Through this 3rd JCC meeting chaired by Hon. Marion Henry, Secretary of Department of Resources & Development, the FSM side and JICA discussed the progress of the project activities based on Project Design Matrix (PDM), Plan of Operation (PO), and Project Monitoring Sheet for project evaluation. Both sides proceeded to update the project counterpart team and assignment of officials. It was agreed that counterparts will potentially be the core trainers with expectation to transfer technical knowledge and skills to other members periodically within the project duration. Both sides carried on to actively discuss future project seminars and the upcoming 3rd Country Training in Fiji. Simultaneous to this 3rd JCC, was an ongoing Diesel Generation Training for core mechanics and engineers from each state utilities.

Kosrae Utilities Corporation (KUA) later provided updates on the current condition of the training equipment donated to KUA under the project.



According to the General Manager of KUA, Mr. Fred Skilling, equipment are in great condition since the handover and KUA is looking forward to hosting the next Project Seminar.

Furthermore, Secretary Marion Henry and Chief Advisor of the Project Mr. Ogawa were invited to V6AI Radio Station for an interview about the project purpose and current highlights of renewable energy on the island of Yap.

The Minutes of Meeting was signed by Honorable Marion Henry; Secretary of Department of Resources & Development, Mr. Tadayuki Ogawa; Chief Advisor of the project, Ms. Emi Teshima; Project Formulation Advisory of JICA-FSM.



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Pohnpei State R&D and partners conduct outreach in Pakin Atoll

Press Release:

March 2, 2020 – On February 14th to February 15th, 2020, Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development (R&D) and Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) were on Pakin Atoll with partners from Sokehs Municipal Police Department, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Nanwap Marine Protected Area (MPA) Community, Micronesia Challenge and Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to conduct community awareness on conservation of natural resources.



On day one, the Acting Director of R&D, Mr. Mark Kostka, explained to the community a recent amendment to the Pohnpei State sea turtle legislation (S.L. No. 9L-149-19), which protects nesting turtles, eggs and hatchlings but not marine areas known to be congregation sites of sea turtles. The amended legislation calls for R&D to submit a draft legislation to propose “sea turtle conservation zones from which no sea turtles or parts thereof shall be taken, injured or killed at any time.” There are different locations throughout Pohnpei State that are known to be congregation sites for

turtles and Pakin is one of them. Acting Director Kostka asked the community if they are willing to list Pakin Atoll as one of the first conservation zones for sea turtles in Pohnpei and requested that they make a decision at their earliest convenience as the deadline for the list is February 28th, 2020. Upon hearing the amended legislation, the community recalled local stories of their ancestors paying respect to nesting turtles through songs and prayers. In their recollection of old stories, the residents made it apparent that the value and respect for sea turtles still thrives in them. Following the site visit, R&D received a response from the community to list the entire Pakin Atoll as a sea turtle conservation zone.

Additionally, the Protect Areas Network (PAN) Coordinator, Mr. Carlos Kusto,

presented to the community about the FSM PAN Policy and the Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund, which would be an additional funding mechanism for communities with protected areas. PAN Coordinator Kusto explained how communities would be able to access the endowment funding and reminded the locals that he is available to assist the community in ensuring that they meet the eligibility criteria as well as help with the application process for the endowment. With the establishment of the Pakin MPA, more funding sources have been able to stream into the community. The endowment will expand the funding source but CSP reiterated to the community that MPAs are not only important for that but that they are also a vital tool to restore ocean productivity and replenish fish resources for the people to use.

Following Acting Director Kostka and PAN Coordinator Kusto’s presentations, MCT introduced the Coconut for Life (C4L) Project, wherein a group from one or more communities sells coconuts to FSM Vital as an alternative source of income. This project was piloted in Pohnpei and rolled out in Chuuk in 2019. The C4L project aims to provide sustainable livelihoods to local communities and to help alleviate fishing pressure in coastal communities or communities that have MPAs. From observations, transportation will be the biggest challenge to this community joining the project. With this and other similar outreach activities, Pohnpei State Government, CSP, MCT and the Municipality of Sokehs hope to show this and other communities that no one will be

left behind in terms of making communities aware of projects and opportunities that provide for people and their livelihoods. The community provided a response to MCT at a later date that they will enroll in the C4L project.

