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# Pohnpei police seize container full of dried sea cucumbers bound for Hong Kong

By **Bill Jaynes**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

July 13, 2020

**Pohnpei**—Pohnpei Department of Public Safety police officers, executing a search warrant have seized a 20 foot container bound for Hong Kong that was full of dried sea cucumbers. Sources say that the container held as much as 800 kilograms (1,760 pounds) of them.

The search warrant was issued and entered on Friday July 10, 2020 by Pohnpei Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert Nakasone. The search warrant did not include the names of the entities who were

attempting to ship the sea cucumber. The warrant included only the container number and the number on the bill of lading.

Officers seized the container at the FSCO (Federated Shipping Company, Ltd) compound in Dekehtik. The container has been on DPS grounds since this weekend. DPS officers have been conducting an inventory of the contents of the container since that time. Citing an ongoing investigation, they have not released any names in conjunction with the seizure.

One of Pohnpei’s prosecutors spent part of the weekend preparing criminal charges, but even he has not yet been told what names

might be connected with the attempted shipment. Currently, draft criminal charges have been prepared in the name of “John Doe”.

At press time, no arrests had been made.



# US Ambassador gets “the scoop” on sea cucumber aquaculture project

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By **Bill Jaynes**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

July 8, 2020

**Pohnpei**--This afternoon Dr. Manoj Nair, Chief Scientist/Director of Aquaculture Research and Development from the College of Micronesia FSM Land Grant Program gave US Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor a tour of part of the sea cucumber aquaculture project. The various land grant programs of COM FSM, including agriculture projects for salt water resilient taro, Pohnpei pepper, and pineapple are funded by the NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) and USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) of the United States government. Dr. Nair’s project

promotes sustainable aquaculture farming of sea cucumbers in Pohnpei.

The tour began at the nurseries located in the area of the Nihco Marine Park. After spawning and growth to at least 30 grams, juvenile sea cucumbers are placed in the nurseries for further maturation. The nurseries must be monitored on a daily basis to eliminate any predators like crabs from the sea based “cages”.

Staff members of the project placed some of the small animals, each a little smaller than an average human thumb into the Ambassador’s hand. She said that while

she had seen sea cucumbers in the water, she’d never held one. She had plenty of opportunity to do so this afternoon.

Two boats then departed for the much larger farm located in waters off Palikir. Dr. Nair said that the farm covers one hectare. There the juvenile sea cucumbers reach the marketable size of 350 to 400 grams. He said that usually the nets designed both to keep predators out and the sea cucumbers contained usually are only erected as high as the level of the highest tide. Because their farms still have a big problem with

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# First-ever educational videos on traditional Carolinian navigation online now

**Takuya Nagaoka**  
Executive Director  
Pasifika Renaissance

**July 11, 2020**  
FSM—The first ever series of instructional videos on the art of Carolinian traditional navigation techniques is now available on Youtube. The series includes one two-hour video in English which is available at <https://bit.ly/2ZIZocI>. It also includes 23 videos of daily classes in the Lamotrek, Yap language on a Pacific Renaissance Youtube channel at <https://bit.ly/2ZmFMVO>.



Polynesian double-hulled voyaging canoe Hokule'a.

Largely due to a lack of interest among young islanders and more recently because of growing outmigration in the region (e.g., outer islands to the main islands and U.S. territories), the survival of the art, which has been passed down by their ancestors for hundreds if not thousands of years, faces serious threats.

Although it is secret knowledge generally passed down only to close relatives, discussions on the possibility of producing educational videos on navigation with Master Navigator Ali Haleyalur began in 2017. Ali is a renowned master navigator from Lamotrek Atoll, Yap State and is enthusiastic about passing this fading knowledge to younger generations.

With financial support from a UNESCO Participation Program Grant through the FSM Office of Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation, the Carolinian Traditional

Navigation Course Documentation Project was carried out in May through July of 2019 with five young Micronesians, eager to learn their ancestors' art, participating in the course. The course began only after permission was granted by Yap State Governor, Honorable Henry S. Falan, Director Constantine Yowblaw of Department of Youth and Civic Affairs, and the Council of Tamol (Neighboring Island Chiefs Council). The course was filmed and edited for release.

The videos cover all of the basic topics of traditional Carolinian navigation. They are the first-ever educational videos to be made widely available to public, and particularly to those Micronesians and other Pacific Islanders who are interested in learning traditional navigation. In addition, one especially positive development is that four former students now work for the non-profit organization, Okeanos aboard the Okeanos Waa'qab and the Okeanos Ambassador, which are traditionally-based double-hull sailing canoes. Their jobs will enable them to continue to develop their seafaring skills, including traditional navigation.

It was impressive to observe the navigation knowledge being passed down to members of a young generation. In the current period of modernization and land-oriented lifestyle in many parts of Oceania, this knowledge is very important for all of the Pacific Islands because it reminds us of the great legacy of Pacific islanders' ancestors. It is hopeful that the project will assist in promoting not only the transmission of this valuable art but also in the support of Pacific Islanders' pride as seafarers and their seafaring heritage.

The project will also contribute to the FSM's efforts to inscribe the traditional Carolinian navigation on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List, which will showcase this great Micronesian heritage to the world, as has the inscription of Nan Madol on the World Heritage List in 2016.

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**Bill Jaynes**  
Managing Editor

# COVID-19 hampers opening of the completed Kahmar River Bridge

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 10, 2020

**Pohnpei**—The beautiful new Kahmar River bridge in Nett has been completed for several weeks but due to the travel restrictions related to COVID-19 it has not yet opened. Construction on the bridge, which was entirely funded by a grant to the FSM from the People’s Republic of China, began on June 26, 2019 and was due to be completed by April 25, 2020.

Since the project began, residents in the area have been forced to drive a long way around in order to reach the other side.

Though fast progress was made by the construction company, the China Railway 14th Bureau Group Co., Ltd., according to Ambassador Huang Zheng, China’s ambassador to the FSM, under the agreement and contract signed between China and the FSSM the bridge cannot be opened until after an inspection is conducted by engineers from China to ensure the structural integrity of the bridge. He said that discussions are under way to try to find the most workable and effective way to perform a remote video inspection.

FSM Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs Kandhi Elieisar, the PRC Embassy has tentatively scheduled the inspection to take place sometime before the end of the month. He said that the FSM has been anxious to take possession of the

bridge to turn it over for usage given complaints by people residing near the bridge. Still, the dates for the final inspection and turnover have not yet been definitively set.

The previous Kahmar River Bridge was built during WWII and was only ever intended to be a temporary structure. A decrepit structure, the roadway on the old bridge had been largely replaced by thick steel plates. The new bridge is 184 feet long and 33 feet wide and is fully paved.

“This is the only project that has been completed while we are under a lockdown so this is really uncharted waters for all of us. But we are glad that we are making progress,” wrote Secretary for the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure Carl Apis.

He said that other ongoing projects are also being impacted. The convention center at the National Government complex in Palikir is ongoing but will not be completed at the end of this year as originally expected. Secretary Apis said that there are required engineers for different phases of the construction of that project and none of them are currently allowed to come into the FSM. “Nevertheless,” he said, “the company is focusing on all the work that can be done while they wait for the rest of their team.”



“We also have projects from donors that are being delayed. We were hoping to begin the project funded by Japan to extend the Pohnpei dock. That is on hold until we open. So for Japan this is pushing back our projects that are in the pipeline,” he said.

