

12 charged, nine arrested on criminal charges connected with attempted export of sea cucumbers

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 2, 2020

Pohnpei—On September 1, after a lengthy delay between the issuance of arrest warrants in mid-August, State Police officers arrested 9 of 12 people charged with various crimes in connection with an attempt to export 1763.7 pounds of dried sea cucumbers allegedly illegally harvested in Pohnpei waters.

The people accused of the crimes are presumed to be innocent unless they are found to be otherwise in fair court proceedings which have not yet begun.

On July 10, Associate Justice Robert Nakasone approved a search and seizure warrant authorizing State Police to seize the container that had been at the FSCO dock awaiting export to Hong Kong. On August 13, Pohnpei State prosecutors filed three sets of criminal charges against two Chinese nationals

and 10 citizens of Pohnpei. The Court issued arrest warrants for all 12 shortly after the charges were filed.

Police investigators decided to delay making the arrests pending the outcome of their applications for additional search and seizure warrants. They waited over two weeks for a ruling from the Court on those applications and finally decided that they must proceed with the arrests without a ruling on the search warrants. While they were

making the arrests, the court granted the additional search and seizure warrants.

On Tuesday police officers arrested XIE Cuntao of Young Sun International to answer for 42 criminal charges. LI Xiangyang of Young Sun was also named in those charges but police could not make that arrest because Li is currently in China and currently unable to return.

See "Sea Cucumber" on page 6

President Panuelo signs nation-wide COVID-19 Social Distancing Decree

In this EDITION of the KPress:

President Panuelo extends appreciation to retiring Prime Minister Abe for strengthening the FSM-Japan Kizuna

Page 8

SPC trains out of work fisheries observers as port samplers to continue flow of scientific data

Page 9

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On August 25th, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), signed a Decree setting the National Standards on Social Distancing Measures during the COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency. This release will describe the details of the Decree, but the summary is that without a case of COVID-19 social distancing is encouraged (not mandated), and if/when the Nation becomes a COVID-19 country social distancing and other measures will be strictly enforced. The Decree may be found here: http://gov.fm/files/August_25_Decree_on_Social_Distancing_Measures_during_COVID-19_1.pdf

The Social Distancing Decree was requested by the 21st FSM Congress on May 30th, 2020. After consultations between the FSM COVID-19

See "Social Distancing" on page 4



President Panuelo signs the Social Distancing Decree while Vice President George, AG Gallen, Secretary Amor, and Assistant Secretary Pretrick look on

Chuuk's Premier Traveler's Destination

Reservations@l5hotel.fm (691) 330-7048/7049 www.l5hotel.fm **L5 Hotel**

Ramp & Mida Law Firm



Suite 2W Varner-Boylan Building No. 2.
Nett, Pohnpei FM 96941
Phone (691) 320-2870
www.rampmida.fm



Pacific Partnership launches human rights and social justice-themed poetry book for children

27 August 2020

Suva, Fiji – The Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) programme has launched a poetry anthology publication comprising a collection of Pacific poems and artworks about human rights and social justice suitable for students in Years 7-13.

The publication titled *Rising Tide* has been produced as part of the Pacific Partnership's Social Citizenship Education (SCE) Programme led by the Pacific Community's (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT).

Working towards implementing human rights work in schools and communities, SPC RRRT, with the support of The University of the South Pacific's (USP) Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture, and Pacific Studies (OCACPS), embarked on this project with editor, Dr Francis Mangubhai, a notable Fiji-born educator and researcher in applied linguistics to collate this poetry anthology which will be used as a teaching and learning resource for schools students and young people in the Pacific.

Acknowledging how changes occur in our Pacific communities like everywhere else in the world, the anthology is titled *Rising Tide*, due to climate change which is a social justice issue and a topic in which Pacific communities lead the world. It is also an expression that is used metaphorically

– there is a rising tide of change occurring in our societies, including changes related to equality, inclusion, and ending violence against women. Young people who will be the next generation of adults, can, through their attitudes, values and voices, contribute to this rising tide of change.

Speaking at the launch of the anthology, the Head of Political, Trade and Information at the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Galia Agisheva said, 'Human rights and social justice are the core values of the European Union, which is founded on engagement to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law. The EU views all human rights as universal, indivisible and interdependent. As such, we are delighted to be able to collaborate with SPC RRRT, UN Women and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS) to support the anthology *Rising Tide*. This collection of the Pacific poems, will undoubtedly generate inspiration for the young generation for which it is aimed. This young generation is the rising tide of the Pacific, can become the true fundamental agents of change of attitudes - in their lives, in their families, in their communities, in their countries, and also globally''.



with SPC RRRT in the publishing of this anthology of Pacific Poetry on human rights and social justice through engagement of the Oceania Centre.

"This collaboration is significant not just as an example of CROP collaboration but also given the long history of Pacific Publications through the Institute of Pacific Studies, now Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies," Professor Pal said.

According to RRRT Director, Miles Young, the 'Rising Tide' is an essential, evocative and unique anthology featuring Pacific poets and artists expressing their voice on social justice issues that exist in our Pacific societies.

"The poems in this book challenge us to think and take action on issues pertinent to the Pacific and globally such as inequalities, discrimination, injustices and violence against women, girls and children," Young said.

He added that through this creative interplay of art, words and rhythm, it is hoped that Pacific children, who are the present and future of the region will be inspired to rise like the tide and create and model change that will make Pacific communities, just, safer and more peaceful.

USP's Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Pal Ahluwalia said the University was proud to have partnered

He added that the collaboration is a reminder of the importance of arts and culture, and Pacific-led and home grown arts and recognition of artists. This is something that the University has committed to, not just through the Oceania Centre but also through the School of Languages, Arts and Media's Pacific Writing Forum which has encouraged emerging Pacific island writers through publication, readings and SLAMS.

"I believe that there are discussions for the collection to be made available through the USP Book Centre and I am very pleased to hear that an exhibition of the same title "Rising Tides" will continue over the next week at the Oceania Centre, featuring the artworks in the collection and select poems," Professor Pal stated.

I want to have a 26 issue subscription sent by
First Class Mail to:

Pohnpei Address

Cost includes shipping \$35 for 26 issues

Chuuk, Kosrae, Yap, or USA Address

Cost includes shipping \$50 for 26 issues

International Address

Cost includes shipping \$100 for 26 issues

RECIPIENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

P.O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941

ph:(691) 320-6547

email: Kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Trump administration awards \$70,198 to East-West Center to support Pacific Islands Awareness Initiative

Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Trump Administration announced \$70,198 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs’ (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) to support an East-West Center initiative to highlight the Pacific Islands and the relationship between the Pacific Islands and the United States.

“This is a timely venture with the East-West Center here in Washington, D.C., as the Office of Insular Affairs works with other federal partners to support the U.S. territories and the freely associated states,” said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. “The East-West Center’s initiative will highlight the importance of the U.S.-affiliated insular areas to American national security as well as President Trump’s Indo-Pacific Strategy’s focus on a free and open Pacific. The publication will be posted online and shared with members of Congress and federal policy makers in Washington whose work can have a lasting impact on the island areas.”

“The East West Center is excited to create and utilize this new resource to support the work of government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders in United States-Pacific Islands relations. This will be a unique, usable tool as part of the Asia Matters for America initiative that highlights U.S. relations with the Indo-Pacific at the national, state, and local levels,” said Satu Limaye, Vice President of the EWC and Director of the Asia Matters for America initiative.

The East-West Center in Washington, D.C., has been awarded \$70,198 in fiscal year 2020 Technical Assistance Program grant funding that will be used to research and create a new publication titled, “Pacific Islands Matter for America/America Matters for the Pacific Islands.” Following the format of the East-West Center’s Asia Matters for America series, the East-West Center proposal aims to print and post online Pacific Islands Matter for America for members of Congress and federal officials in Washington, D.C., early in the year 2021. The East-West Center plans to work closely with the newly created Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus in the House of Representatives and other important stakeholders to develop this brochure.

The OIA Technical Assistance Program is made available each year by Congress to support priorities in support of the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, @ASIADomenech, and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Follow and “like” OIA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/InsularAffairs>.

Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor- Petty Cash fund: controls were found to be inadequate

Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor

The Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor (OCPA) announces the release of an Inspection and Evaluation of Petty Cash Fund, which covered the fiscal year 2017 to 2020. Reports may be made available by request to any interested individual at the OCPA in Nantaku, Weno, Chuuk.

The Public Auditor’s authority is based on the Chuuk State Constitution Article VIII Section 9 and Truk State Law 6-21 which states in part:

“The Auditor shall conduct audits of all financial transactions of all branches, departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the government, and of all accounts kept by or for them.”

We conducted this inspection in accordance with the 2011 US Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation issued by Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

The objective of this audit included determining the adequacy of controls on petty cash fund.