On day two, MCT and CSP spoke on the Pakin project called, “Building Pakin Community Resiliency to Climate Change Through an Enhanced Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management,” which is being sub-granted by MCT through CSP. The team recapped the project objectives with the community and explained the budget in detail. The community requested time to discuss amongst themselves whether they need to make minor adjustments to their budget and will communicate their decision to CSP and MCT. Lieutenant Basindo Ioanis from the Division of Fish and Wildlife shared penalties of breaking the conservation laws including serving time in prison, applicable fees, and confiscating equipment. At the end of the meeting, Acting Director Kostka reminded the residents that the work they are undergoing is critical for conservation, but it is most important to remember that conservation is ultimately for the people.

Pohnpei State Government and its partners extend their gratitude to Chief of Pakin (Sounihrek Pakin), Luhk en Sakon Sokehs, Nahnsahu Ririn Sokehs and the entire community of Pakin for receiving the team with great hospitality. Special thanks to the late Eugene Kohler, an active member of Sokehs community and strong supporter of conservation efforts in Pohnpei, for participating this outreach to Pakin Atoll.

Caroline Fisheries Corporation (CFC) tests non-entangling and biodegradable fish aggregating devices (FADs)

In partnership with the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), Caroline Fisheries Corporation (CFC) and the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) embarked on a trial project to test non-entangling and biodegradable fish aggregating devices (bio-FAD) as part of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) commitment to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Conservation and Management Measure (CMM 2018-01) that takes effect in January 2020. To minimise the harm caused by drifting FADs, all existing and new FADs must be constructed so that marine fauna such as sharks and turtles cannot become entangled in them.

FAD construction to use natural or biodegradable materials.

There are about 30 bio-FADs constructed thus far by CFC and 100 will be deployed in total that use natural and biodegradable materials made of bamboo, jute canvas, coconut fiber ropes and stones placed

inside the base of the bamboo with purse seine corks or floats wrapped with non-entangling net for buoyancy on the surface. These bio-FADs have about 95% biodegradable materials and it’s specifically designed to encourage fish aggregation at the device when drifting in the open ocean, and to reduce the impact of ghost fishing*, beaching and marine debris. A bio-FAD data collection document is to be completed by the vessel captain on design, identification, activity and catch as part of the trial project. CFC relies on FADs as part of its successful fishing operations and promotes sustainable fishing practices with the new bio-FAD construction designs.

More research is needed in bio-FAD design construction and CFC is taking the lead in the FSM fishing industry to help promote better designs to reduce bycatch, beaching and plastic pollution in the WCPFC.



*Ghost fishing: Any discarded, lost, or abandoned fishing gear in the marine environment has the potential to continue to fish, trap, entangle and potentially kill marine life.



Vacancies

Senior Adviser - Economics The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

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

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

The work of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) as:

The expression of a common sense of identity and purpose, leading progressively to the sharing of institutions, resources, and markets, with the purpose of complimenting national efforts, overcoming common constraints, and embracing sustainable and inclusive development within Pacific countries and territories and for the Pacific region as a whole.

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

The Opportunity

The Forum Secretariat is looking for a Senior Adviser - Economics to join the team in Suva, Fiji. Reporting to the Director Programmes and Initiatives, the role is responsible for providing high quality policy advice on a range of economic issues which also involves staff management, oversight of Ministerial and Officials level meetings, providing technical assistance and guidance to Members either personally or via the work of consultants, and oversight of budget and other accountability and administrative systems.

To facilitate the above, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Ensuring close coordination and consultations with other key Advisers at the Secretariat to take on board their feedback and advice on key initiatives. This includes, managing a team of policy staff/analysts/officers and consultants to deliver timely and high-quality policy advice and technical assistance to Member States and the Senior Management Team. This can be done either directly or through other Advisers at PIFS, consultants, development partners and other counterparts;
- Managing a team of policy staff/analyst/officers and consultants to provide timely and high-quality briefings, correspondence, reports and analysis for Executive and other stakeholders consideration;
- Managing a team to organise Officials' and Ministers' meetings Schedule and oversee the management of Ministerial and Officials' level meetings at the request of Member States and the Executive, particularly the annual Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting;
- Building strong relationships through Officials-level liaison with Member States and other counterparts; and
- Team leadership and performance.