When it is able to be opened, the bridge will be turned over to the FSM for handover to

Pohnpei State in a formal ceremony at the entrances to the bridge will be moved and the bridge will then be open for traffic.

# Pohnpei Governor extends COVID-19 emergency order for another 30 days

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 11, 2020

**Pohnpei**—Today, Pohnpei’s Governor Reed Oliver again extended by another 30 days, the emergency order related to COVID-19.

“Given the undeniable vulnerability of the state of Pohnpei to the COVID-19 pandemic experienced all over the world and the limited resources available to combat and mitigate the effect of COVID-19, it is of paramount importance and legal duty to continue to take all the emergency precautionary measures and interventions necessary to protect and save the lives of our people,” the July 11, 2020 declaration says.

The declaration keeps the Pohnpei Emergency Task Force’s functions in place.

“The COVID-19 Contingency Plan for

Pohnpei State shall be at the level of Cov-Con4(b) with an elevated level of response at Cov-Con3,” the declaration says. “All departments, offices, and agencies are urged to perform all tasks required pursuant to their respective roles under the plan”.

According to Pohnpei’s Chief of Staff, Cov-Con4(b) (COVID-19 Condition) means that there are presently no cases but that there is still a threat. COV-CON3 means that there are 1-10 cases. The declaration is saying that there are no cases of COVID-19 in Pohnpei but that the staff is working as if there are in order to be prepared.

The declaration requires the Department of Treasury and Administration in cooperation with the Office of Budget to identify sources of funds necessary to carry out the order, and to request funding from the Office of the President of the FSM as necessary.

Travel restrictions are still in place but referrals.

Pohnpei’s Chief of Staff says that there is currently discussion about beginning The emergency order is in place for 30 days beginning and inclusive of July 11, 2020. those who were off island for medical

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF  
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WILL BE RELEASED ON:  
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Deadline for submission of articles  
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Friday, July 24, 2020**

# 244th U.S. Independence Day observed with a series of activities

## *Embassy of the United States of America, Kolonia*

The U.S. Embassy Kolonia marked the 244th Independence Day of the United State of America with a series of events using the theme of “Environmental Protection of the FSM”. To highlight World Oceans Day, June 5, the Embassy coordinated a cleanup at Lenger Island with local partners: Conservation Society of Pohnpei, FSM Ridge to Reef, Pohnpei Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Green Society, Micronesia Conservation Trust and Pohnpei Surf Club.



*Ambassador Cantor hands over a recyclable shopping bag to a local customer at Yoshie Enterprises*

The week of the Fourth of July began with the illumination of the Embassy compound with LED red, white, and blue lights and decorations. On Monday June 29th Ambassador Cantor led the Embassy team on a cleanup of the Pohnpei Causeway. During the event, Ambassador Cantor presented certificates to winners of the Fourth of July youth virtual essay competition where teens discussed the theme of environmental conservation. The winners of the contest were Erlickson Jano, Isabella Sipos, and Sophia Bacalando. The winning essays are located at <https://bit.ly/3fdZz0y>.



*Winners of the Fourth of July Virtual Essay Contest pictured with Ambassador Cantor Erlickson Jano, 1st Place, Isabella Sipos, 2nd Place and Sophia Bacalando, 3rd Place (not pictured).*

On July 1st, Ambassador Cantor and members of the U.S. Embassy team visited local grocery stores to distribute reusable eco-friendly shopping bags to coincide with the implementation of the law that bans single use styrofoam and plastic (FSM Public Law 21-76).

To close out the festivities, Ambassador Cantor hosted several small social events with members of the FSM and State government, non-governmental organizations, diplomatic corps, and members of the community.

“Unfortunately, this year American Independence Day cannot be marked with the large celebrations as in years past. Due to the current global pandemic of COVID-19, and in support of social distancing efforts, my staff and I had to be creative to develop a series of small but meaningful events to commemorate the 244th anniversary of our independence.” said Ambassador Cantor during her official remarks.



Ambassador Cantor observed that the Fourth of July is “a time when all Americans – at home and abroad – reflect on the history, values and the importance of democracy that has inspired our country since its founding and sustained it for 244 years. They are values we share with our friends and partners here in the FSM.”

The Honorable Secretary Kandhi Elieisar, FSM Department of Foreign spoke of the U.S.’s long history with the FSM and global contributions towards the advancement of humanity celebrated all over the world.

## **...Land Grant Sea Cucumbers**

*Continued from front page*

theft, they have extended the netting to two feet above water line if for no other reason than to make it harder for thieves to get inside the pens.

In 2014 the program had a farm off the shores of Sekere. It had the perfect sandy sea bottom necessary for the purpose. Personnel planted 1000 sea cucumbers there. Every single one of those sea cucumbers was stolen before they were harvest size.

The farm in Palikir likewise experiences theft. He said that they would go out and do a count one week and come back a week or two later and hundreds would be

missing. It’s all too common. He said that in other countries where local investors are involved in sea cucumber aquaculture for commercial development, the locals live in structures on site in order to discourage theft. Unfortunately, the Land Grant project doesn’t have that luxury and the theft is hampering the project.

Another problem with developing local interest in sea cucumber aquaculture as an investment is the required \$25,000 a year that must be paid to a Fisheries Development Fund for a license. Not many local investors have the resources to pay out that kind of money before operational expenses. “Who can afford to pay \$25,000 a year,” he said in an interview in 2016.

*See “Land Grant Sea Cucumbers 2” on page 6*





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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
FSM CLIMATE RESILIENT ROAD PROJECT  
(P172225)**

**Assignment Title: Project Manager  
Reference No: FM-DOTCI-148482-CS-INDV**

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has received a Project Preparation Advance (PPA) to assist in the preparation of the FSM Climate Resilient Road Project (FSMCRRP) and is now seeking a Project Manager for the Project.

**Scope of Assignment**

The main objective of the Project Manager (PM) position is to manage and coordinate all preparatory activities associated with the PPA for FSMCRRP, through the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTC&I).

**Duration of the Assignment and Estimated Time Input**

This is a full-time assignment that will initially be for a period of up to one year from September, 2020.. The position will be located at DTC&I in the Program Management Unit (PMU), and office space, general office supplies and office equipment will be provided. DTC&I now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (attach curriculum vitae with description of experience in similar assignments, similar conditions, etc. and the details of two references). Firms' staff may express interest through the employing firm for the assignment and, under such situation, only the experience and qualifications of individuals shall be considered in the selection process.

**The criteria for selecting the Consultant are:  
Mandatory**

- 15 years' experience, 5 of which as a Project Manager/Team Lead in similar assignments, which should include assignments in the road transportation sector;
- Experience in developing countries;
- Experience managing donor-funded projects and working with development partners, such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, USAID;
- A university degree in civil engineering, environmental sciences, transportation economics, or other relevant fields, is required;

**Desirable**

- Experience on the planning and design of climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Specific experience in small island developing states.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: [www.tci.gov.fm](http://www.tci.gov.fm).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **Friday, July 24th, 2020**.

Robert Goodwin,  
Program Manager  
Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DoTC&I)  
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)  
Tel: (+691) 320 2080  
Email: [rsgoodwin@hotmail.com](mailto:rsgoodwin@hotmail.com)  
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**TRA issues individual  
operating license for Kacific  
to provide telecommunications  
services in FSM**

The Telecommunication Regulation Authority (TRA) has issued an individual operating license to the Kacific Broadband Satellites Group to provide satellite based internet services to the people and businesses in the FSM..