The results of the audit disclosed that the Treasury had implemented inadequate controls to protect the Petty Cash Fund. Specifically, our inspection and evaluation have disclosed the following weaknesses:

1. Inadequate Written Procedures Could Potentially Lead to Misuse, Abuse and Misappropriation of Funds Without Timely Detection
2. Non-compliances of payments with the Existing Written Control Procedures
3. Absence of Periodic Surprise Cash Count and Periodic Checking Could Result in Discrepancies and Missing Funds not Detected Timely

The audit recommendations, if implemented, will strengthen the internal controls on Petty Cash Fund to prevent the risks of fraud, abuse and misuse of the petty cash funds.

The Department of Administrative Services submitted a Management Response, which was in agreement to the findings. We included such response in the final report.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
September 23, 2020**

**Deadline for submission of articles
or advertisements for this issue is
the end of working hours on:
Friday, September 18, 2020**

**TUNE IN TO
POHNPEI’S #1 RADIO**

**Pohnpei’s
Paradise Radio
89.5 FM**

**ADVERTISE
with Your Business**

Each issue of the Kaselehlie Press is packed with important information your customers will want to know.



...Social Distancing

Continued from front page

Task Force and the Task Forces of the States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, the Decree advises that—prior to a case of COVID-19 in the FSM— every person is strongly encouraged to practice Social Distancing at all times in public, by maintaining a space of at least six feet between persons. Individual FSM States may require stricter social distancing guidelines and procedures, and such guidelines shall be respected within the State.

Prior to a case of COVID-19 in the FSM, gatherings such as marriages, funerals, and other inherent cultural practices may be permitted under State regulation and advisories.

In the event that the FSM has a confirmed case of COVID-19, multiple measures will become compulsory in the affected State and/or island, in the interest of protecting the health and safety of the general public. These include:

1. Cloth face coverings or facemasks are required of every person when in a public place—and individuals who are sick or who have flu-like symptoms are required to wear facemasks at all times.
2. Everyone must stay at home unless it is essential to leave the house for legitimate reasons, such as if their place of employment is deemed essential per the FSM COVID-19 Guidelines. Families should limit trips outside of the home for groceries, utilities, and health services.
3. Strict enforcement of physical distancing of no less than six feet between individuals in all public settings.
4. Large meetings and gatherings of more than twenty (20) or more people, except for health workers and law enforcement officials and services, are prohibited.
5. All non-essential services and activities are immediately suspended, such as organized sports activities, beauty parlors, barbershops, bars, and nightclubs.
6. All taxi services shall be restricted by limiting the number of hours of operation and reducing passenger capacity; the FSM COVID-19 Task Force shall establish the details of the restrictions.
7. An island or state in the FSM with a confirmed case shall be placed under a total lockdown, i.e. no entry/exit of people with the exception of essential workers (i.e. health workers and law enforcement), and urgent medical or Vienna Convention-related travel.

Until a lockdown is required, State Government authorities will continue to provide guidance with respect to essential services, including the burial of human remains within the State.

Any person who violates the Social Distancing Measures under the Decree may be convicted of a National offense under Title 11 of the FSM Code, Section 803. This may result in a penalty of not more than five years of imprisonment and/or up to \$5,000 (five thousand dollars) in fines.

“My fellow Micronesians,” President Panuelo said in a statement, “By implementing this Decree and by updating our FSM COVID-19 Guidelines, our Nation has taken another step in preparing itself for our COVID-19 adaptation, mitigation, and repatriation efforts. I have no doubt that some of you will consider the mandates to be extreme, maybe even draconian—but I would emphasize to you all that the goal is not to punish anyone or limit liberties, but to keep our citizens safe. We have every intention of preventing COVID-19’s entrance into the FSM. If we continue to focus on developing airtight repatriation measures, then we’ll never get to the point where the bulk of this Decree has to be implemented.”

“That said,” the President continued, “We’ve been so fortunate to be COVID-19 free so far that we cannot afford to become complacent. The dangers it poses to our Nation and its communities is no less severe now than it was before. Following the Decree promotes not only your own safety as an individual, but the safety of your family, your neighbors, and our entire Nation.”

As of August 25th, 2020, the FSM remains COVID-19 free.

Coordination and commitment during regional fisheries surveillance operation

HONIARA, 3rd September 2020 – A fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance operation in the Pacific concludes this week, with excellent cooperation demonstrated between nations despite the challenges of COVID-19 continuing to affect surveillance in the region.



The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) led Operation Island Chief took place from 24 August to 4 September, conducting surveillance over the EEZs of all FFA Members. This year the operation included Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, after their Operation Tui Moana was postponed in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Especially during these challenging times with the focus of the world on the pandemic, we welcome and sincerely thank our Members and partners for their commitment and cooperation demonstrated across the region to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in our waters,” says FFA Director-General Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen. “The strong collaboration between the FFA, our Members, and national security partners has achieved positive surveillance results during this operation.”

FFA Director of Fisheries Operations, Mr Allan Rahari, added “We are particularly delighted to see the way Cook Islands worked with Niue to conduct cooperative surveillance of both EEZs under the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA). The NTSA provides the legal framework for exchange of fisheries data and information, as well as procedures for cooperation in monitoring, prosecuting and penalising operators of IUU fishing vessels. This is the first time that the Niue Treaty Information System (NTIS) has been used to record these arrangements during a surveillance operation.”

Pacific QUAD partners, Australia, New Zealand, France and the United States, provided support through aerial surveillance alongside the FFA Aerial Surveillance Programme aircraft, further enhancing the maritime surveillance coverage during the operation.

The FFA Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC) team, supported by three officers from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), had an increased focus on intelligence gathering and analysis, providing targeted information before and during the operation in order to support surveillance activities by Member countries.

Over 180 vessels were sighted or boarded during OP Island Chief. “There were several occasions where the RFSC coordinated with nations to divert assets to conduct specific intelligence-led surveillance,” said Mr Rahari. “There are a couple of fisheries investigations underway from patrol efforts during Op Island Chief but so far no IUU activity has been identified, which shows that our regulatory and surveillance efforts are working.”

Despite the threat of COVID-19, FFA Members and QUAD partners demonstrated their ongoing commitment to fisheries surveillance across the region. “The crews persevered to interrogate vessels, and in some cases to conduct boardings, in some exceedingly uncomfortable weather conditions,” said Mr Rahari. Docksides boardings, as well as boardings at sea, were conducted under national authority, and followed protocols to ensure crew were not exposed to unnecessary risks.

In FSM, the National patrol boat, FSS Palikir, participated in Op Island Chief throughout travelling over 2095 nautical miles during her patrol. Whilst on patrol FSS Palikir conducted 7 fisheries sightings of vessels operating within the FSM EEZ. All vessels were found to be in good standing and compliant with licencing requirements. FSS Palikir was supported by a USN P8 Maritime Patrol Aircraft from VP-1 during the operation in order to provide wide area aerial surveillance.

Officers of the Border Control and Maritime Surveillance Division were also busy throughout the operation monitoring the authorised transshipment area off Pohnpei. Officers conducted 46 inspections during the period. Importantly these inspections will continue after the completion of OP Island Chief to ensure that there is no interaction with these transshipment vessels by citizens of Pohnpei.



FITNESS SMS GAME



instant \$50 top ups

text
FIT
to
505

rank 1
\$1,000 &
iPhone 11 Pro

rank 2
\$750.00

rank 3
\$500.00

TEXT TO WIN!

**GAME DURATION:
SEPTEMBER 04 - 30, 2020**

Terms and Conditions: Campaign starts September 04, 2020 at 12:01am (Pohnpei local time) and ends September 30, 2020 at 11:59pm (Pohnpei local time). To participate in the FITNESS SMS GAME, the customer will need to text the keyword FIT to short-code 505 to collect points. With a chance to win promotional and eventually win the grand prize, customer will need to play the game on a daily basis to accumulate points. Each text (correct or incorrect keyword) sent to short-code 505 will be charged 0.40/txt (GST incl.). For more information call customer care at 691-320-2740.

The People's Republic of China protects FSM food security concerns by supporting the replanting of stable food crops in Madolenihmw

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On September 2nd, 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) hosted a ceremony wherein His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China (China), donated twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to Nan Madol en Ihmw Inc. to support the Replanting of Food Crops in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei, FSM Project.



Mr. Estephan P. Santiago, CEO of Nan Madol en Ihmw Inc. poses with H.E. Huang Zheng, Ambassador of China to the FSM

FSM citizens may recall that during the State Visit to China by His Excellency David W. Panuelo in December, 2019, that amongst the conversations between President Panuelo and President Xi, as well as amongst the Members of the Delegation (including the Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker of the 21st FSM Congress), food security initiatives were discussed in detail. An example of such a food security project is the coconut farm in Pohnpei State, which is presently 1.33 hectares in size with 150 yellow dwarf coconuts, 150 red dwarf coconuts, and 150 green dwarf coconuts planted as of December 2019.