The Secretariat seeks a strategic and proficient individual with an advanced degree (preferably at postgraduate level) in Economics, Econometrics, Public Policy or a related discipline. Candidates must also have substantial years of experience in formulating and implementing national and regional economic policies.

The Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary will be in the range of SDR 48,487 to SDR 54,548 per annum. At the 1 February 2020 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD144,997 to FJD163,122. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 27 March 2020.

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

NORMA's capacity to implement the Parties to the Nauru Agreement improved through Public Law 21-93

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On March 3rd, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) signed Public Law 21-93, which amends Section 404 of Title 24 of the FSM Code, formerly amended by Public Law 19-169. The new law grants the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) the capacity to exempt, on a case-by-case basis, certain gear types from the prohibition of fishing in the neighboring high seas pockets.

The FSM, through the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), collaborates with other Pacific Island governments in order to ensure fishing resources are sustainably exploited, including in the high seas pockets (i.e. ocean that doesn't formally fall into the territorial jurisdiction of any single country, but is otherwise between the FSM and its Pacific Island neighbors).

"What this [amendment to the law] does is clarify that NORMA can exempt certain gear types from the prohibition on fishing in the high seas pockets," said Mr. Eugene Pangelinan, Executive Director of NORMA. "The [former] law prohibits all gear types when in fact the [PNA] measure was only applicable to purse seine vessels. So, this [amendment to the law] improves NORMA's ability to implement the [PNA] measures."

"This law gives NORMA more tools and authority to take appropriate decisions for the good of our Nation's fisheries sector; signing it into law is the easy part," President Panuelo said. "I continue to be grateful for the leadership taken by [the Honorable Wesley W. Simina] and the 21st FSM Congress, and the close relationship we've built between the Executive and Legislative Branches."

For more information about NORMA, please call +691-320/2700, email info@norma.fm, or visit their website at <http://www.norma.fm/>

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FSMACC, Pohnpei, Palikir



Position: Executive Director
Requirements: Three(3) Reference Letters, Resume
Salary: Salary Range is \$18,000-\$20,000

Job Description

- Planning and Operation of Annual Budget,
- Establishing employment and administrative policies and procedures for all functions and for the day to day operation of the organization.
- Establish and maintain relationships with various organizations throughout the state and utilize those relationships to strategically enhance FSMACC's Mission.
- Report to and work closely with the Board of Directors to seek their involvement in policy decisions, fundraising and to increase the overall visibility of the Foundation throughout the State.
- Supervise, collaborate with organization staff and arrangements of meetings of the FSMACC, and provide necessary technical and administrative support
- Strategic planning and implementation
- Serving a FSMACC's primary spokesperson to the organizations, constituents, the media and the general public.
- Provide quarterly reports to FSMACC Board of Directors of budget, projects, programs, and proposals
- Other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors

Application Process: Requirements can be emailed to laamarmarie@gmail.com.
Deadline: March 30, 2020

Note: If your applying offisland, Housing will be provided.

A chat with the new Pohnpei State Chief of Staff Sue Lowe Gallen

By Marstella E. Jack

Suzanne Lowe Gallen is a household name in FSM, and so it was just as well Governor Oliver decided to hire her as his Chief of Staff making her the first female ever to hold a Chief of Staff position in the entire FSM since constitutional government in 1979, the same year she was born. Sue has an extensive public service background, going as far back as a foreign service officer with FSM Department of Foreign Affairs in 2004.....which is sort of how we cemented our professional relationship...we are both products of FSM Foreign Affairs (or maybe by-products?)

I wanted to do a piece on her new role, and how fitting it is that she started on February 2nd, a few short weeks away from International Women's Day March 8, 2020. While FSM women rightfully celebrate the day with dances, cultural

exhibits and various other activities to showcase their appreciation for being recognized as nurturers – grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, aunts, nieces, PhD scholars, students, Bank Presidents, lawmakers, judges, community leaders, confidants, counselors, doctors, lawyers, police officers and most especially for being teachers, it was so right that the new Chief of Staff for the Pohnpei administration is none other than Sue herself. Sue prides herself in what she does. She believes that people should do what they can with they have, from wherever they are. Moreover, she is confident that the role of women in today's society can be further enhanced and that they can help promote development in all walks of life.