Kacific is a satellite operator providing a high-speed broadband internet service in the South East Asia and Pacific Islands regions

The TRA chief executive Takuro Akinaga stated "the role of TRA is to support an environment that encourages the entry of new telecommunications operators into the FSM. While it is early days we are pleased to see that investors both locally and internationally have been showing interest in providing services in the FSM".

The other licensed operators in the FSM are FSM Telecommunications Corporation (the FSM's incumbent provider of telecommunication services to the public), the FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation (commonly referred to as the OAE, which invests in and oversees the FSM's critical telecommunications infrastructure), and Boom! Inc. which was recently issued a license to offer internet services in Yap.

Mr. Akinaga also noted that Congress had approved on Tuesday April 21st a World bank grant which would see significant investment by the OAE into bringing fibre to the home for the main islands of the FSM, enhanced outer island connectivity by satellite and the development of E-government services designed to enable all citizens to access Government services easily and more quickly.

"The Government decision to invest in a modern open-access telecommunications network will assist the work of the TRA. It demonstrates the priority the Government is placing on connecting citizens. We hope that the Government investment into the open-access telecommunications network will encourage sustainable competition for retail telecommunication services across the FSM. This will provide the people of the FSM with a choice of providers. When this happens the benefits of competition will become noticeable" Mr. Akinaga said.

Mr. Akinaga noted that the aim of new investment, competition and the work of the TRA is to provide the people of the FSM with affordable, reliable and fast telecommunication services. Mr. Akinaga said "Achieving this will deliver real benefits for the economy, for the delivery and quality of core Government services like health and education as well as providing citizens with better and more affordable connectivity".

Details of the license are available at <http://tra.fm/public-register-of-licences/>

For further details, contact Takuro Akinaga:

- Email: [takuro.akinaga@tra.fm](mailto:takuro.akinaga@tra.fm)
- Phone: (691) 320 2812

**...Land Grant Sea Cucumbers 2**

*Continued from page 4*

"How can anyone make money if they have to pay \$25,000 every year before they've invested a cent?"

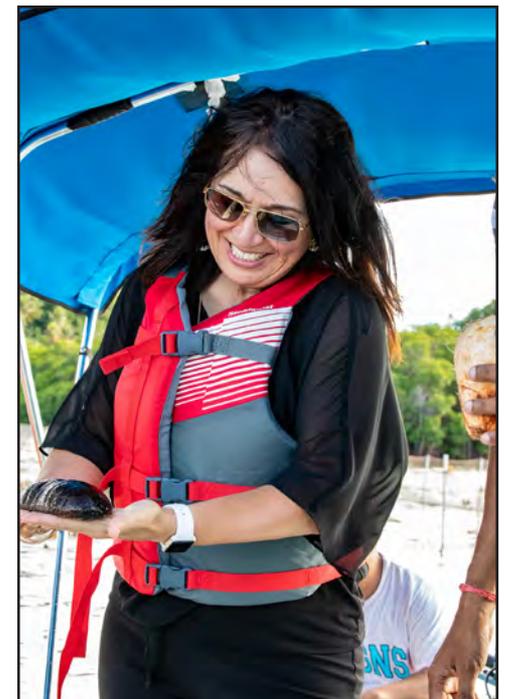
He told Ambassador Cantor that when he's previously asked about the requirement it has been explained to him that the \$25,000 is only payable by foreign investors. If that is the case, then the wording of the law needs to be changed. It currently does not make that distinction and locals are not clamoring to get involved in sustainable sea cucumber aquaculture because of the expense.

Ambassador Cantor will tour the hatchery facility at Nett Point next Wednesday. It's good timing for her to see the operation because last Monday the sea cucumbers spawned and there are millions of sea cucumbers there in the first stage of their lives. Most will not survive.

On a previous tour of the Nett hatchery facility, Dr. Nair shined a flashlight into pools where I could see tiny flecks that looked like grains of sand on the bottom of the pool. It's the larval stage. The stage at which some sea cucumber farmers dump the larva into the ocean and then make the claim that they have "farmed millions of sea cucumbers". Most time their motivation for doing so is in order to support a harvest of full grown, harvest size sea cucumbers.

But Dr. Nair said that even in the highly controlled and monitored environment of the hatchery, only a small percentage of the larva survive to a size big enough to be moved to the nursery that is also carefully monitored. Many die there and never make it to the larger farm in order to reach marketable size which takes two to three years from egg fertilization to full size.

The Land Grant Sea Cucumber project has made big advancements since it began and Dr. Nair hopes that the regulatory environment will change sufficiently to encourage locals to get involved. It's why the project exists in the first place.



# Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Chairman expresses gratitude to partners, members, and volunteers as it gears to 3rd wave activities in response to COVID-19

Alvie B. Cabañez  
Kaselehlie Press Volunteer Contributor

Chairman Peterson Sam, the Pohnpei State-RCCE chairperson, who is also the Commissioner, Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation, expresses gratitude to the partners, members, and volunteers who are actively involved in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response.

One of the important lessons learned in recent major public health emergencies or disease outbreaks is that Risk Communication and Community

Engagement (RCCE) has always been integral to the successes of all responses. A clear and integrated Risk Communication and Community Engagement strategy and response is vital for community uptake of essential public health interventions to prevent and control the spread of any diseases, to date, the Novel-Coronavirus (COVID-19). This strategy has been implemented by the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRSC) along with its dedicated youth volunteers over the past three months.

"I can never thank the partners and members of RCCE enough for appointing me as Chairman. In this unprecedented time, I am eternally grateful to the dedicated youth volunteers who stormed their way to the different communities just to deliver messages against the virus," said Chairman Sam. "I would ask each household to pay respect and welcome the outreach people. They are there to deliver health awareness messages to help deal with the virus," he continued.

"We concluded our house to house activities on the 7 Steps to Prevent the Spread of the Virus all over the islands of Pohnpei including Pakin Island," said Marson Rosario, Communication and Dissemination Officer, MRSC. "We met different people, relatives that we haven't met before, the volunteers were really interested in the work, seeing their efforts and sharing their time—even if we had to walk under the heat of the sun trying to reach the villages, going up the hill, crossing the rivers and seas, traversing on loose rocks and muddy trails. I would like to let the volunteers know that they made a difference in the community. They made a big impact to the community in response to the pandemic," Marson narrated.

"It is sad to know that there are still people who do not know about the pandemic," said Morgan Y. David, Disaster & Risk Management Officer, MRSC. Information dissemination to some remote communities was a bit challenging as there appeared to be



limited prior notification to some of those communities by the local municipalities," he indicated.

Going forward, the RCCE chairman indicated that his team's next priority is to focus more on raising public awareness about people adhering to social or physical distancing guidelines. He explained that the physical distancing measure of people maintaining at least 6 feet away from others would most likely reduce contact with any infected person and contaminated surfaces, while encouraging virtual social connection with families and communities. The public awareness campaign on social and physical distancing is expected to be accompanied by distributing booklets containing prevention measures about the virus, and social and physical distancing protocols.

"People should take the COVID-19 threat seriously. Physical distancing needs to be strengthened especially in gatherings like funerals and sakau bars. If we are not paying attention to what is actually going on and we're just kind of opening things up, if ever the virus is here, the virus will spread and a lot of people will get sick in our own community," said Chairman Sam.

Finally, Chairman Sam acknowledged the huge funding and technical assistance offered to RCCE activities by the Government of Japan, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Federated States of Micronesia Telecommunications (FSMTC) in partnership with state and municipal governments.