In a diplomatic note on behalf of China to the FSM dated August 11th, 2020,

the Chinese Embassy wrote: "We Chinese always attach importance to the food security of developing countries, including the FSM, and [we stand] ready to offer relief and assistance should any emergency or concerning situation occur due to climate change, epidemics, or any other natural disaster. In this spirit and upon conscientious review, the Embassy is pleased to inform the [FSM] Department [of Foreign Affairs] that a USD 28,000 donation has been approved to fund the ["Replanting of Stable Food Crops in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei, FSM"] Project."

Although he was not present in the

ceremony due to attending to other matters of national import, President Panuelo later said in a statement: "During the time of this COVID-19 Pandemic, it is increasingly clear that the People of the FSM—who are presently reliant on imported foodstuffs for the bulk of our caloric intake—would greatly benefit from transitioning to a local and sustainable diet. This move has already been advocated by the FSM National

Government and the respective State Governments of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae in the context of our crisis with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), of which more than one out of every three FSM citizens has diabetes resulting, in part, from a diet largely based on empty calories, such as white rice."

"I am beyond grateful to the People and Government of China for their assistance to Nan Madol en Ihmw, Inc. for their efforts in promoting food security in the Municipality of Madolenihmw, and I would strongly encourage all State and

Municipal Governments throughout the FSM to consider working with the FSM National Government in approaching China to continue supporting our food security initiatives. I thanked President Xi for Ambassador Huang's service to the FSM in December 2019, and I echo again these sentiments today. China showed us respect by recognizing our sovereignty when we became an independent Nation, and I urge all FSM citizens to see our FSM-China Great Friendship as a blessing."

At present, the FSM National Government is cooperating with China to see how it can receive thirty (30) mobile isolation units for the purpose of combating the COVID-19 Pandemic and preventing its entry into the FSM. As of September 2nd, 2020, the Nation remains COVID-19 free.

Later in the evening, President Panuelo met with Ambassador Huang, in his capacity as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, in the first of a series of informal dinners with the Nation's diplomats to address issues of import affecting the FSM and its citizens.

...Sea Cucumber

Continued from front page

Police also arrested four employees of the Pohnpei State Government for 54 criminal charges. Named in that criminal information were Itaia R. Fred, Jonathan Dewey, Scotty Malakai, and Dulen Soumwei.

Police attempted to arrest six Pohnpeian employees of Young Sun International for 18 criminal charges. However, two of the people named on that criminal information were in Sapwuahfik at the time the arrests were made. A Pohnpei State prosecutor said that police would soon make the arrests of those two but that the other four were arrested. Named in the 18 criminal charges were Michael Benjamin, Knorr Norman, Norket Norman, Kainer Ittu, and Ridner Paul.

The criminal information document filed against Xie and Li list seven charges for each of six months for

a total of 42 counts for actions they allegedly took from February through July. They are charged with bribery of the four public officials who were also charged; criminal conspiracy; criminal solicitation; fishing in state water—"prohibited acts by non-recreational commercial fishing"; conservation and resources – "Sea cucumber prohibition, moratoriums, exemption", and, compounding a crime.

The State charged the four Pohnpei State Government officials with nine separate charges for crimes they allegedly committed in each of the same six months for a total of 54 separate counts. The charges are bribery for allegedly attempting to receive bribes from the charged Young Sun representatives for an official act to be done or not done. They are charged with criminal conspiracy; criminal solicitation; compounding a crime; concealment, removal or alteration of record or process—in this case, records of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture; misconduct in public office, impersonating a public

servant, fishing in state water—"prohibited acts by non-recreational commercial fishing"; and, conservation and resources – "Sea cucumber prohibition, moratoriums, exemption".

The six local Young Sun employees were charged with three separate charges for crimes they allegedly committed in the same six month period for a total of 18 counts. They are each charged with conservation and resources – "Sea cucumber prohibition, moratoriums, exemption"; fishing in state water—"prohibited acts by non-recreational commercial fishing"; and, compounding a crime.

Bail hearings for the nine arrested officials were held on Wednesday, September 2. The court allowed bail for each of the defendants. Li was granted bail with a \$50,000 cash bond. The other eight defendants were also allowed bail on various cash and surety bonds of smaller amounts.



**the Village
Travel**

**Serving the Islands and
abroad since 1980!**

**Providing your domestic and
international flight arrangements**

**Call us now
for your next trip**

**Tel: (691) 320-2777
921-2777**

Fax: (691) 320-5375

**email: villagetravel@mail.fm
Villagetravel2@gmail.com**

**P.O Box 339
Pohnpei, FM 96941**

**Office Hours:
Mon - Fri.: 08:30am - 5:00pm
Sat.: 09:00am - 12:00pm**

Trump administration awards \$4,516,535 in Maintenance Assistance Grants to U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
Insular and International Affairs*

WASHINGTON – The Trump Administration announced \$4,516,535 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) to support the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This MAP funding will also support the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau.

"The Secretary and I are pleased to provide this funding support for training, equipment, and maintenance across the insular areas," said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "The improvements provided through these funds for facilities maintenance at various water and power utilities, public works departments, public parks, police department motor pools, and emergency services will greatly benefit the public."

Fiscal year 2020 Maintenance Assistance Program grant funding totaling \$4,516,535 will be provided to support the U.S. territories and freely associated states for the following projects as detailed below:

American Samoa

- American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) - \$383,500 will be used to re-roof the existing auto shop and make expansions to include extra bays and shelter for ASPA fleet and heavy equipment. Funds will also be used to provide training of mechanics and purchase specialized power tools, jacks, vehicle lifts, and a caterpillar diagnostic scanner.

- American Samoa Department of Public Works - \$329,625 will be used to support an ongoing Trades Apprenticeship collaboration with the American Samoa Community College and replace aged ceiling fans in school and administrative buildings across the public-school system. Funds will also be used to upgrade and replenish the maintenance division's tool inventory.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

- CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW) - \$492,652 will be used procure a vacuum truck to service

Saipan's storm-water drainage systems and to assist in runoff and flood control during storms. The truck is an important part of DPW's overall Storm-Water Sanitation System Project.

- CNMI Department of Public Lands - \$220,652 will be used to install railing along the Managaha Pier to ensure the safety of visitors who arrive at the Managaha Pier for entry to visit Managaha.

- Rota Municipality Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services - \$156,815 will be used to acquire a Skeeter Step-Side Brush Truck and a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Funding will also support purchase of fuel, tools, and equipment.

- Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) - \$135,000 will be used to fund CUC staff to attend a Certified Employee Water and Wastewater Training Program, required to meet local and federal regulatory certification guidelines for handling water and wastewater treatment or distribution activities.

Guam

- Guam Department of Public Works (DPW) - \$370,000 will be used to purchase specialized equipment necessary for the DPW's Highway Infrastructure Maintenance Program.

- Port Authority of Guam - \$240,325 will be used to procure roll-up doors, a stud welding system, and a multi-operator welding rack for the welding shop at the Port Authority.

- Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) - \$117,000 will be used to 1) provide field training and fund an evaluation of the Wastewater Collections Division, 2) purchase a utility task vehicle, and 3) purchase GPS equipment.

- University of Guam (UOG) - \$105,010 will be used for the "Road to Excellence Facility Maintenance Project" at the University. This project aims to remediate existing training practices and the culture of facility management at the UOG.

U.S. Virgin Islands

- Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VIWMA) - \$535,000 is to be used for the acquisition of two closed circuit TV camera trucks and to provide staff with technical training.

- Water and Power Authority (WAPA) - \$215,000 will be used to develop a comprehensive in-house electric transmission and distribution (T&D) training program, with specialized skills development, for T&D power linemen.

- Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD) - \$85,830 will be used to purchase specialized equipment and tools for the VIPD Motor Pool Division, as well as installation and training.

- Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation (DSPR) - \$59,250 will be used to help the DSPR purchase a garbage truck for use in garbage pick-up at local parks and public facilities.

Federated States of Micronesia

- Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) - \$245,000 will be used to acquire 1) a paint stripper necessary for efficient removal and painting of airport runway markings, 2) a tractor mower to help keep the landing areas clear of overgrowth, and 3) a boom lifter to support miscellaneous maintenance services at the Pohnpei International Airport. All equipment will help the Pohnpei Port Authority to maintain the airport following Federal Aviation Administration and international requirements.

- Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC) - \$56,000 will be used to help develop an in-house training program for 30 water and wastewater operators in Yap State to fill a critical need for qualified personnel in water and wastewater management. Professional training provided to the YSPSC will strengthen water treatment and water distribution services and have important public health consequences. This will be a three-year program.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

- Majuro Water and Sewer Company - \$211,000 will be used to acquire a waste vacuum truck with tank, pump, and necessary equipment for collecting sewage from over 1800 homes west of the bridge on Majuro that are not connected to Majuro central sewage collection and treatment network. The truck will also be used to support sewage pumping necessary during power outages, and in case of any hazardous material spill occurrence on Majuro. Funds will also cover proper personal protective equipment to safeguard employees who are handling sewage and other hazardous materials,

as well as heavy duty tools for heavy equipment repair.

Republic of Palau

- Palau Bureau of Public Works - \$312,826 will be used to strengthen and develop new and existing water infrastructure for over 200 Palau residents in Palau's outlying southern states of Angaur, Hatohebei, and Sonsorol. The residents of these three states, which include the islands of Pulo Anna, Tobi, and Helen's Reef, depend on either groundwater supply and/or existing rainfall roof catchment systems where the quantity and quality of available water can be unreliable and heavily impacted by extreme weather conditions such as drought, or other events related to tides and sea levels.

All Insular Areas

- Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC) - \$246,050 will be used to support the Pacific Linemen Training Program, which will provide 30 weeks of powerline operation and maintenance certification training to at least 95 power linemen from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The program helps insular area power utilities maintain skilled technicians to a U.S.-level standard through a curriculum that is tailored to fit the conditions, cultures, languages, and education level of the linemen, as well as meet each island utility's needs.

The OIA Maintenance Assistance Program is made available each year by Congress to support maintenance priorities in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, @ASIIADomenech, and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Follow and "like" OIA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/InsularAffairs>.

President Panuelo extends appreciation to retiring Prime Minister Abe for strengthening the FSM-Japan Kizuna

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On September 3rd, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—sent a letter to the Honorable Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. The purpose of the letter was to express appreciation to the Prime Minister for strengthening the FSM-Japan Kizuna (special bond), particularly in light of the Prime Minister’s public notice of resignation due to health concerns. The President’s letter can be found here: https://gov.fm/files/September_3_2020_PM_Abe_letter.pdf

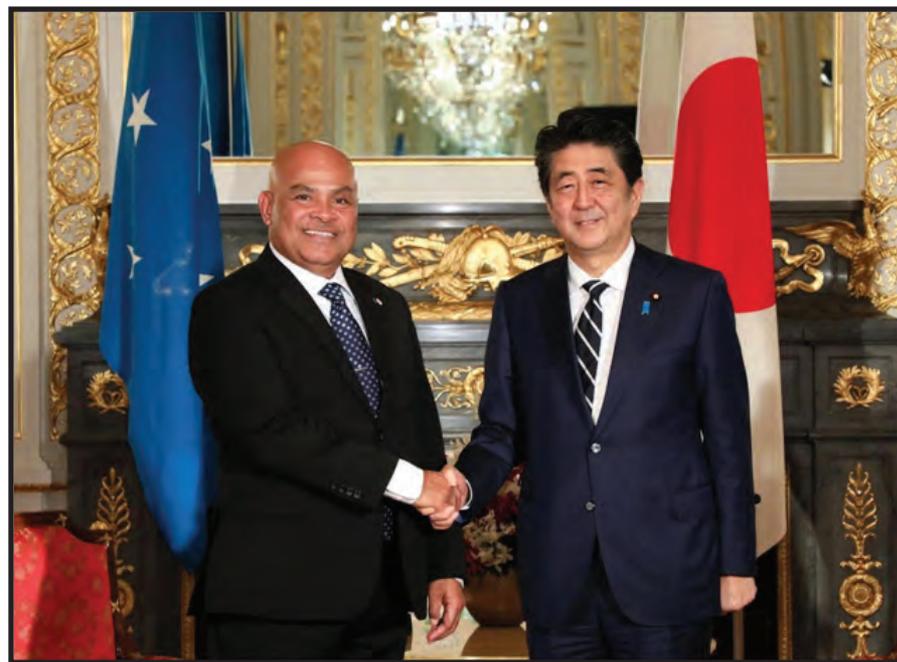
“Although this news brings a sense of loss in knowing that a great leader is resigning, it is a decision that must have been difficult to make and is made in the interest of your government, your people, and your good self,” President Panuelo wrote in his letter. “As the longest serving Prime Minister in the history of Japan, I want to take this opportunity to commend your efforts and accomplishments during your long tenure for your government and people, especially during this challenging time.”

After sending the letter, President Panuelo made the following public statement addressed to the Prime Minister: “My dear friend,” President Panuelo said, “The people of Japan

share a Kizuna with the people of Micronesia, and you personally have demonstrated that special bond to myself and the First Lady.”

“I understand that you will be resigning in part for your health. While I am not a doctor, my father was—and I believe it is appropriately sound medical advice to suggest that there is nothing better for your health and wellbeing than to visit the Federated States of Micronesia and experience our island hospitality. When COVID-19 passes, you are welcome to join me in a SCUBA diving tour in either Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap, and/or Kosrae as my personal guest. We can celebrate your retirement in a way that continues to strengthen the FSM-Japan Kizuna while promoting our nations’ mutual commitments towards good environmental stewardship.”

“I was hesitant to say all this in a formal Government communication, because sometimes those can be so official,” President Panuelo continued. “I think it’s best if I simply say this from my heart: you’re an exemplary public servant who has steered Japan towards prosperity, and who has shown incredible kindness not only to me, but also to former Presidents Peter M. Christian and Manny Mori, our delegations and staff. We are all so grateful to you and to the people of Japan for



His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

everything you’ve done to promote peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity. Your development projects in our Nation, from the expansion of ports to the building of gymnasiums, to road paving and the donation of field trip vessels, to teaching mathematics in our schools and film festivals showing your culture, are only a few examples of your esteemed service to our Nation and people. The very least we can do in return is to give

you the retirement trip of a lifetime.”

“Whatever happens next, my friend, thanks in large part due to your service, the People and Government of Micronesia will always see Japan as an incredibly special friend, ally, and development partner. The next time we shake hands, I hope it’s right before we’re about to explore the best diving spots in the World right here in the FSM.”

President Panuelo establishes a national task force for Blue Prosperity Micronesia to guide protection of the paradise in our backyards

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On August 21st, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—signed a Presidential Order establishing a National Task Force for guiding all activities related to the planning and implementation of the Blue Prosperity Micronesia program. This Task Force, which includes representatives from the National and State Governments, will help guide the other founding members of Blue Prosperity Micronesia and partner organizations to advance the program goals in a manner that represents the needs and desires of the FSM’s citizens. Goals include the development of strategies for sustainable economic wellbeing and resilience, identification of opportunities to improve fisheries management, and advancing ocean protection to build upon

the FSM’s already impressive efforts.

“Despite the challenges presented to our Nation by the COVID-19 Pandemic,” President Panuelo said in a statement, “the FSM National Government and the Panuelo-George administration remain committed to protecting our natural environment. The Blue Prosperity Micronesia Task Force shall help to ensure that these commitments bear fruit, and that this Paradise in Our Backyards is as pristine and productive for generations tomorrow as it is today.”

Over the next five years, Blue Prosperity Micronesia’s work will include the development of a Marine Spatial Plan and a Blue Economy Plan, the conducting of scientific assessments, ocean use and stakeholder consultations, and the creation of proposed legislation for the FSM Congress’ review. This work will

build upon existing FSM conservation and sustainable development commitments and goals to effectively manage at least 30% of the Nation’s waters and plan for a prosperous future.

The Task Force will be comprised by high-level officials from several departments, such as the Department of Resources & Development; the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management; the Department of Foreign Affairs; the Department of Finance & Administration; the Department of Justice; the Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation; and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority. It will also include a representative from each of the FSM States, selected by its Governor. The Task Force will have its first convening session later this month, one year from the signing of the

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the FSM, the Waitt Institute, Micronesia Conservation Trust, and National Geographic Pristine Seas, which formally launched the program.

This Task Force will also be supported by the Blue Prosperity Micronesia Coordinator, a newly created position which will serve as the on-the-ground staff in support of strategic planning and logistical implementation to help advance sustainable ocean efforts in the FSM. The Coordinator is set to begin his/her duties on October 1st, 2020.

The Presidential Order on the establishment of the Blue Prosperity Micronesia Task Force may be seen here: https://gov.fm/files/Presidential%20Orders/PRESIDENTIAL_ORDER_-_TF_for_the_BP_Micronesia_1.pdf

SPC trains out of work fisheries observers as port samplers to continue flow of scientific data

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 6, 2020

FSM—Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the travel restrictions that came along with it, fisheries observers have not been allowed to board vessels to perform the function they once did. Before the pandemic, all purse seiner vessels in Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) waters in the Pacific Ocean were required to have an official fisheries observer aboard to record catches.