I asked her about her first day in office.

“Well it's my first time to work at the state level and I'm still trying to gain my footing. There's a lot of 'wahu',

and while that is a great thing, I am still trying to figure out how it can be more conducive to government efficiency. Also, I was disheartened when this lady walked into my office and asked if I wanted coffee. It turned out she is not even the secretary, but has a more facilitative role in the government. I would've welcomed an update on her area of responsibility.....but not coffee. Women just naturally feel that they are obligated to get the coffee...why?”

Good question!!

The bigger impression was how she is overwhelmed with the tremendous amount of work that is needed to get the smaller issues sorted out—not revenue sharing and Compact renegotiation, but just basic administrative matters involving standard operating procedures (SOPs), performance evaluations, property/asset inventory and management, compound security strengthening, maintenance issues, littering in the office compound, personnel training and institutional strengthening, and many other issues.

When asked about cabinet nominations, she said she is not involved but she has been tasked with the responsibility to recommend names for the various state Board nominations. Apparently some of these statutory Boards have been dormant since the early 2000s.

I asked her why she took the job when the salary is less than half of what she was making before. “

“Well, sometimes it's not even the salary that is a determining factor. Pohnpei State needs all the help right now. It seems like all the good talent ends up at the National Government—rightly so because that's where all the money is. Meanwhile, people at the state level are suffering. How can we expect people to go to school and want to come back to a \$200 or \$300 biweekly paycheck? That's why everyone is leaving. We can't blame them for wanting to leave and have a better life. For me, I truly believe in this administration. Every time I start second guessing my decision, the Governor has a way with words that just inspires me to my core and reinforces my conviction that Pohnpei State can and will be better.”

You stay in the office up to 7 or 8pm on most days. As a mother of 3 with a baby, how do you do it?

“Well it's not easy when you have to drive to U village to breastfeed during lunchtime. This made me realize that the government needs family friendly offices so that nursing



mothers can bring their babies to work and breastfeed when needed. I intend to suggest this to the administration to see if we can incorporate it into the renovation proposal, or shortly afterwards. It would definitely improve punctuality and productivity levels. Furthermore, my husband, Dr. Padwick Gallen is a huge help because we share the parenting responsibility, and it makes it so much easier on me. He is a busy doctor but he still provides the constant support I need and I am forever grateful for that.”

What is your advice to Pohnpei government employees?

“Please take GREAT PRIDE in what you do because the end result of your work reflects on your own personal work ethic, and Pohnpeians are not lazy people.”

I couldn't agree more. Enginkehlap is the engine for this new administration but I say Lirorohki Pohnpei should be the driving force.

Sue Lowe Gallen is a graduate of Xavier High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Hawaii (Manoa) in 2003. She joined Foreign Affairs in 2004 and went on to receive a Certificate in Diplomacy from Chinese Foreign Affairs University, then a Certificate in Pacific Diplomacy from USP, and a recipient of Post Graduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies at Oxford University in England in 2008. The most recent award is the post graduate diploma in development studies from USP in 2015. At present time, Sue is pursuing a Master's Degree in Development Studies on Thesis: “The Mis-trusteeship: the case of disunity and the secession movement in the FSM”.



College of the Marshall Islands
Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

CMI invites applications for the following job openings:

Position Title: Developmental Education English Instructor
Full-Time: \$25,137 - \$33,515 annually
Closing Date: March 27, 2020.

The Developmental Education English Department of the College of the Marshall Islands, a community college located on Majuro atoll in the Marshall Islands, invites applications for a full-time Developmental English Instructor beginning August 01, 2020.

The successful candidate will teach Developmental English courses in the combination of listening & speaking, and reading & writing in an ESL environment. The selected candidate may also teach the First Year College Experience course. Other responsibilities will include departmental and college service, academic advising, and outcomes assessment. There are also opportunities to develop and shape a new course in the area of expertise and to do research.

The College is now seeking a passionate Developmental English educator willing to relocate to our small and remote location where his/her teaching and learning expertise is greatly valued by a developing population with a distinct Pacific culture beginning August 01, 2020.

Benefits:

- Initial contract of three years;
- Transportation from the point of hire to the Marshall Islands;
- Moving in allowance of USD \$2,000;
- Not to exceed \$9,000 housing allowance per year;

Successful candidate must have;

- A Master's Degree in developmental education with specialization in English instruction, speech and communication, special education.
- Experience teaching listening & speaking, reading & writing in developmental or remedial setting.
- International ESL teaching experience.

Making an Application: Applicants must apply online at CMI jobs website www.cmi.edu or <https://jobs-cmi.peopleadmin.com>. Full Job Descriptions available online.

The College of the Marshall Islands is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The College of the Marshall Islands requires pre-employment reference and background screening.

Interior announces \$820,600 in FY 2020 for prior service Trust Fund Program Provides key support to elderly in the Pacific

WASHINGTON - U. S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs Douglas W. Domenech has authorized \$820,600 in FY 2020 funding for the Prior Service Trust Fund (PSTF) Administration which distributes benefits to the more than 700 former employees of the post-World War II, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) in the Western Pacific.

"The Prior Service Trust Fund program is an ongoing commitment that the United States holds in the Pacific and in particular to individuals who previously served in the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "We appreciate that the U.S. Congress provides these funds for the Prior Service beneficiaries who rely on them for important basic needs."

Employee benefits provided through the Prior Service Trust Fund represent a responsibility assumed by the Federal Government following the dissolution of the TTPI in 1986. The program serves beneficiaries with five years or more of prior service. The four jurisdictions to emerge from the TTPI were the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands,

and the Republic of Palau. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a U.S. Territory. The latter three entities are independent sovereign Pacific Island nations who each share a unique relationship with the United States under a Compact of Free Association agreement.

Kosrae State Protected Area Network Coordinator

The Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) is happy to announce the recent appointment of Mr. Bond C. Segal as the Kosrae State Protected Area Network Coordinator. Based at KIRMA, Mr. Segal will be working with all stakeholder and partner agencies on all aspects of the PAN for the state and in conjunction with the National PAN Network. PAN Coordinator Positions are also being funded in Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap through a grant to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) from the Adaptation Fund (AF).



Mr. Segal is from Utwe, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. He began his education at Utwe Elementary School and graduated from Kosrae High School in 2004. After high school, he then decided to pursue his dream of having a degree in Marine Science where he first started at the College of Micronesia- National Campus at Palikir, Pohnpei. After 2 years at COM, he transferred to the University of Hawaii at Hilo and earned a Bachelors (BA) degree in Marine Science. During his college years, he participated and was also certified in many environmental related activities. After college, he first started in March 2012, working at a local NGO called the Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization (KCSO) as their Environmental Educator. In 2017, he became the Marine Program Manager for the same organization. Bond worked with KCSO for about eight years where he was involved in the development of various management plans for Kosrae communities.

Mr. Segal can be reached via email at: bond_segal@yahoo.com

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 towards the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for a PROP Project Assistant based in

Pohnpei, FSM. The PROP Project Assistant services include:

General Scope of Work

- Responsible for administrative and logistical support to the PROP Project including managing travel, documents processing and filing, scheduling, and the arranging of Project events.
- Provide assistance to the PROP Project Coordinator and designated accountants in areas of financial management, procurement, contract management and project reporting.
- Attend project activities and related trainings in FSM or overseas.
- Assist with other duties as may be assigned by the Project Coordinator and NORMA.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelors Degree from a recognized institution in Accounting, Business Administration or other relevant degree. Associates Degree may be considered with proven relevant extensive experience.
- Minimum of one (1) year recent relevant experience.
- Experience with working in a team environment.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Competency in the use of computer applications, especially MS Office and Excel.
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and pay attention to detail.

Desirable Qualifications

- Ability to learn quickly.
- Organized and detail-oriented person
- Good communication skills
- Experience in procurement, administration, and/or project accounting, with QuickBooks or similar system use.

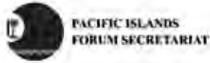
Remuneration

- Salary will be based on the Local Labor Market Payscale and/or depending on qualifications.
- This will be a full-time position under contract up to September 2020 with FSM NORMA subject to renewal based on performance and PROP project extension.

Application

The FSM NORMA invites interested persons (consultants) to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of a) Letter of Interest, b) CV/resumé, and c) support Degrees/Certificates copies no later than March 13, 2020 to the following address:

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan, Executive Director
 NORMA, FSM National Government
 2nd Floor, Ambros Building
 PO Box PS122, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181
 Email: moria.joseph@norma.fm. Copy to ocean.ehmes@norma.fm
 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 TOR can be obtained from FSM NORMA.



Vacancies

Opportunities at the Secretariat The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

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

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

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The Opportunities

Applications are invited from nationals of member countries to fill vacant positions based at the Secretariat in Suva.

1. PACRES Project Coordinator

The position reports to the Director Programmes and Initiatives through the Climate Change Finance Adviser & Resilience Team Leader and will work closely with the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Team to advance the responsibilities of the unit. The primary role of the PACRES Project Coordinator is to provide project management, coordination and technical support to the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Intra ACP PACRES Project.

2. Programme Adviser (Resilient Development Finance)

The position reports to the Director, Programmes & Initiatives and the PIFS Resilience Team Leader and for managing and coordinating PIFS' role in Disaster Risk Finance capacity building for Pacific Island Countries, coordination of the Means of Implementation Key Result Areas, and support to the Pacific Resilience Facility. The position will be responsible for the provision of policy and technical advice, research, and analysis to support PIFS' delivery of relevant activities and other related advice and support required by the PIFS in connection with its leadership role in contributing to the sustainable development priorities of Pacific island countries and territories.

The Package

The salaries for these positions depend on qualifications and experience and will be in the range of SDR 36,640 to SDR 42,297 per annum. At the 1 February 2020 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD109,569 to FJD126,486.

All appointments at the Secretariat attract competitive remuneration and benefits packages that include medical and life insurance. For international positions, packages include housing allowance and education allowance for dependent children. For non-Fiji nationals, salaries may be free of income tax.

Additional Information

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the position description and remuneration details for respective positions are also available therein. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

To be eligible for these positions, applicants must be nationals of Forum member countries*. The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 27 March 2020.

*Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

GGF Grants Another \$25,000 to CSOs Across Micronesia

Micronesia Trust

March 3, 2020

The Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) is a global organization that catalyzes grassroots-level solutions by putting resources directly in the hands of the best stewards of our environment—local people. GGF works worldwide and has been supporting work in the Pacific and Micronesia for the past two decades.

In this funding cycle, GGF approved 16 new grants of approximately \$5,000 each to several community-based organizations in the Pacific, including 5 for the Federated States of Micronesia, 2 for Papua New Guinea, 3 for Tonga, 3 for the Solomon Islands, 1 for Samoa and 2 for Tuvalu.

The 5 GGF projects approved for the FSM this round include: Oneisomw Environmental Conservation Association (Project Lead: Mayor Enrino Paul) of Chuuk, Nan Madol en Ihmw, Inc. (Project Lead: Estephan P. Santiago), and Enimwahn Development Association (Project Lead: Stuard Penias) of Pohnpei; and Tamil (Project Lead: Sophia Beeliyew) and Okaw (Project Lead: Petra Falan) Women Associations of Yap.

The Oneisomw Environmental Conservation Association (OECA) will use their funds to support the following activities: to develop a specific workplan for their fisheries management plan, to

work with state Department of Marine Resources and the leadership of Chuuk to legally establish Oneisomw as an official site in Chuuk State's Protected Areas Network, to enforce boundaries, rules and regulations of OECA's management area and to further build the capacity of OECA to manage conservation projects. The Nan Madol en Ihmw, Inc. will use their funds to build community resilience to climate change and to improve their food security by planting approximately 5,000 staple food trees and other local plant species at Lehiak village and in participating nearby villages. The Enimwahn Development Association (EDA), in partnership with EPA and other relevant entities, will reduce health risks induced by climate change by holding regular cleanup exercises to remove large waste items in their village. They will also carry out education awareness activities on vector borne diseases. The Okaw and Tamil Women Associations will use their funds to build their institutional and professional capacity to participate in the management of their natural resources and conservation areas.

The next round of GGF proposals are due on March 31, 2020. All community based organizations in Micronesia (FSM, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Guam and CNMI) who are interested in GGF grants may contact GGF Micronesia Advisor, William Kostka, at 320-5670/8903 or email him at director@ourmicronesia.org.

FSM Department of Finance & Administration delivers training, information-sharing with Yap State; more state visits planned

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—From February 25th to 28th, 2020, the Honorable Eugene Amor, Secretary of the Department of Finance & Administration (DOFA), visited the FSM State of Yap with a view to echo the sentiments of increased transparency and cooperation between the National Government and State Governments as endorsed by His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM. Secretary Amor and DOFA staff held meetings with the Honorable Jesse J. Salalu, Lieutenant Governor of the FSM State of Yap, as well as Members of the Yap State Legislature, to provide detailed summaries on the FSM Trust Fund, and the Nation's project portfolios with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, with a particular

emphasis on how these funds would impact the citizens and State of Yap. Secretary Amor also met with the Honorable Isaac V. Figir and the Honorable Joseph J. Urusemal, the two Senators of the 21st FSM Congress representing the FSM State of Yap, to discuss tax changes and other projects relevant to Yap State.

Secretary Amor was accompanied by Mr. Salvador Jacob, Assistant Secretary for Customs & Tax Administration, who worked with the Yap State DOFA Field Office to deliver and present the Yap Field Office's 2020 work plan, compliance plan, and the new Tax Debt & Return Collection Procedures.

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Opinion Editorial

FACT SHEET and Q&A: A Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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Recently, we witnessed a cluster of pneumonia cases caused by a novel coronavirus-now named as COVID-19. This unusual viral infection imposed a global burden on various industries including tourism industry, air lines, retail businesses, hospitality industry etc. The spread of this viral infection is now reported in about 60 nations. For our island, the travel restriction has been effective since January. According to United Airlines "Anyone who's traveled to mainland China since January 6, 2020 will not be allowed to enter the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Anyone who has been in a country with a confirmed case of the coronavirus (other than China) must stop in Guam, Hawaii or another location free from the virus for 14 days before entering the FSM." (United Home Page, 2020)

Coronavirus has been a common causative agent for the common cold. A novel virus infection that we are witnessing today is basically due to "sub-types" of those common coronaviruses. In detail, coronaviruses are enveloped non-segmented positive-sense RNA viruses belonging to the family Coronaviridae and it is widely distributed in humans and other mammals (Richman DD, 2016).

We hope this article will inform the Micronesian community of the emergence of this novel coronaviruses and its features in simple Q & A format.

1. What is the route of infection? It is yet to be discovered further but scientists believe that the "droplets" from infected person's coughing or sneezing can infect (pass through) other people.

2. Is person-to-person transmission possible? The person-to-person transmission in family homes or hospital, and intercity spread of this novel coronavirus are possible (Chan, J. F-W., 2020)

3. What are the clinical signs and symptoms? In the US study, subjective fever or measured temperature over 100.4 F (38 C) and cough or shortness of breath are the major signs and symptoms (Bajema, KL 2020)

4. Can I get infected via my eyes or simple contact with skin? Coronavirus may survive longer in the air than influenza

viruses. Contaminated hands with virus droplets may infect a person through the eyes and mouth. However skin is a good barrier against the virus; it is less likely that coronavirus can penetrate the skin.

5. What is mortality rate (i.e., death rate) of COVID-19 as compared with other corona viruses such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-Cov) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-Cov)? The mortality rate from COVID-19 is estimated approximately 2.5% (Ji, Y. 2020). Meanwhile, worldwide fatality rate from SARS-Cov was 11% (range 7% to 27%) (Chan, KS, 2020). As we experienced, the mortality rate from MERS-Covid was much higher than that of SARS-Cov. The overall mortality rate of MERS-Cov was 29.8% (Ahmed, AE. 2017)

6. How does the new Coronaviruses compared with flu (influenza viruses)? Between 1918-1919, the great influenza pandemic caused over one quarter of the US population infected and 675,000 Americans died (Billings, M, 2003). According to CDC estimation from 1 OCT 2019 through 22 FEB 2020, the flu has already caused an estimated 32-45 million illnesses, 14-21 million hospitalizations and 18,000-46,000 deaths (CDC 2020). Meantime the mortality rate from COVID-19 is about 2.5% while the mortality rate from influenza in the US is estimated as 0.02% (CDC, NCHS, 2017). The mortality rate for COVID-19 is higher than that of influenza.

7. Beside the major sign and symptoms, what are other minor signs and symptoms? In addition to the major sign and symptom (i.e., fever, cough, and shortness of breath), the following signs and symptoms were reported (Huang, C., 2020): Myalgia (muscle pain) or fatigue; sputum production; headaches; and hemoptysis (coughing up of blood).

8. Is facial mask effective to protect myself from the virus? There is no definitive cure (except for the experimental anti-HIV drug therapies) for COVID-19 at this time. A disposable facial mask may be the best option for the protection against the virus. In addition, paying attention to personal hygiene and hand sanitization is highly recommended.

9. Is vaccine available? There is no vaccine available for protection against COVID-19

10. Is gathering at schools, churches,

restaurants dangerous? From lessons from other infected countries with COVID-19, gathering at certain places can be risky. However, there is no reported COVID-19 case in Pohnpei. Therefore, restriction on daily activities, attending schools, going to other public places and community meetings is not necessary at this point.

In conclusion, the risk of becoming infected with this new coronavirus (COVID-19) in Pohnpei is low. We would like to recommend the general public to increase the level of personal hygiene and hand sanitization (i.e., wash your hands with soap and water as often as possible) at all times. As we remember old quote from Sun Tzu "know yourself, know your enemy, and you shall win a hundred battles without loss," we may be able to apply this quote to coronaviruses. Please remember that the best cure for COVID-19 is the prevention.

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...Finance training

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Secretary Amor was further accompanied by Ms. Senny Philip, Assistant Secretary for Investment & International Finance, who provided updates on the World Bank and Asian Development Bank portfolios, as well as the FSM Trust Fund.

One of the major outcomes from the visit included training lead by Mr. Sohs John, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Budget, to those responsible for Public Projects on the proper use of Project Control Documents (PCDs). All FSM Public Projects must utilize PCDs to ensure transparent, responsible, and accountable use of public funds.

Another major outcome from the visit was the presentation on the latest Audit Report issued by the Office of the National Public Auditor on Yap State's Public Projects from fiscal years 2016 to 2018 (i.e. October 1st 2016 to October 1st 2018).

The report highlighted that \$5,750,000 (5.75 million dollars) had been appropriated during that period, but only 51% had been allotted and the spending rate was less than 15%. The audit report further highlighted other key findings, e.g. that spending was not in line with FSM laws and regulations; that spending was not in line with the intended purpose of the project(s); that scholarships were being awarded outside of established guidelines; and a lack of procedures for reviewing and selecting Public Projects.

As a result of the audit, Secretary Amor proposed the following:

1. An ongoing training cycle for PCD usage and Finance Management Regulations to improve compliance;
2. Timely completion of Public Project PCDs to ensure 100% allotment of appropriations;
3. Streamlining Public Project processes to minimize non-compliance;
4. Full reconciliation of past Public Projects to determine what funds can be released and reprogrammed to meet the current priorities for the FSM State of Yap.

"I am completely supportive of Secretary Amor's proposals," President Panuelo said in a statement. "I have every confidence that the public servants in our Nation are dedicated to fully utilizing their available resources in an appropriate and sustainable manner—but this can only be achieved if everyone knows what the rules are. Too often citizens and development partner stakeholders alike take the view that there is malintent on the use of public funding, but I reject that claim in favor of the view that our States simply need more support from Palikir."

Secretary Amor and DOFA staff intend to schedule visits to the FSM States of Chuuk and Kosrae in the coming days so that



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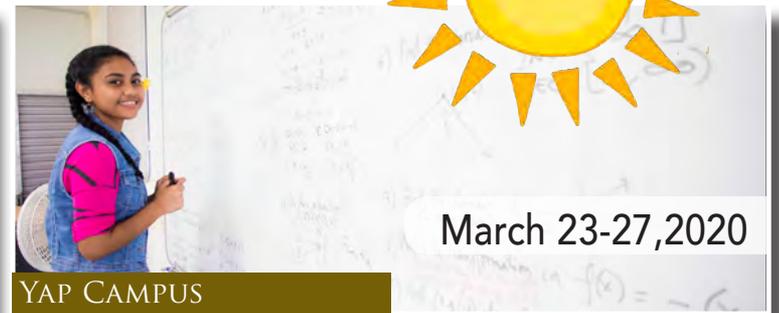


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