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**Yap State Government**  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Office of Planning and Budget  
Project Management Office

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Colonia Wellness Center Furniture**  
**RFP NO. 2020-003**

The Yap State Office of Planning and Budget/ Project Management Office (PMO) is soliciting proposals for the supply of Furniture for the Colonia Wellness Center Project, to be received until 4:00 p.m. on August 17, 2020, local Yap time. Interested parties are requested to get in touch with the undersigned on the contact details listed below for the List of Furnitures.

Arch. Samuel E. Luzano,  
Project Manager- PMO  
YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970  
Colonia, Yap State FM 96943  
Tel. Nos. (691) 350-2324/2576  
E-mail: pmo@yapstategov.org

# MCT and CSP document dredge and illegal dump sites from Pohnpei's main road

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

July 9, 2020

**Pohnpei**—Micronesia Conservation Trust and Conservation Society of Pohnpei today released maps of what they called a “quick assessment” of dredge and illegal dumpsites in Pohnpei. The assessment was only from the main road and didn't include secondary roads.

During that quick trip they found six active and 28 inactive dredge sites. They concluded that for every two miles around Pohnpei there are areas that either are currently being dredged or have been dredged. Governor Reed Oliver has directed the Environmental Protection Agency to shut down any dredge site that is operating without a silt guard which is required.

If the number of dredge sites isn't surprising enough, perhaps the number of illegal dump sites the team documented will be. The team documented the GPS coordinates of 104 dumpsites. Some of the dumpsites were so close together that they shared the same GPS coordinates so there are actually more than 104 illegal dumpsites that can be seen just from the main road. Those dumpsites don't include all of the many rivers where people discard trash.

Usually by the time an infant reaches 4 months it has learned the concept of object permanence. It begins to understand that a person or an object doesn't cease to exist just because they can't see it. Unfortunately, if the illegal dump sites are any evidence, that concept hasn't sunk in regarding discarded trash in Pohnpei.

Dredged Sites in Pohnpei as of July 06, 2020



**Legend**  
Dredged Area and Road Excavation ID  
▲ Active  
▲ Inactive  
▲ Sapwalap Road Excavation  
— Municipal Boundary

**CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF PohnPEI**  
Preserving Our Natural Heritage for a Sustainable Future  
**Active Dredge Area= 6 sites**  
**Ininactive Dredge Area= 28 sites**  
**Road Excavation= 1 site**

Roadside Illegal Dumping Areas



**Legend**  
● Illegal Dump Site  
— Municipal Boundary

**MICRONESIA CONSERVATION TRUST**

**CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF PohnPEI**  
Preserving Our Natural Heritage for a Sustainable Future

Important notice for preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

## Avoid the “Three Cs”!

- 1. Closed spaces** with poor ventilation.
- 2. Crowded places** with many people nearby.
- 3. Close-contact settings** such as close-range conversations.

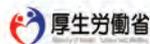


One of the key measures against COVID-19 is to prevent occurrence of clusters. Keep these “Three Cs” from overlapping in daily life.



The risk of occurrence of clusters is particularly high when the “Three Cs” overlap!

In addition to the “Three Cs,” items used by multiple people should be cleaned with disinfectant.



MHLW COVID-19 Search



# Biohazard bags unwittingly used for lawn and leaf storage

By *Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

July 10, 2020

**Pohnpei**—Just over a week ago the Infection Prevention and Control Training Team of the FSM Department of Health conducted a training series at the Pohnpei State Hospital that included proper disposal of medical waste products. Questioning the trainees on what color bag should be used for biohazard waste: waste that is contaminated with blood or body fluids, one nurse responded that in her ward they used regular black bags because they had no red biohazard bags. However, last week the trainers reported to Lisa Barrow, a member of the Infection Prevention and Control training team, that the contractor who had been hired to do grass cutting and clearing in Kolonia Town's easements seemed to have plenty of them and they were using them to dispose of grass and leaves.

It was an accident that the contractor ended up with the biohazard bags, which had been stored at a warehouse in Dekehtik they had also previously been contracted to clean. Somehow, rather than the bags being placed in side-rooms of the warehouse where items were to be

kept, they were in the center of the room with items that were to be discarded. It seems to have been purely accidental, but the accident brought about a matter of public education that Barrow thought it was important to share with the public.

“Contaminated waste must be labelled as ‘biohazard’ and placed in red, yellow or orange bags with the biohazard symbol,” she said. “Especially in ‘Corona times’ it is really important that waste is labelled and handled correctly and that biohazard waste is either sterilized or incinerated.” Hazardous waste should always be properly handled and biohazard bags should never end up in the landfill. Likewise, biohazardous material should never be stored in bags that don’t identify it as such. Untrained people should never handle it and the public should be aware of what the biohazard symbol is so that they can avoid it if they come across it.

Biohazard bags are specialized bags that all feature the recognizable biohazard symbol. They generally have special closure systems and many are of a specialized material which allows them to be placed in an autoclave without melting. An autoclave uses high temperature steam to sterilize medical equipment that would melt many plastics. The specialty features of the bags means they tend to cost more than regular trash bags, sometimes a lot more. But more importantly, the biohazard sign on a brightly colored bag tells people who are dealing with them that they need special treatment. That most often means that



the whole bag and its contents should be incinerated.



Biohazard waste stored in a regular trash bag is not identifiable as hazardous and could spread disease if dumped in a regular garbage receptacle or discarded at the landfill. A biohazard bag seen in the landfill should be cause for alarm and should be reported. The fact that those bags were used for grass and that they will ultimately end up in the landfill dilutes the alarm those bags should cause when they are seen out of place.

It is not uncommon for some people to wade through the landfill pit in Dekehtik looking for ‘treasures’, a dangerous pastime whether medical waste is present or not. If medical waste is present, whether accidental or not, the practice is much more dangerous.

# THE VITAL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

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*The Vital Annual Scholarship is a \$25,000.00 Annual Scholarship Program funded by the Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation and administered by the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc. Its aim is to support FSM citizens pursuing post secondary education in fields like agriculture & engineering that are consistent with Vital's business interests and needs. The deadline to apply is July 31, 2020.*

# Australian Government provides funds to establish Pohnpei Domestic Violence Hotline

## *Australian Embassy to the FSM*

On July 9, 2020, a short ceremony was held at the Pohnpei State Governor's Office for a cheque presentation by Australian Embassy Charge d'Affaires, Ms. Vy Duong, to Governor Reed B. Oliver and Pohnpei State Women's Interest officer Ms. Lululeen Santos to fund the newly established Domestic Violence Hotline.

The payment will allow Pohnpei State's first free 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline to provide support and services for anyone experiencing gender-based violence (GBV), child abuse, and senior citizen or disabled persons abuse. Statistics in the Pacific show that lockdowns, quarantine, school shutdowns and other COVID-19 pandemic responses, including those resulting in financial hardship such as job insecurity, increase rates of violence

within families and communities. The Honourable Governor Reed B. Oliver in his remarks said "we want to ensure that we are taking special measures for these vulnerable groups and keeping them safe, not just from the virus, but also from the silent pandemic of gender-based violence".

The Domestic Violence hotline will be housed at the Pohnpei State Social Affairs Office and operated by Ms. Lululeen Santos and other certified GBV counsellors. Phone Counselling Training and hotline procedures will be provided and developed with the support of the FSM Department of Health and Social Services through an Australian funded Family Protection Adviser, Mrs. Sonali Owens, and members of the FSM Social Protection Cluster that consist of other partners and donors that include UNICEF, SPC, UNDP, IOM, and FSM DOJ.