Many people have assumed that the role of fisheries observers was strictly to ensure that fishing vessel operators played by the rules. But the observers also played an important role in providing data to scientists on fish migration patterns and stock levels. The data they recorded helped organizations like the SPC which employs over 60 scientists to prepare analyses that are fed to organizations such as FFA, PNA, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in order to make important decisions on fisheries limits.

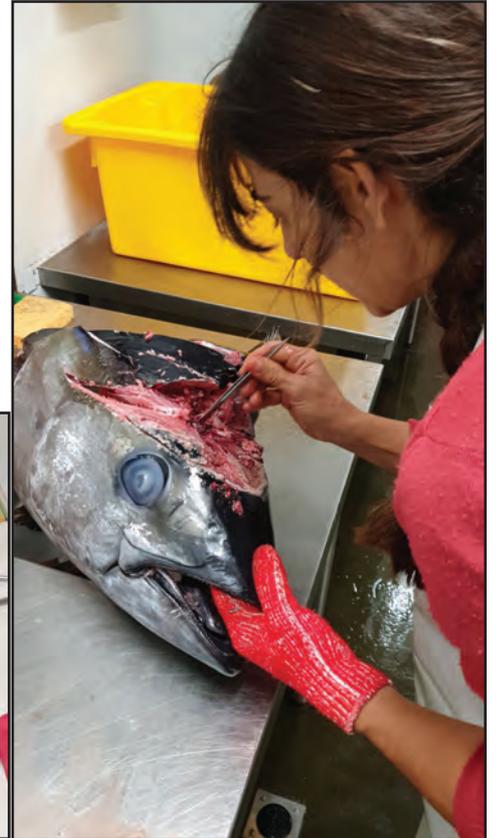
With observers no longer boarding purse seiner, scientists would have lost an important source of data in analyzing fish population trends. Additionally, fisheries observers would have been out of a job.

In late June, fisheries observers in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands were the first group of observers to receive online training as port samplers. Caroline Sanchez, SPC's Senior Fisheries Scientist said that the training was successful and that because of it, not only will fisheries observers have alternative work arrangements, SPC and others will continue to receive vital data.

Fisheries observers are now collecting data from long line fishing vessels who tranship at home ports. They will look for and document tagged fish, species caught, and their sizes and weights. While the plan will not necessarily help

with fisheries enforcement, other methods of monitoring for that are in place including the vessel monitoring system.

Despite the pandemic, SPC is continuing its online fisheries observers training in other Pacific Island countries with the hopes of maintaining an ongoing flow of vital scientific fisheries information.



Left: Brad is an FSM Fisheries scientist, currently at SPC for a 1 year assignment
Right: Caroline Sanchez doing biosampling (Photos by SPC)



Andrew Musrasrik
Engineering (B.E.)
Walla Walla University

Rennie Glen Taiwerpal
Agriculture (B.S.)
University of Guam

Stewart Johnny
Agriculture (B.S.)
University of Guam

Tyron Estephan
Engineering (B.E.)
Walla Walla University

Kimsky Kubo
Tropical Conservation Biology and Env. Science (M.S.)
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Congratulations

2020-2021 VITAL SCHOLARS



BHA and IOM provide COVID-19 support to FSM

International Organization for Migration

FSM--The islands of the Federated States of Micronesia have so far been protected from COVID-19 thanks to quick government action. However, the risk of COVID-19 will remain until an effective vaccine is developed and available globally. Until then, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will work with government partners to further strengthen their capacity to prevent, detect and respond to an outbreak of COVID-19.

As part of the assistance to FSM, IOM will be carrying out a project called "COVID-19 Response: Strengthening Preparedness across the North Pacific". The project is funded by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), formerly known as the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), and will last from August 2020 to February 2021. The project will not target just FSM, but also the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau, for a total of \$1,246,566.

With this funding, IOM will work with the State Risk Communication and Community Engagement sub-committees in each of the States to produce and translate posters. The posters will outline protection measures that you and your family can take to keep yourselves safe. IOM will also donate a large-format printer to Yap State Public Health to increase their capacity to carry out RCCE activities.

IOM will use this funding to purchase emergency assets, like temporary warehouse structures and/or medical tents. These can be used for the storage of goods and equipment or serve as a temporary medical facility. IOM will coordinate with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Department of Health and Social Affairs, State Health Services and BHA to donate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and health supplies for frontline workers. IOM will also procure and distribute household WASH kits to families to help encourage good hygiene practices.

Finally, IOM will support the newly established Protection Cluster headed by the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs in their efforts to ensure that the country's most vulnerable persons are prioritized throughout preparedness and response efforts. IOM will also work with the Pohnpei Women's Council to increase their capacity to function as a safe space for women and girls.

The project's focus on raising awareness, increasing preparedness and strengthening protection for victims of violence are part of IOM and BHA's efforts to help prepare FSM for COVID-19. We look forward to working with our government and community partners over the coming months to help keep everyone safe.

For more information about our activities, please contact us at +691 320-8735, or the Program Manager Mr. Ryan McVey at rmcvey@iom.int



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

TRADE COMMISSIONER - PACIFIC TRADE & INVEST (PT&I), NEW ZEALAND

An exciting and challenging opportunity now exists for a well-qualified and experienced individual to join the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat as its Trade Commissioner - Pacific Trade & Invest (PT&I), New Zealand

The Trade Commissioner – Pacific Trade & Invest (PT&I), New Zealand will be responsible for the provision of appropriate market support to Forum Island Countries to promote and intensify the cooperation between the region and New Zealand in economic, trade, investment and tourism development. In addition, the Trade Commissioner will maintain diplomatic and technical links with the New Zealand Government at the appropriate levels. The successful applicant will be responsible for successfully driving the following critical outcomes for the Forum Secretariat:

- **Provision of effective leadership and people management**
 - Ensure full participation in the performance management process not limited to the development, monitoring and reviewing of performance framework
- **Effective service and stakeholder relationship management**
 - Linkages and networks with key Forum Island Country government officials, trade and investment promotion agencies & private sectors in support of facilitating market access for FIC products and services, and investments in the FICs fostered and enhanced
 - Ensure the PTI New Zealand provides cost efficient, targeted and client-driven services to the Forum Island Countries (FIC) Members/Observers
- **Work programming and marketing**
 - Develop, implement and monitor marketing strategies and programmes to improve trade, investment and export potential of FIC business
 - Effective linkages and network alliances with the headquarters through the Secretariat's Programmes & Initiatives team, with other PT&I offices and with other regional-based agencies to value add to PT&I Strategic Plan on business and private sector development, including through dissemination of effective business/market information
 - A robust and comprehensive outreach programme for the promotion of PT&I developed, implemented and continuously refined
- **Effective administration and robust reporting**
 - Preparation and submission of progress reports not limited to semi/annual reports, budget, audit, travel and work plans to the Forum Secretariat regarding all aspects of the PTI's operations, programme initiatives, administrative and financial matters, programme achievements
 - Annual Joint meetings of PTI, and, other relevant meetings under PIFS Work Programme attended to as required
- **Provision of financial & management support/advice**
 - PTI's financial, physical and personnel resources under delegation from the Secretary General managed effectively
 - Financial and personnel resources within the PTI mandate and in accordance with strategic priorities allocated and prioritised
 - Annual Budget & Work programme in conformance with the Forum Secretariat requirements produced as required
- **PIF's vision, core values, ethics and professionalism upheld and promoted.**

The person we seek will have a minimum 8 years' demonstrated experience of the same at practitioner level and a Postgraduate qualification in Business Studies or Administration, Management, International Marketing or similar is desirable. The applicant must possess the following:

- Degree qualification in Business Studies or Administration
- A track record in strategic planning, financial management, marketing, international trade and or investment and practical knowledge and experience in business including enterprise development and facilitation
- Proven knowledge and understanding of global and regional social and economic conditions.
- Proven experience in the following areas: diplomatic training, staff management, public relations, analytical skills, sales & marketing experience, international trade and/or investment experience, small business management and creative development



Assisting Organisations Improve their Performance

How to Apply: Email a cover Letter and CV including the names and contact details of 3 professional referees, with the subject 'Trade Commissioner' to jobs@maxumisefiji.com

OR Apply Online: app.hrmonise.com/job/PIFS/TC

For more information, contact: Ravuama Buadromo: +679 330 3137, ravu@maxumise.com

Closing Date: 25 September 2020

Micronesia leaders to PIFS - “Uphold the Gentlemen’s Agreement”

Leaders are committed to Micronesia’s candidate

Micronesia Regional Joint Press Release

August 28, 2020

In September 2019, Micronesian Leaders unanimously submitted the subregion’s candidate for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Secretary General (SG) post, reaffirming again this decision in June 2020. Leaders of Micronesia remain united and resolute in their decision to endorse the incumbent RMI Ambassador to the U.S, H.E. Gerald Zackios, for the esteemed post.

The unprecedented global Covid crisis rests on top of an already challenging array of regional development and security challenges. More than ever, the Pacific needs a Secretary General who is a careful listener, well-versed in foreign policy, and who will build on important efforts to shape regionalism with pragmatic management strategies. In this regard, Micronesia Leaders are confident in Ambassador Zackios, who has proven himself to be a strong, empathetic, and conscientious leader with impeccable credentials, and with vast experience in the Pacific who will work closely with Forum Leaders and other stakeholders to guide and lead the

work of the PIFS.

Current Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Tuvalu, initiated the recruitment process in mid April, calling for nominations to be submitted before June 19, 2020. Immediately after the nominations were opened, the Micronesian Leaders conveyed their mutual nomination of H.E. Gerald Zackios.

On 18th June, just a day before the deadline for nominations were to be closed, Forum Chair Tuvalu recommended that the decision be delayed until the next Forum Leaders’ meeting, to discuss the matter in person. Tuvalu also recommended that the Forum consider extending current Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor’s term or appointing the Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Filimon Manoni as Acting Secretary General until the proposed face-to-face meeting of the Forum Leaders in 2021. The Chair further informed the Leaders of his decision to extend the previously prescribed deadline for submission of nominations subsequently allowing for nominations of additional candidates.

In a joint letter to the PIF Chair, Micronesian Leaders acknowledged the recommendations however strongly objected to any efforts to delay the decision and the extension of the original deadline for nomination beyond June 19th, 2020. At the Leaders’ Retreat in Palau in 2014, when the region was selecting the new Secretary General then, Micronesia lost out because their candidate came in late. The decision of Micronesian Leaders to put forth a candidate early on in the process, in fact, in February 2019, was to avoid compromising the integrity of the selection process. This demonstrates that Micronesian Leaders have been thinking about this for the last 3 years. Other PIF sub-regions have contributed to the Forum’s important legacy in building regionalism, and it is rightful and timely that the Micronesian subregion should participate accordingly without unnecessary delay. “There is no valid reason why Forum Leaders cannot address and resolve the selection of the Secretary General during the Virtual Forum Leaders retreat this year,” said the Leaders.

As incoming Chair for the MPS, Nauru contends that the “Gentlemen’s

Agreement” surpasses meaningless foreign ideals but is rather based on our Pasifika values that are rooted in our customs and cultures of honouring the very essence of our traditions. Therefore, based on this, it is Micronesia’s turn. Micronesia has only ever led the PIF once since its inception, and by denying Micronesia of its turn to lead and contribute to building regionalism at this level of this esteemed institution, we chip away at the soul of our cultural and customary upbringing; and so to this end, this Forum must uphold the Gentlemen’s Agreement.

Micronesian leaders seek the Forum Chair’s response to the joint letter and strongly advise that the June 19th 2020 deadline be reinstated and the appointment of the Secretary General be decided during the Leaders Virtual Retreat this year. It is timely for the region to have a Micronesian candidate to ensure solidarity and balanced perspective from our region. The Micronesian Leaders strongly feel the solidarity and integrity of the PIF is strengthened by the Gentlemen’s Agreement and should not be ignored.

The first APIPA virtual conference

Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor

The Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors (APIPA) has completed its 31st annual conference. This is the first virtual conference due to lockdown brought by COVID-19 pandemic. The conferences which was held in virtual setting ran from August 3 to 14, 2020. The APIPA conference provided the auditors for four (4) hours a day of learning for a total of forty (40) continuing professional education credits (CPE). The virtual conference is an innovative approach by the US Graduate School to provide meaningful conference even in the midst of the pandemic. There were over eight hundred (800) participants registered in this annual conference; 12% from private sectors and 88% from the government sectors of Guam, US Virgin Island, Palau, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Island (CNMI), Republic of Marshall Island, Fiji, Samoa and American Samoa, and Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk). This year’s annual conference was chair and virtually hosted by the CNMI Public Auditors. There were fourteen (14) instructors in this year’s annual conference.

US Department of Interior and key note speaker, Honorable Mark Lee Greenblatt, Inspector General, US Department of Interior.

Due to limited bandwidth, auditors from Office of the National Public Auditors (ONPA) and Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) joined for the opening plenary session at the Central Building at Palikir. Breakout sessions were held at the central building and at the conference room of ONPA.

Some of the most striking lessons that auditors from ONPA and POPA shared was from Honorable Greenblatt r: “Treat the organizations and our job as our own, not like we are just renting it.” And from Honorable Domenech: “Despite the challenges of the pandemic brought to the world, accountability does not have boarders, no distance or time can separate public auditors from doing what is right”. Auditors from the Federated States of Micronesia adapted to the “new normal” and were able to learn despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. A commitment not only because of the auditing standards requirements but also because of their commitment to enhance their knowledge and skills to better serve the public.

The virtual conference was graced by welcoming remarks by Honorable Douglas Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs,



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Vacancy Announcement: VA2020.007

POSITION TITLE: Security Guard

OPENING PERIOD: September 14 to September 25

SERIES/GRADE: LE-0710/03

SALARY: USD \$9,101



FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION AND JOB DESCRIPTION VISIT:

• fm.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/

CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE:

• KoloniahumanResourceRequests@state.gov

DUTIES: The incumbent provides security services to safeguard U.S. Government personnel, facilities and property. The employee provides access control and screens all visitors and vehicles entering U.S. Government facilities. The incumbent will also provide fixed post security and conduct roving patrols on Mission Chancery and residential compounds.

EDUCATION: Completion of secondary education is required.

EXPERIENCE: 1 years of previous experience in security related field, such as security company, law enforcement agency or military services is required.

SKILLS: The ability to carry out various security functions to include establishing layers of security, and implementing perimeter security, carrying out access control, screening procedures and utilizing barriers, hard-line doors, X-ray machines and walk-through metal detectors for visiting pedestrians

LANGUAGE: Level 2 (Limited knowledge) Speaking/Reading/Writing English is required. (This will be tested.)

Selected applicant under consideration will be required to pass medical and security certifications.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO): The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Follow Us on: Facebook: [/usembassykolonia](https://www.facebook.com/usembassykolonia) Twitter: [@usembassyfsm](https://twitter.com/usembassyfsm)
Flickr: [usembassykolonia](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassykolonia/) Website: fm.usembassy.gov

Pacific Fisheries Ministers raise coastal fisheries, marine pollution and climate change concerns

Noumea, 27th August 2020 – A new look Pacific Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, which started virtually yesterday, has tabled key concerns on the state of coastal fisheries, climate change and marine pollution. Their decisions reflect regional priorities for the fisheries and marine sector.



Cook Islands Prime Minister and Minister of Marine Resources, the Honourable Henry Puna, addressed the meeting stating that “One undeniable and tangible resource, asset, and lifeline that we all possess is our shared fisheries resources” and called for initiatives to diversify the use of fisheries and marine resources, using innovative and collaborative approaches. While highlighting the Pacific’s strong response to the national and regional security threats the COVID-19 pandemic has posed, he stressed the importance of enhancing fisheries management, maintaining food and economic security. “Our collective response must always reflect how much we value our people, and the mana, resilience and Pacific community spirit, that underpins the very fibre of our nations” he said.

The meeting, chaired by the Honourable Marion Henry, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Secretary for the Department of Resource and Development was hosted online, gathering Fisheries Ministers and officials from the Pacific Island Forum countries and territories as well as regional organisations

The talks covered regional coastal fisheries and aquaculture priorities and the impact of COVID-19 on these fisheries, the 2020 Coastal Fisheries Report Card, and options for enhancing discussions on community based management of coastal fisheries. Ministers also endorsed the Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity.

One of the key resources that helped to frame the meeting was the Coastal Fisheries Report Card, presented by the Pacific Community (SPC). It provides annual regional reporting on the current state of Pacific coastal fisheries across a range of biological, social and economic indicators. The report card highlights the importance of coastal fisheries for food

security and livelihoods in the region, with 89% of households eating fish or seafood weekly and 30% of households participating in fishing. Ministers reflected with deep concern on the results that signalled a decline in the status of key indicator invertebrate and finfish species, and reef and ecosystem health, which have direct impacts on livelihoods and food security, and called for the strengthening of coastal fisheries management.

Moving from coastal fisheries to climate change issues, Ministers considered where the fisheries sector can incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into policies and plans, with a view to securing climate change financing to support such measures, where possible. Ministers called for an advocacy strategy to enhance high level messaging at the UNFCCC and related meetings to advance measures to address the impacts of climate change on fisheries in the region.

In discussions relating to marine pollution, Ministers supported improvements in Pacific port waste reception facilities to enable them to receive fishing vessel waste on shore rather than have it dumped at sea. Ministers expressed concern about the impact of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, especially on coastal fisheries and coral reefs, and called for collaborative action to address this issue.