Charge d'Affaires Ms. Vy Duong emphasized in her remarks her gratitude to Governor Reed B. Oliver and Lt. Governor Feliciano Perman for allowing Australia to take part in such a historic moment, "to collectively break the silence associated with domestic violence, and open a pathway for the voices of victims and survivors - because this hotline is more than a hotline, it will be a lifeline for those in desperate need".

Australia is one of FSM's oldest partners. In addition to providing scholarships, funding community development projects through its Direct Aid Program (DAP), and supporting FSM's education

sector through the Improvement of the Quality of Basic Education (IQBE) Project, gender equality through the elimination of violence against women has always been one of Australia's key priorities in the FSM (and the Pacific). Through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program, Australia works with FSM to improve the political, economic, and social opportunities of women in the Pacific. Examples of this support include the establishment of Chuuk Women's Council Tongen Inepwineu Counseling Center and the GBV counselling training of Ms. Lululeen Santos at the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Regional Training Program.



## World Bank strengthens partnership with the FSM

**New agreement will lead to an increased presence, improved support, and greater engagement throughout the North Pacific region**

### *World Bank*

*July 3, 2020*

**POHNPEI** – The government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has signed a new partnership agreement with the World Bank.

The Establishment Agreement paves the way for an increased presence by the World Bank in the North Pacific, through the planned opening of a dedicated sub-regional office in the FSM capital, Pohnpei in 2021 that will support World Bank engagement in FSM, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

The agreement comes as the World Bank's engagement in FSM and the neighboring Marshall Islands undergoes considerable growth: from zero projects or commitments in 2014 to approximately US\$472 million in active and pipeline projects across the North Pacific countries.

FSM's Secretary of Finance, the Hon. Eugene Amor, said the increased presence in the region will help strengthen the relationship and address the critical development challenges of the FSM including in the areas of energy and communications (ICT) – such as the FSM Connectivity and recently-announced Digital Federated States of Micronesia projects and maritime infrastructure – which are helping to connect one of the most geographically-isolated countries on earth.

"We are excited to strengthen our cooperation with the World Bank in the FSM," said Secretary Amor. "We look forward to expanding our partnership into other transformational sectors that will be essential to our States' development.

"The World Bank has been steadily growing its presence throughout the Pacific over the past four years – with a quadrupling of our commitments to the Pacific and PNG, together with the opening of a new South Pacific hub in Suva, and significantly growing presence in capitals including Port Moresby, Honiara, Port Vila and Nuku'alofa, among others," said Michel Kerf, Country Director for the World Bank in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

"This agreement paves the way for a stronger World Bank presence in FSM and the wider North Pacific. Ultimately, this will deliver bigger impacts in tackling many of the most significant development challenges facing FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau," said Mr Kerf.

The World Bank works in partnership with 12 countries across the Pacific, supporting 85 projects totaling US\$1.8 billion in commitments in sectors including agriculture, aviation and transport, climate resilience and adaptation, economic policy, education and employment, energy, fisheries, health, macroeconomic management, rural development, telecommunications and tourism.

**Due to the coronavirus, we are extending the deadline to July 31 to apply for the Rotary Scholarship and Vital Scholarship for college and post secondary students.**

**Thank you!**

## Letter to the Editor

### This message is an appeal to the FSM and the States leaderships on behalf of the MiCare residents of Pohnpei who have been stranded in Guam for four months and counting.

Greetings Esteem FSM Leaders  
I am reaching out to you on behalf of your citizens and stranded MiCare patients in Guam. Before I dive into the content of the messages, I would like to convey our respects and gratitude for your continued assistance.

Having said that, I want to let you know that all your fellow citizens and patients have ran out of their important maintenance medications after the first month of living in frustration in Guam away from families and the comfort of homes.

A follow up request is: Is there a way to waive or amend the MiCare policy to allow stranded patients to access and obtain their very needed maintenance medicines during this unique and challenging period? Your people and patients need help during this trying times. We need these medicines to support and strengthen our immune system to fight against diseases, such as the COVID-19. When we don't have our hypertension, diabetic medicines to name a few, we know that we are susceptible to acquiring diseases. A minor flu that any healthy person immune system can easily tolerate is a major concern to these patients with pre-existing conditions. Further if our stay is prolonged and no medicines to mitigate or reduce these effects of these diseases our health conditions will continue to deteriorate, be compounded and may possibly lead to unfortunate consequences. So again, is there any possible ways that you can help us for our coverage?

Second, nobody among us wanted to stay any longer in Guam. To us, every delayed of a second, a minutes, an hours, a day, a week and an additional months is a matter of death. We are living among the population that is infected of the coronary-19.

On our parts, we have done what you may required from us so you can bring us home. We have isolate

ourselves, do social distancing, wear face coverings and wash our hands to protect us from the pandemic. We are living in a very difficult living conditions out here in Guam. For example, paying for what is considered to be very cheap such as buying a one dollar and twenty five cents mask on a daily basis is a big drain on our limited budget. Add that to hand sanitizers, hand washing soaps, our food and basic need is expensive and a daily burden that is negatively impacting our physical and emotional health.

Yes, we heard good news of conferences, meetings, planning and preparations and yet it's been four months of planning, and more plannings and exercises that seemed to be perpetual and indefinite.

As you may be aware, the coronavirus is now trending up here on Guam. Our collective concern and honesty our fear and frustrations is that the longer you leave us out here and subject us to these difficult conditions the probably or chances of one of us getting the virus increases. I do not want to even think about a lonely isolation or confinement death but this can happen as our stay is extended to a month, to another yet we continue to hear that the FSM is still in preparation mode.

The Palauans here in Guam whom we stayed together in the hospitals in the Philippines have left and safely reached home.

For us, we can only say goodbye to them and wonder what is happening in our beloved FSM and to our great thinkers and leaders.

We have done our parts and continued to dreams and pray that one day, not too distant in the future, our FSM and state leaders will come together and make their refined plans turn into reality and bring us home. Because the longer you subject us to these unthinkable circumstances anything unpleasant can happen to anyone of us. We can't wait any longer for a good real-firm decision to be made and to tell us, YES, you are not forgotten and we will bring you home on a specific date. Thank you.

With respect,

*Faustino Yarofaisug*



### Trade Policy Officer (WTO & UN)

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 Trade Policy Officer (WTO & UN) to join the team in Geneva. The Trade Policy Officer will be responsible to the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat's Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organisation (WTO and United Nations) in Geneva. The Officer will assist in providing technical support and advice to Forum Island Countries (FICs) on issues relating to WTO negotiations, as well as on trade issues in trade-related international institutions based in Geneva. To facilitate the above, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Responding quickly and effectively to requests from the Permanent Representative, FICs and Forum Secretariat Senior Management for the provision of advice, correspondence, briefings, media statements and reporting on issues related to WTO negotiations;
- Coordinating and organising attendance and representation at

## Vacancies

meetings, workshops and training seminars on issues related to WTO negotiations, including preparation of meeting and workshop papers and briefings;

- Providing services and technical advice, either directly or through consultants, development partners or other counterparts and represent FICs in WTO and trade-related institutions in Geneva; and
- Providing policy and technical advice and coordinate representation in non-trade priority areas, as directed by the Permanent Representative.

The Secretariat seeks a strategic and proficient individual with a university bachelor's degree in Economics, Finance or international trade (a postgraduate degree, would be desirable, specializing in international economics or economic development issues and Diploma in WTO Trade Policy and/or successful completion of WTO internship program). The candidate to possess sound relevant substantial work experience dealing with international trade, trade policy, WTO issues and economic research in the Forum Island Countries or in a similar environment.

### The Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. Salary for the Trade Policy Officer (WTO & UN) position depends on qualifications and experience. Paid in Euro dollars, this range is within an adjusted base salary of SDR37,144 to SDR47,147. At the 1st June 2020 exchange rates, this was equivalent to FJD113,486 to FJD144,048 per annum. This salary is also dependent on foreign exchange rates at the time of payment. 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](http://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), 31 July 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.

## Per Public Law 21-76, one-time-use disposable styrofoam & plastic food service items prohibited from importation into the FSM beginning July 1st, 2020; such items already in the FSM can still be used

### FSM Information Services

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On June 30th, 2020 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), signed emergency regulations governing the prohibition on the importation of one-time-use disposable Styrofoam, plastic food service items, and plastic shopping bags. Per Public Law 21-76, it shall be unlawful for these goods to be imported into the FSM from July 1st, 2020. However, this law and its regulations do NOT make it unlawful for stocks of these items already in the country to be used unless a given FSM State already has applicable laws regarding such.

The importation of the following items is now prohibited: one-time-use disposable Styrofoam; plastic disposable straws; plastic food service items, including plastic cups that are not reusable; and plastic shopping bags. Goods that are prohibited from importation shall be subject to seizure.

Not all one-time-use plastic items are banned in Public Law 21-76, some of which it is the intention of the FSM National Government to keep as exempted categories and others of which it is the intention of the Executive Branch to collaborate with the 21st FSM Congress to eventually prohibit.

An example of products that are NOT prohibited from importation, with the intention to keep exempt, include produce bags (i.e. the plastic bags intended to keep meat, fish, fruit, and vegetables fresh and separate from other grocery items). The importer has the burden of proving that products being imported are exempted.

An example of products that are NOT prohibited from importation, but the Executive Branch intends to make prohibited before the conclusion of the

Panuelo-George administration, are one-time-use plastic water bottles.

“Public Law 21-76 makes it unlawful to import Styrofoam and one-time-use plastic items,” President Panuelo said in a statement. “Starting July 1st, 2020, no person or organization can bring one-time-use Styrofoam, plastic straws, plastic food service items like cups, plates, and cutlery, or shopping bags into the FSM. But if your business still has some of these in stock or being sold or otherwise used, this National law does not stop you from using these items or from selling them. The FSM’s States have jurisdiction over their use within their borders.”

The President further repeated his comments from February 2020, when Public Law 21-76 was adopted. “The intention of the law is to keep our Nation clean and free of non-biodegradable objects that harm our environment and way of life. I encourage all citizens to be stewards of our islands. We are, each of us, guardians of our environment. It should be taught in schools, in community houses, and in homes that our actions as individuals affect our broader society, and each of us has the responsibility to keep our homes and our islands clean,” the President said.

Emergency regulations are only lawful for up to one hundred and twenty (120) days, and must be superseded by permanent regulations that are subject to public scrutiny and review prior to their adoption. The FSM National Government invites the Nation’s citizens to comment in writing on the emergency regulations, and may do so by addressing the Honorable Andrew Yatilman, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management. The emergency regulations may be found here: [https://gov.fm/files/Plastic\\_Regulation.pdf](https://gov.fm/files/Plastic_Regulation.pdf)



FSM President David W. Panuelo signs the emergency regulations

## The Pacific region launches Health Care on Air to support front-line healthcare workers during COVID-19 response

**Suva, 6 July 2020** – Today, the Pacific governments, together with partners including UNICEF and the Governments of the United States, New Zealand and Japan, launched the Health Care on Air Pacific training to be aired on radio and other communication platforms for front-line healthcare workers across 14 countries: Fiji, Cook Islands, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Tuvalu, Niue, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Republic of Marshall Islands and Tokelau.

“The global spread of COVID-19 to countries and territories indicates that “a risk somewhere is a risk anywhere” and as a global village, the increasing incidence of the disease in some countries around the world is a threat to the entire Pacific. Our development partners had stood alongside us during the assault of the pandemic. Let us embrace this new development by protecting the children of our nations through empowering our front-line healthcare workers during this difficult time,” said Fiji’s Hon. Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete, who launched the training on behalf of the 14 Pacific Island countries.

One of the greatest challenges currently facing healthcare systems in the Pacific is how to provide front-line healthcare workers with training on managing COVID-19 infections when they arise, while continuing to deliver quality essential health services to the most remote and hard to reach populations.

“The majority of nurses and midwives in the Pacific are located in remote rural areas and outer islands, which means they often miss out on regular trainings and updates. These front-line health workers provide services to more than two million people, including children, across the region, and need to be equipped with the most up-to-date health knowledge and skills to deliver the best services to these communities,” said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett.

“This great radio program highlights the strong commitment to the region by the government of the United States of America in both preventing the spread of this deadly and costly virus, containing it where it is, assisting in its mitigation, and more importantly, helping build a more stable and secure future for the Pacific islands,” stated U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Joseph Cella.

More than 5,000 Pacific front-line

healthcare workers will now benefit from this first ever regional training, with support from WHO and the Pacific Community, to enhance the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to protect themselves and deliver the best quality services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Now more than ever we need to work together as one region, sharing our skills and expertise and supporting each other to respond to, and recover from, the impacts of the global pandemic. This initiative brings together multiple partners, donors and skilled technical experts and will go a long way in sharing knowledge, learnings and building capacity across the region,” said New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji, Jonathan Curr.

The training will be aired over a period of six months with a total of 33 broadcasts of 30-minutes each that aim to support governments to connect practicing nurses and midwives with the opportunity to learn, share information, and incorporate new WHO guidance on COVID-19.

Participating front-line healthcare workers will also have the opportunity to ask questions for future episodes, share learning needs and receive episode summaries through UNICEF’s RapidPro platform, which is a two-way communication system that works with free SMS and messaging apps from smartphones.

“Health Care on Air Pacific will provide frontline health workers in the Pacific with the precious knowledge, skills and confidence in a constructive and meaningful way. This is like a Pacific shield against COVID-19, in the making. I am delighted to see that Governments of Pacific Island countries and development partners including Japan, the United States, New Zealand, and UNICEF are uniting our collective strength in keeping the Pacific safe from COVID-19,” said Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, H.E. Omura Masahiro.

The teaching and learning methodology developed for Health Care on Air Pacific will also be included in the national nursing accreditation systems for in-service professional development.

Follow the UNICEF Pacific social media pages for more updates on broadcasting schedules.

# Micronesia Conservation Trust congratulates 2020 BRMC Graduate

## Micronesia Conservation Trust

The Micronesia Conservation Trust and partners of the Micronesia Challenge (MC) are proud to announce and congratulate the fourth student to complete her graduate program as a recipient of the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship.

The Bill Raynor Micronesia

Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship Program was inspired by William (Bill) Charles Raynor (Feb. 22nd, 1957-Sept. 1st, 2015), one of Micronesia's lead conservation pioneers. He engaged in significant and meaningful conservation work in Micronesia for over 30 years. He helped to establish/strengthen several non-governmental organizations that are now leading conservation and sustainable development efforts in

Micronesia. He supported and mentored emerging environmental leaders who have the passion and the potential to continue the conservation initiatives and maintain the Micronesia Challenge commitment, which he was instrumental in establishing. His initial contributions to the BRMC now allows two students from the region each year to be supported in their graduate education. The scholarship fund aims to contribute to the development of effective conservation of Micronesia's biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods across the region.

Last year, Ms. Jovalyn Llong Koshiba, a Palauan citizen, was one amongst the 3 students awarded the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship to complete their graduate studies. In Spring 2020, she completed her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Chaminade University of Honolulu (CUH), Hawaii. Over the course of her academic year, she successfully balanced her full-time job at the Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN) Fund with being a full-time graduate student.

Ms. Koshiba will continue to work for Palau PAN Fund as a Grants Program Officer, overseeing various grants management activities, the marketing and communications strategy for the organization, and engagement with partners and stakeholders. Her passion and hope are to contribute to the achievement of the MC and to explore other innovative ways to establish a robust sustainable financing mechanism for the Palau PAN.



# Smaller Island States Attachment Programme signed between Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Pacific Tourism Organisation

07 July 2020

**PIFS HQ, SUVA:** Officials from Pacific Smaller Island States will continue to benefit from training attachments inside regional organisations under an agreement signed yesterday.

To support the implementation and monitoring of the Smaller Islands States Regional Strategy, a training attachment programme agreement for officials from Pacific small islands states was signed between the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor, and Chief Executive Officer of SPTO, Christopher Cocker led the signing formalities. The Pacific Tourism Organisation will begin its attachments later this year.

"Public sector officials gain practical, customised results from their attachments with regional counterparts - the benefits are clear," says Dame Meg Taylor.

"The attachment program provides an innovative, island-led solution for smaller island nations to identify what is needed to lead implementation of regional agreements at the national level and be part of the monitoring and evaluation of results. We are very grateful to the donors whose contributions continue to support capacity building throughout our region. This SIS initiative has been made possible with the support of Taiwan/ Republic of China."

"The SIS are a very important part of SPTO's membership. Aside from benefitting them, this programme reinforces SPTO's commitment to innovative partnerships, cooperation, and sustainable tourism development," added CEO of SPTO, Mr Christopher Cocker.

The programme is intended to strengthen capacity in smaller island Forum members through practical learning inside regional organisations. The attachments also help Pacific regional organisations to collaborate on customised training needs for individual officials.

The signing marks three years since Pacific regional organisations launched the initiative for short term training attachments for nationals of Smaller Island States to Pacific organisations.

Smaller Island State Leaders recognise capacity building for officials will help with implementation and monitoring of their Regional Strategy 2016-2020 and other initiatives at the national level.

Other participating regional agencies in the attachment programme include the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Pacific Power Association.

Smaller Island States are eight Forum member countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu.

Yap State Government  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Office of Planning and Budget  
Project Management Office

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Colonia Wellness Center Gym Equipment RFP NO. 2020-002

The Yap State Office of Planning and Budget/ Project Management Office (PMO) is soliciting proposals for the supply of Gym Equipment for the Colonia Wellness Center Project, to be received until 4:00 p.m. on August 3, 2020, local Yap time. Interested parties are requested to get in touch with the undersigned on the contact details listed below for the List of Gym Equipment.

Arch. Samuel E. Luzano,  
Project Manager- PMO  
YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970  
Colonia, Yap State FM 96943  
Tel. Nos. (691) 350-2324/2576  
E-mail: pmo@yapstategov.org

# Opinion Editorial

## COVID-19 and Japan's responses: 3Cs and others

It is pleasing to note that due to the efforts of the National and State Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the cooperation from their people, the FSM is free of COVID-19, at the time when I am writing this article.

I have had the privilege of attending the National COVID-19 Taskforce meetings chaired by the Hon. Livingston Taulung, the FSM's Secretary of Health and Social Affairs, as a partner of the FSM.

There in the Taskforce I have explained Japan's cooperation to the FSM to fight COVID-19 as well as Japan's experience in fighting COVID-19 including the lessons learned.

The following is my summary of Japan's experience.

Shown here are the data and a graph uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. I wrote this summary based on the remarks and explanations of the Japanese Government officials and the Members of the Government Advisory Panel on COVID-19.

When Japan found first cases of COVID-19, the Government advised the people to protect themselves by handwashing and wearing masks, to begin with, among other measures.

After finding that group infection of COVID-19 occurred on the 3Cs condition, i.e. (1) closed space with poor ventilation, (2) crowded people and (3) close-contact setting where the people there talk, sing or chant within a short distance, the Government warned the people to avoid the 3Cs as an important measure of social distancing (Please have a look at the Important Notice 'Avoid the "Three Cs"!').

Japan began restricting visitors from Hubei Province, China, on February 1 (the 1st wave), but it remained open to travelers from Italy, Germany, France, and other European and other countries (resulting in the 2nd wave) until March 27. It banned the entry from the United States, the United Kingdom, among others, and all Provinces of China on April 3.

With the sharp increases of cases of COVID-19, Japan declared the State of Emergency on April 7.

Then the Government requested the people to stay home in principle, refraining from going out as much as possible.

The Governors of the 47 Prefectures requested certain categories of facilities to close, while maintaining essential services.

The purpose of the State of Emergency was to reduce the people-to-people contacts preferably by 80 %, throughout Japan.

In a number of places that was achieved.

As a result, the number of the new infections decreased significantly, and the State of Emergency was lifted on May 25.

In Japan, as of 00:00 am of June 25, the total number of people infected with COVID-19 was 18,110, the number of dead was 968, and that of having recovered was 16,320, (Please refer to the table of "Confirmed cases in Japan" and the graph of "The trend of No. of confirmed cases"). These numbers are much smaller than those of the United States and many European countries.

A number of reasons have been suggested for Japan's relatively small

numbers of infections and deaths.

Those most widely pointed out include:

- Easy access to medical care under the national health insurance system.
- Generally high quality of medical care, even in rural areas, with hospitals supported by a national network of local public health centers (Hokenjo).
- The Japanese people's high standard of hygiene, willingness to follow the Government requests, and other cultural traits and lifestyle habits.

At the same time, two important factors seem to have not received due attention. They are:

- Early detection of transmission waves.
- Cluster-based approach.

As for Japan's cluster-based approach, it should be emphasized that it adopted the retrospective tracing which only few countries and territories have been doing, in addition to the prospective tracing which many other countries have been doing.

The prospective tracing is the method where, beginning with newly confirmed cases, close contacts are identified and monitored for symptoms.

The retrospective tracing is the method where, in

addition to the prospective tracing, past activities of multiple infected people are investigated in order to identify common sources of infection.

Now activities are coming back in Japan. Almost all facilities are allowed to open again.

The Government still advises the people, however, to get used to the new lifestyle, assuming the existence of Corona Virus: the New Normal with Corona, by such means as continuing to avoid the 3Cs, wearing masks when they go out, and washing hands as soon as they return home.

I sincerely hope that Japan's experience will be widely shared in the FSM and other countries and territories, and help them win the fight against COVID-19.

*Sobashima Hidenobu,  
Ambassador of Japan  
to the Federated States of Micronesia*

### Confirmed cases in Japan

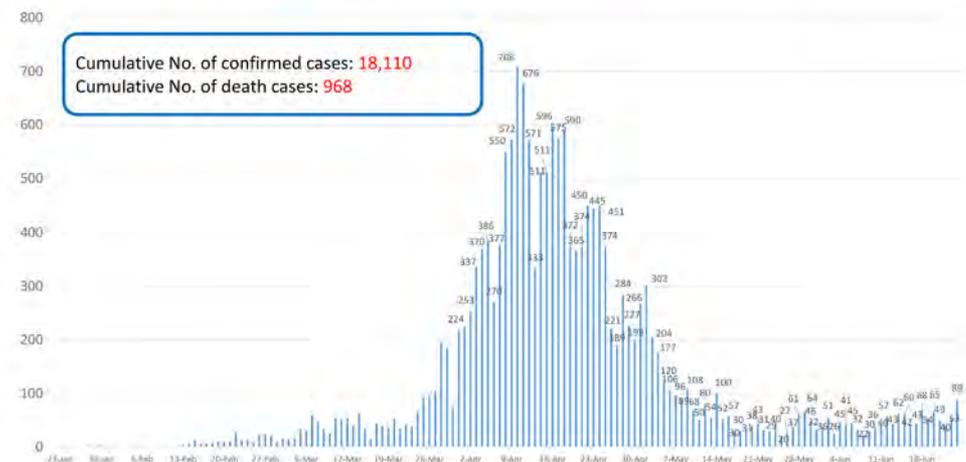
As of 0AM, Jun 25, 2020

	PCR tested	PCR tested Positive	Need Inpatient treatment		Discharge or end of medical treatment	Death	Under Confirmation
				Critically Ill			
Domestic cases (excluding returnees by Chartered flights)	365,927 (+4,979)	17,802 (+89)	713 (+15)	58 (-2)	16,116 (+58)	967 (+4)	10 (+2)
Airport quarantine	68,739 (+1,035)	293 (+7)	103 (+7)	0	189	1 (+1)	0
Returnees by chartered flights	829	15	0	0	15	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>435,495 (+6,014)</b>	<b>18,110 (+96)</b>	<b>816 (+22)</b>	<b>58 (-2)</b>	<b>16,320 (+58)</b>	<b>968 (+5)</b>	<b>10 (+2)</b>

The number in parentheses indicates the change from the previous day.

### The trend of No. of confirmed cases

As of 0 AM, June 25, 2020



**UNIQUE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY!**



**Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) invites applications from exceptional candidates to fill the vital role of CEO of the PNA Office. The successful candidate will have superior and relevant skills and qualifications, with extensive senior management and financial management experience, a focus on good governance, and the ability to run the office in a business-like manner.

The CEO reports to the Parties through a complex governance structure that includes senior officials, Ministers, and country leaders. The CEO is responsible for leading and directing the PNA Office to deliver on the PNA Strategic Plan and the PNA Office Business Plan in accordance with principles of good governance.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Administer the PNA Office in a business-like manner with a strong emphasis on financial control and providing high level support to the Parties so they can achieve their objectives
- Participate as a member at meetings of the PNA providing high level advice and guidance to Parties, including the Chair, Senior Officials, Ministers and Leaders
- Develop and obtain agreement to:
  - o plans for commercial opportunities and investments
  - o strategic and business plans
  - o annual operating budget and work programmes
  - o policies, procedures, and legislation
- Oversee the implementation of the Vessel Day Scheme, the FSM Arrangement, the PNA Observer Agency (POA), the Pacific Program, and MSC accreditations
- Ensure the PNA Office operates in a cost-effective manner
- Build and maintain external relationships with government and private enterprise organisations
- Build and maintain relationships with the Forum Fisheries Agencies (FFA), the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
- Ensure effective collaboration and cooperation in the establishment and ongoing operations of FIMS Inc
- Answerable to PNA meetings and is directly responsible for organising meetings and progressing directions and decisions of meetings
- Implementation of the PNA Office annual budget and workplan.

**Essential Requirements:**

- Tertiary qualification in fisheries science, fisheries economics, fisheries law, fisheries management, business management, commerce or other relevant discipline, with a relevant post graduate qualification preferred
- Minimum 10 years' experience in senior management positions with proven hands-on leadership, financial management, administration, and human resource management, with extensive knowledge of the tuna industry
- Extensive experience in formulation of budgets and plans including extensive knowledge and experience in project management
- Experience and ability to communicate effectively with public and private sector leaders
- Demonstrated commitment to ethical business practices, fraud prevention, and a workplace free from harassment and discrimination
- Ability to manage and work well in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams with good analytical skills
- Ability to adapt to change with commitment and personal accountability
- Appropriate and relevant professional and technical expertise, including staying abreast of professional changes and development.

The successful applicant will be based in Majuro, Marshall Islands and will be offered a three years contract with an attractive benefits package including tax free base salary, superannuation, relocation, travel, accommodation, and education allowances. A further contract of up to three years may be offered subject to satisfactory performance.

It is the stated preference of the Parties to appoint a citizen from one of the eight PNA countries or Tokelau, however, the position is merit based and other citizens may apply.

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- (iii) name, relevant position, telephone, and email details for three current referees
- (iv) current Police clearance

If you have any questions, please call us on (+675) 7500 7500 or email us with the title "PNA Office Chief Executive Officer" to [recruitment@vanguard.com.pg](mailto:recruitment@vanguard.com.pg)

**Applications close COB Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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

**Only applicants called for interview by the Parties will be contacted.**



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# Habele Awards Scholarships, celebrates US-Micronesian partnership

*Habele*

Twenty-two students from across the four states of Micronesia were awarded tuition scholarships this week, making it possible for them to attend faith-based independent elementary and high schools in Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei.

Habele tuition scholarships are funded entirely by the individual donations of American citizens who share a love of Micronesia and the belief that high quality education can unlock the incredible personal potential of some of the world's most remote students.

Each tuition grant is set at a level that maintains family ownership in student achievement, while lightening the financial burden. Often scholarships cover between fifty and seventy-five percent of school tuition and fees. Students must maintain and report high levels of academic achievement every quarter, applying each year for continued support.

Habele is a US nonprofit established by former Peace Corps Volunteers who lived and taught in Micronesia. It first issued tuition scholarships in 2006. This year 30 individual Americans from 16 different states donated to fund the 2020-21 tuition scholarships.

Donors included former Peace Corps Volunteers, tourists who had visited Micronesia, and the sons and daughters of Americans who served in Micronesia in the US Armed Forces.

Three of the twenty-two scholarships awarded this year were memorial scholarships.

"Memorial scholarships honor the legacy of Americans whose life or work demonstrated exceptional commitment to the people of Micronesia," explained Habele's Founder, Neil Mellen "They embodied the best of the longstanding US-Micronesian partnership."

The Lee Huddleston memorial scholarship, established this year, honors the life of Lee Joseph Huddleston of Eugene, Oregon. Lee lost his life in February of 2020, rescuing a group of children caught in a rip tide while swimming off Moch island, where he was working for the Chuuk State Department of Education. Lee had also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer, teaching in Weno.

The Leona Peterson Memorial Scholarship provides tuition assistance to a young woman in elementary or high school high school attending an independent school in either Yap or Pohnpei. It honors the work of Mrs. Paterson, who led Department of Aging in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands during the late 1970s and early 80s.

The Marshall Paul Wees Memorial Scholarship is named for a US Navy doctor who served the



people of Ulithi Atoll during the War in the Pacific. Dr. Wees, working with limited supplies and assisted only by a pharmacist's aide, stamped out the terrible scourge of yaws, a debilitating disease that was ravaging the Ulithian population.

"At this time of so many challenges across the globe, I hope these modest tuition scholarships will be a subtle reminder of the deeply personal, decades long and historically unique partnership between the Micronesian and American Peoples" explained Mellen.

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