Ministers welcomed progress on the development of the 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific continent being led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Secretary Marion Henry, as Chair of the inaugural Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, stressed that “the meeting marked a new chapter of strengthening regional cooperation, solidarity and friendship especially in these unprecedented times where the region has been greatly affected by the impacts of COVID-19”.



GOVERNMENT OF KOSRAE
Office of the Governor
Kosrae State
Post Office Box 158
Tofol, Kosrae FM 96944
Telephone (691) 370-3003/3003/3009

BID INVITATION

for
Construction of the Arthur P. Sigrah Hospital-FSM
Tofol, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia

NOTICE

The Kosrae Program Management Office (PMO) of the Kosrae Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby issuing this Bid Invitation Notice to qualified contractors for the **Construction of the Arthur P. Sigrah Hospital -FSM, Tofol, Kosrae, FSM**. The Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visit is scheduled for **Thursday 10th September, 2020 at 10am** at the PMO Offices in the Administrative Complex, Tofol, Kosrae and online via Zoom (link will be placed on DTCI Website below).

Further information on this ITB may be obtained by submitting a written request for details to Mr. Bruce Howell, Manager, KPMO, Tofol Kosrae at email howellbruce@yahoo.com with the subject heading:

“Construction of the Arthur P. Sigrah Hospital-FSM
Tofol, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia”

The bidding documents, including the instructions to bidders, scope of work, bills of quantities, technical specifications and conditions of contract may also be directly obtained from the Government website: <https://www.tci.gov.fm/> in its PMU section.

The closing date for the submission of bids is **Thursday October 22nd 2020 at 4.00pm**

Carson K. Sigrah
Governor
Kosrae State, FSM

8.25.20
Date

Trump administration awards \$608,180 in FY 2020 TAP Grants for the FSM

Supports World Heritage Site Nan Madol, develops robotics skills at participating high schools, and promotes government operations and accountability

Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Trump Administration announced \$608,180 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs’ (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) to support the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

“The Secretary and I are pleased to support a wide-range of grants for various programs and priorities in the Federated States of Micronesia,” said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. “These funds will help

promote and protect World Heritage Site Nan Madol on Pohnpei while also furthering traditional weaving and carving knowledge in Yap. Funds will also support youth robotics programs in participating high schools in all four FSM states, train public auditors, and help the Pohnpei State Government track and prioritize foreign aid.”

“The U.S. Government is proud to play a key role in ensuring FSM youth are an integral part of the future but at the same time are firmly rooted in the proud history of the nation through cultural preservation of Nan Madol and FSM cultural traditions,” said U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Carmen G. Cantor.

Fiscal year 2020 Technical Assistance Program grant funding totaling \$608,180 will be provided to support the Federated States of Micronesia for the following projects as detailed below:

- Habel (a non-profit organization) - \$358,525 will be used to support the Habel Robotics League, a program that promotes the development of engineering and math skills through robot building and 3D printing at twenty-three public and private high schools on Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap States in the FSM. Habel is a U.S.-based non-profit organization founded by former U.S. Peace Corps volunteers and who work on-ground with stakeholders in the FSM.

- FSM Office of National Archive, Culture, and Historic Preservation - \$55,760 will be used to support a vegetation removal and management program at the Nan Madol World Heritage Site in Pohnpei. Funding will also be used to create and develop signage leading to Nan Madol, located on the opposite side of the island from the airport and town center.

- Pohnpei State Governor’s Office - \$50,500 will be used to strengthen Pohnpei State’s Aid Coordination Unit responsible for coordinating and strengthening management of foreign assistance to Pohnpei. Funds will be used to develop a database for tracking and the develop formal procedures and guidelines, to include local policy guidelines on coordination and implementation of external resources provided to Pohnpei State.

- Habel - \$41,300 will be used to support the Micronesian Adze Blade Project to design and develop steel versions of the Micronesian adze, formerly made of shell and stone and used historically for carving out traditional Carolinian canoes or proas. Habel will work with master carvers and navigators to design and develop a range of traditional Micronesian adzes for distribution to local carvers in support of efforts across Micronesia to sustain and expand the production of canoes, once the sole mode of transport in Oceania and used by traditional celestial navigators who traveled

the Pacific Ocean without Western instruments.

- Habel - \$35,550 will be used to support the Weaving Connections Project whereby women in the freely associated states and in the United States will collaborate to teach and learn traditional Carolinian weaving skills, using a back-strap loom to produce fine textiles used to make wrap around skirts, also known as lava lavas. The project aims to protect and promote centuries-long traditions of weaving while also supporting connections between communities of Pacific Islander women in freely associated states and in the United States.

- Kosrae State Public Auditor’s Office - \$35,000 will be used to upgrade the website for the Kosrae State Public Auditor’s Office and support public auditor training, that includes participation in an annual auditor’s conference in the FSM and the Association of Government Accountants conference on Guam.

- Chuuk State Public Auditor’s Office - \$31,545 will be used to support public auditor participation at the Department of the Interior Office of the Inspector General’s annual conference and to purchase related study materials.

The OIA Technical Assistance Program is made available each year by Congress to support priorities in support of the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, @ASIADomenech, and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Follow and “like” OIA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/InsularAffairs>.

National Food and Nutrition Committee established to improve health conditions of the Micronesian people

UNICEF

September 7, 2020

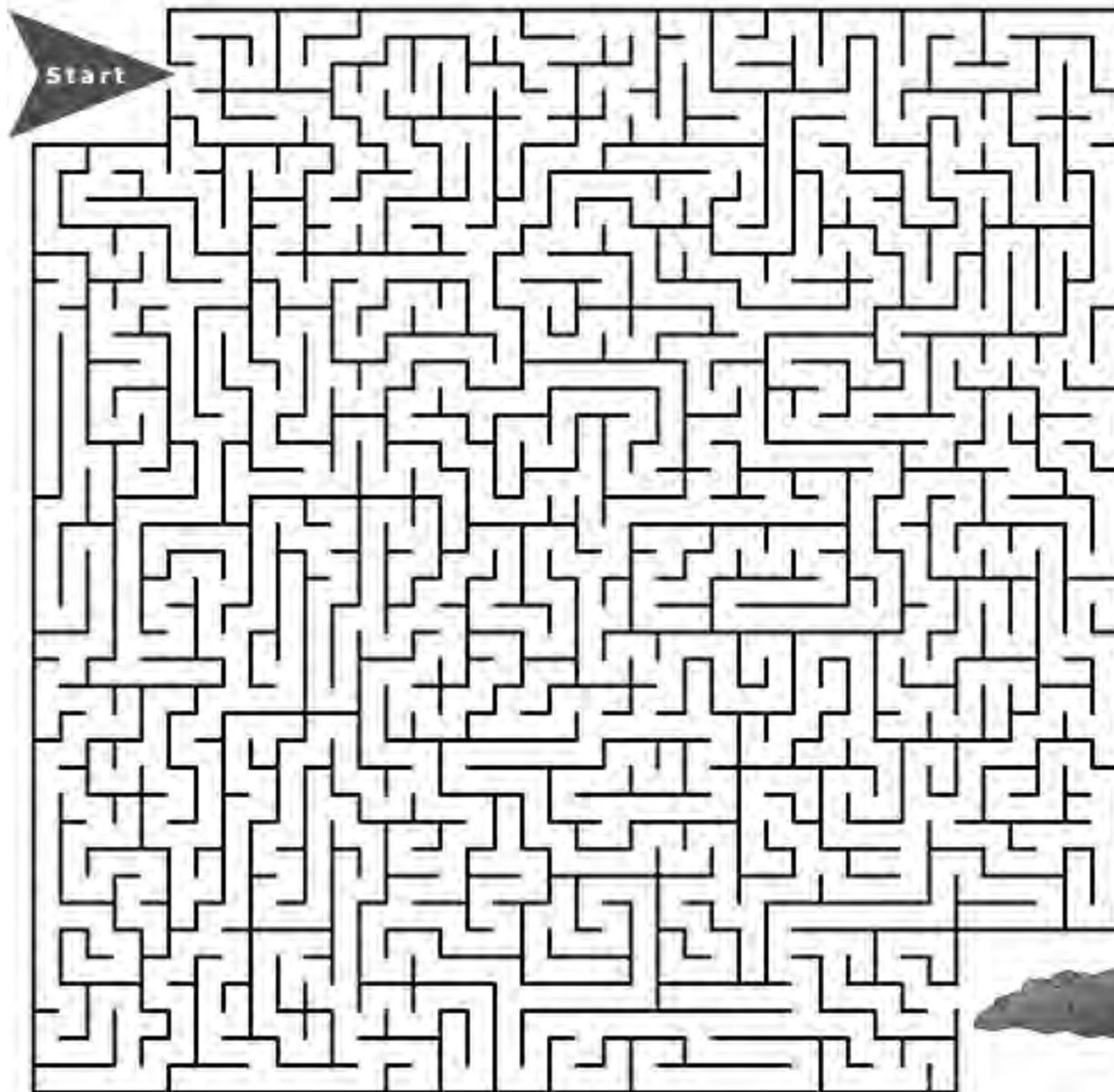
Kolonia, Pohnpei—The ad hoc National Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group headed by Mr. Wayne Mendiola, Assistant Secretary for the FSM Department of Education organized a Stakeholder’s meeting on August 30, 2020 at the UNICEF FSM Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei to discuss critical factors and plans in relation to the creation of the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC).

When established, the goal of the NFNC, would be to help improve the health status and wellbeing of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia through improved food and nutrition. UNICEF is particularly committed to supporting the establishment of this commission as it believes nutrition

is the bedrock of child survival, health, and development in any country. Well-nourished Micronesian children are better able to grow and learn, and to participate in and contribute to their communities, and to be resilient in the face of diseases. FSM as a nation recognizes the critical role of nutrition in preventing and controlling NCDs and reducing susceptibility to infections, including COVID-19, in both children and adults.

Other key participants at the meeting were representatives from FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs (Tobacco, Sports, NCD), Pohnpei State Health Services-Public Health, and Island Food Community of Pohnpei, representing the Civil Society Organizations





PUZZLE PLEASURE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) seeks well qualified individuals to fill position of Financial Management Specialist in the Department of Education, FSM National Government, Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941.

The Position: Carry out day-to-day implementation activities in specified areas/functions to support and facilitate project implementation by project institutions, teams or committees; manage State-level specific project implementation activities, including finance and accounting, procurement, report preparation, project performance monitoring system, simplified environmental screening and management checklist, and preparation and submission of disbursement claims; prepare supporting State-level documents for replenishment of Imprest account, financial statements, and arrangement of the annual audit report in close consultation with State-level DOFA officials and submits to TDDPM; monitor and report State-level Project progress and performance including midterm and project completion report; and ensure collection of sex-disaggregated data and training of project staff; perform other duties and Tasks as may be assigned by the Secretary of Education, National Project Director, State Project Directors, or TDDPM.

The Incumbent: Graduated from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration or relevant field plus at least eight (8) years of working experience in project financial management, account keeping, disbursement, and reimbursement. Prior experience of working in an ADB Project is a plus.

Benefits: The annual salary is \$24,000.00 depending upon the qualifications of the applicant.

To apply: Send resume, application by email or fax to the following addresses:

Department of Education:
 Federated States of Micronesia
 P.O. Box PS-85
 Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941
 Phone: (691) 320-2609/2647
 Email: marlynn.halbert@national.doe.fm
Office of Personnel:
 FSM National Government
 P.O. Box PS-35
 Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941
 Phone: (691) 320-2618/2642
 Email: personnel@personnel.gov.fm

The Office of Personnel will be accepting application/resume from August 26, 2020 until filled.

THE FSM AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

8	+	5	+	10	=	
+		+		+		+
9	+	7	+	10	=	
+		+		+		+
10	+	10	+	9	=	
=		=		=		=
	+		+		=	

8	1	6		7		
		3	2	8		
6	7		8	9		
7	4			5	1	
	3		5	9		
9	5				4	
			2	1	9	4
			7	4	3	5
4	5	3				

1			9			3		
2	8	9		1		5	7	4
7		6		4		1		2
		7	9	8	3	4		
5	2		1		4		8	9
	4	8	2	5	7	6	3	
4			6		1			8
8	5			2		3		7
				7				

U.S. Embassy Kolonia commemorates Women's Equality Day

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

The U.S. Embassy Kolonia held a "Women's Empowerment" panel discussion and dinner reception August 28 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which gave women the legal right to vote. The panelists who discussed the important topic included the Honorable FSM Vice Speaker Esmond Moses, 21st Congress of the FSM; the Honorable Senator Herolyn Semes-Movick, Pohnpei State Legislature; Mr. Cromwell Bacareza, Chief of Field Office UNICEF; and Ms. Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl, Director of

Court Administration FSM Supreme Court. The U.S. women's suffrage movement began in 1848 when women demanded the right to vote during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Women leaders across the United States lobbied, marched, and protested for the right to vote. Today, even though civil rights work continues, the U.S. celebrates the landmark victory for step towards equality. During the event August 28, Senator Movick emphasized the importance of women supporting women to create necessary changes in society. Vice Speaker Moses noted that women face many challenges including cultural and religious restrictions and society. The United States Government is committed to empowering women in the FSM to reach their full potential.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



RE-ADVERTISEMENT!

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward a COMPETENT AUTHORITY (CA) INSPECTOR based at the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs (FSMDHSA) in Pohnpei, FSM and reporting to the Head of National Food Safety Inspection Program or his designate. The CA Inspector services include:

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK

- To provide regulatory inspection and certification services to fishing industry vessels and establishments within Federated States of Micronesia in accordance with the National Food Safety Act (PL 7-116), Subsidiary Food Safety Regulations, associated amendments, as well as the National Control Plan (NCP) and other CA System documents;
- To provide assurances as to the safety and fitness for purpose of fish and fishery products destined for export through a defined certification system;
- To provide advice to other organizations with regard to the safety of fish and fishery products

including the other sections within Health, NORMA and other government and non-government agencies and

- collaborate with such along with relevant industry personnel and those of regional and international organizations.
- Perform routine inspection of food facilities and vessels engaged in receiving, storing or preparation of food and food products for commercial import or export and recommend regarding the formal approval of establishments and vessels;
- To perform sampling and testing as required in the NCP and the National Monitoring Plan and Regulation;
- Effective and accurate recording and reporting of CA official control activities;
- Enter ports of entry, detain and search vehicles/vessels at such port of entry and examine and take samples of articles and anything which is capable of being used for such preparation, packaging, storage, sale or conveyance;
- Collect evidence of contravention of the National Food Safety Act and Regulations, by collecting samples of suspected food, obtaining statements from witnesses and preparing reports of such contravention;
- Act as witness in support of the charges against offenders of the National Food Safety Act and Regulations;
- Investigate food complaints, examine any books, accounts, documents or other records;

- Assist in developing and implementing training programs in Sanitation Management and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) for the food industry;
- Assist States with relevant education activities, surveys/investigations during outbreaks, conduct food inspections/recalls.
- Other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelors degree in food science, health, fisheries or related field. Associates degree may be acceptable if proven relevant experience.
- 2 years experience in food safety inspection, management, sanitation or related work
- Fluency in the English language.
- Good written and oral communication skills including basic computer skills.
- Proven ability to work independently and under limited supervision with strong attention to detail.
- Willingness to work outside conventional working hours and around fish and on/around fishing vessels.
- Good people skills
- Strong commitment to sanitation and hygiene.

The incumbent shall undergo one (1) year of field work to be administered by the CA Team Leader. The incumbent must also attend, complete and pass the biennial national food safety and health certification training course and examination, as set forth in the National Food Safety Act in order to be certified as National Food Inspector (also known as CA Inspector).

DURATION OF THE PERIOD

The position will be for an initial one (1) year period. (Probationary period of six months and annual performance review determines whether contract would be continued). This is a full time position and may be extended based on satisfactory performance.

REMUNERATION

Salary will be based on the Local Labor Market Payscale and/or depending on qualifications. This will be a 1-year full-time position under contract with FSM NORMA.

APPLICATION

The FSM NORMA invites applicants to indicate their interest in providing the above-mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of a) Letter of Interest, b) CV, c) support Degrees/Certificates and d) 3 reference letters to NORMA. This position will remain open **UNTIL FILLED** but applications submission is preferable by September 15, 2020. Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition). Full Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from the following and applications can be sent to:

Mr. Eugene Pangelinan
 NORMA, FSM National Government
 2nd floor of Ambros Building
 PO Box 122, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181
 Email: info@norma.fm Copy to crawford.nimea@norma.fm

Student Success is our Success

Follow us online:



www.comfsm.fm



CREATE YOUR SUCCESS STORY

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM



YAP | CHUUK | POHNPEI | KOSRAE

National Campus
P.O. Box 159
Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691)320-2480
Fax: (691)320-2479
E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
P.O. Box 879
Chuuk, FM 96942
Phone: (691)330-2689
Fax: (691)330-2740
E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

FSM-FMI
P.O. Box 1056
Kolonias Yap, FM 96943
Phone: (691)350-5244
Fax: (691)350-5245
E-Mail: fmi@comfsm.fm

Kosrae Campus
P.O. Box 37
Tofol Kosrae, FM 96944
Phone: (691)370-3191
Fax: (691)370-3193
E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm

Pohnpei Campus
P.O. Box 614
Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691)320-3795
Fax: (691)320-3799
E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm

Yap Campus
P.O. Box 286
Kolonias Yap, FM 96943
Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
Fax: (691)350-5150
E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm