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Military “flyover” caps US Embassy commemoration of the end of World War II and Pohnpei Liberation Day

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

from the World War II era and can now be seen on display at the Pohnpei Public Library until September 30.

September 11, 2020

Pohnpei—On Pohnpei Liberation Day the US Embassy to the FSM hosted a reception commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II at the official residence of US Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor. World War II formally ended on September 2, 1945. Pohnpei was liberated from Japanese occupation on September 11 of that year.

Amanda Lih Abello sang the FSM and United States National Anthems to begin the ceremony.

Yvonne Hawkins read a beautiful poem of restoration that her grandfather wrote in 1945 for Pohnpei’s Liberation.

Senator McGarry Miguel shared from his encyclopedic knowledge of Pohnpei history, the story of 179 men from Kitti who were taken by Japanese forces to Kosrae. When Kosrae was liberated on September 8, 1945, some of those men were repatriated to Pohnpei. Miguel, who has spent most of his life learning Pohnpei’s history from those who lived through it and who orally passed it on to him would do well to put his knowledge

Immediately upon entering guests were treated to a remarkable black and white photo display tastefully printed on canvas frames. The photos were

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Pohnpei planning to repatriate a small number of its residents from Guam on October 10

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 20, 2020

Pohnpei—Pohnpei has provisionally set October 10 as the date for the first arrival of patients and their attendants who were off island for medical referral when the COVID-19 related travel ban to the FSM was established. Some students who had been studying in Guam when the travel ban was

established could also be repatriated at that time. Two doctors who have been stranded since March 21 will also travel on the return flight.

“We’ve indicated to national that they can bring all Micare medical referrals (from Pohnpei) who are stranded in Guam,” Pohnpei’s Chief of Staff Suzanne Gallen said. However some of those patients are receiving medical care in Guam that they can’t get in Pohnpei. “MiCare will advise within the next few days if they will make the flight or stay back for more treatment.”

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FSM Graduate student excels at Sophia University

The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC),

TOKYO – A graduate student from Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was recently recognized for having one of the top academic records in the Sophia University in Japan. Ms. Tamae Waguk, who is attending Sophia University on an APIC-MCT International Student Scholarship, overcame significant odds when she got stuck on Kosrae because of the novel Coronavirus pandemic and couldn't return to Tokyo. Tamae finished her thesis and completed her final semester despite having to write her thesis in the yard outside of her home so as to not disturb her family, with the light of her laptop screen attracting swarms of mosquitoes. She completed her final year at Sophia with a Grade Point Average of 3.93, with 4.0 being only A grades.

“For Tamae to complete her written thesis in Kosrae was indeed challenging. As all islanders know, Internet access is not stable and often her ability to download academic papers and do work online depended on the weather, specifically because her home depends on solar power. That isn't something students have to struggle with when doing their studies in Japan,” said Professor Anne McDonald, a senior faculty member in the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Sophia University.

“We are thrilled – but not surprised – by Tamae's outstanding academic performance in Tokyo,” added Executive Director William Kostka of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), which is based in Pohnpei, FSM. MCT and the Tokyo-based private foundation The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC), partner with Sophia University to award two annual full-ride

graduate scholarships in Environmental Studies at Sophia.

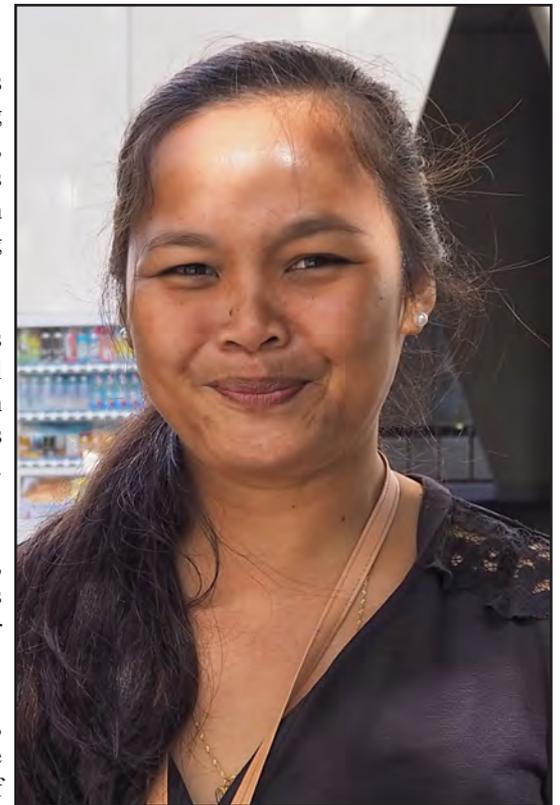
“Our goal in sponsoring this scholarship is to train Micronesians to lead their fight on the climate change front. Tamae is showing us how that's done.” added Ambassador Peter Yoshiyasu Sato, president of APIC. APIC's mission is to strengthen Japan's relations with the nations of the Pacific and Caribbean. This is the fourth year that the APIC-MCT International Student Scholarship is being offered.

Waguk, who graduated from Sophia University this month, is scheduled to start work in September in Kosrae as a Technical Officer with the FSM Ridge to Reef project. She also earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Guam in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Economics. She also studied at the College of Micronesia-FSM.

Waguk is following in the footsteps of her late father, Erick Waguk, a well-known forestry expert on Kosrae. He died shortly before his daughter began her studies in Japan, Tamae Waguk used many of her father's books, research papers and field notes to write her thesis.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust, headquartered in Pohnpei, supports biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development in the region comprised of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, U.S. territory of Guam and U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The MCT's Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship Program also supports graduate students selected for this initiative. One of the first Micronesia graduates of the Sophia program, Ms. Bertha Reyuw, now serves as MCT's Capacity Building Program Manager and oversees this scholarship program for MCT.

Sophia University is considered one of the top research universities in Japan. It was founded in 1913 by the Roman Catholic order The Society of Jesus, better known as the Jesuits. About 14,000 students attend undergraduate and graduate programs at the university, which is located in central Tokyo.



Ms. Tamae Waguk

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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16 year old Kolonia ordinance banning drinking in Pohnrakiet to be enforced again

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 18, 2020

Pohnrahkiet, Pohnpei—Some local residents of Pohnrahkiet were astounded at the end of last month to find notices posted in their village telling them that it was against the law to consume alcohol in the village. One resident wrote a strongly worded letter to Kolonia Town Mayor Peterigo Jacob with copies to Kolonia Town council members, the Chief Justice, the Prosecutor, the Pohnrakiet Head Chief, and to the Kaselehlie Press. In it she claimed that she felt that her fundamental civil rights had been violated and she threatened to sue.

“This is an old law and someone’s going to challenge it,” said Mayor Jacob. “I’m not a lawyer but it seems like discrimination to me and I think someone does need to take it to court.”

Kolonia Town Prosecutor Nixon Aldan said that the ordinance (6C-018-04) was initially passed in 2004 at the request of the village leaders. It has been on the books since then. He said that when it was first passed Kolonia Town police arrested many people for violating the ordinance. One of the people arrested and charged with violating the ordinance argued as part of his defense that the law was unconstitutional according to Kolonia Town’s Constitution. Aldan said that legal advisers then recommended that enforcement of the ordinance should be stopped until the Court had ruled in that case.

But the Court never ruled on that case. The defendant took a plea bargain deal requiring him to pay a small fine. The Court never had opportunity to rule on the Constitutionality of the ordinance that banned alcohol consumption only in a small part of Kolonia Town’s jurisdiction. But the legal advisers never

told Kolonia Town’s law enforcement officers that it should start enforcing the ordinance again.

The ordinance essentially languished in obscurity until last month when, during an oversight hearing, the Kolonia Town Council asked for a report on enforcement efforts of the long dormant ordinance. In response, the notices went up to remind residents of the 16 year old ordinance and the intention to start enforcing it again.

Aldan opined that it is an unusual ordinance in that both Kolonia Town and Pohnpei State have laws regarding open alcohol containers and laws that prohibit drinking in public. The old but still active ordinance completely bans consumption of alcohol including within the homes of residents in Pohnrahkiet but nowhere else in Kolonia Town.

The ordinance applies only in the area set aside by the Pohnpei State Government for people of Kapingamarangi who resides in Pohnpei. It does not apply to private properties such as that owned by the family of Senator Ferny Perman. It does not apply to their Hideaway Bar and Grill where they sell alcohol.

Miyuki Perman said that after the notices went up last month, some residents of Pohnrahkiet have again taken to making the short walk to her private property so that they can drink. Just as when the ordinance was originally passed, and many times since then, her family has been forced to call police to handle rowdy drunks on their property, including at their hotel and restaurant.

For now, whether the ordinance is old, whether it has been consistently enforced, and whether it is Constitutional, it is in place and the Executive Branch of the Kolonia Town government is required by law to enforce it.

FSM Post Office in Chuuk erroneously posts notice saying it cannot carryout outbound mail to the US

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 18, 2020

Weno, Chuuk—On September 15, a notice appeared in the window of the FSM Post Office in Weno, Chuuk saying that until further notice it could only accept outgoing mail to Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Majuro. No explanation was given on the printed notice.

FSM Postmaster General Ginger Mida was on official travel when the FSM shut its borders due to COVID-19 and has been unable to return since then. When we asked about the notice, she said that she was shocked to hear about it and would call the Chuuk Post Office the next morning to find out what was happening and would get back to us.

When she was able to return our call after gathering information, she said that the Chuuk Post Office Post Master had violated protocol by placing the notice without proper clearance to do so. She said that she was sorry for the people who saw the notice which has since been removed.

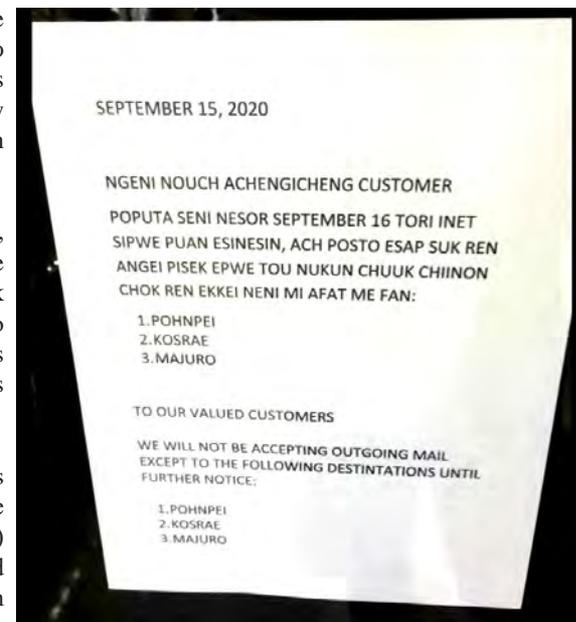
There was indeed a problem, but even on the day that the notice was posted at the Chuuk Post Office, outbound mail to the US and other places besides those listed on the notice was able to move onward.

Mida said that United Airlines and their contractors require US Postal Service (USPS) authorized Delivery and Receipt (D&R) information on

mail that it carries. A new scanning machine was installed which prints the D & R tags after electronic transmission to the USPS. Sometimes, due to the time differences between the FSM States and Hawaii, USPS receives the transmission too late for action and so the machine cannot print the authorized D&R tags that must accompany all postage bound for the US.

She said when that happens, the FSM Post Offices can fill out a “Form 2729” which lists the date, weight, trip number, and clerk initials. United or its contractors can carry the mail as long as that form is filled out. It’s what happened on the day that the notice limiting outbound freight appeared at the Post Office in Weno.

Mida said that USPS is aware of the glitch and hopes to have a solution to it in place soon. Meanwhile, outbound postage from the FSM to the US is still traveling unhindered.



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School buses donated to Madolenihmw Municipality by Zhongshan city

Embassy of the People's Republic of China

On September 4th, H.E. Ambassador Huang Zheng attended the handover ceremony for 2 school buses donated by China's Zhongshan City to Madolenihmw Municipality. Around 30 guests were in attendance, including Mr. Brendy Carl, Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Mary P. Mudong, Representative of Honorable Reed Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, T.H. Shelten G. Neth, Chairman of Health & Social Services of 10th Pohnpei State Legislature and Chairman of Madolenihmw Delegation, His Majesty Herbert Hebel, Wasalapalap Isipahu Nahnmwarki of Madolenihmw, T.H. John Adolph, Iso Nahnken of Mdolenihmw, T.H. John Rensle, Acting Meninkeder Lapalap (Mayor) of Madolenihmw, teacher and student representatives, and Counselor Zhang Weitao, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy.

Looking back on the ins and outs of the school buses project, Ambassador Huang pointed out that both Chinese and the FSM governments at all levels take education as a priority. Ambassador Huang said, we're fully aware of the difficulties in school education caused by high mountains and remoteness in Madolenihmw. The donation demonstrates our willingness to support and assist the FSM in its pursuit of sustainable development in all economic and social sectors, including education. Ambassador Huang emphasized that China's foreign aid is conducted on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, openness and sustainability, without any political precondition attached on, thus it's the sincerest and most selfless one.

Ambassador Huang said, by donating to the FSM, be it school buses or medical supplies for enhancing anti-epidemic capacity, China is taking concrete actions to implement the Xi Jinping Thoughts on Diplomacy, whose content is centered on working to build a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity. The 2 school buses were particularly customized for Madolenihmw, adapting to local climate and geological conditions. Zhongshan City has enjoyed dynamic friendly exchanges and cooperation with a number of municipalities in the FSM, including Madolenihmw, which consists of an important part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between China and the FSM. Ambassador Huang hoped that the 2 school buses can provide high-quality service for many years, allowing the project to serve the public interest indeed and helping the people of Madolenihmw to learn more about China. Ambassador Huang said, China stands ready to make joint efforts with the FSM to implement the important consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and FSM President David Panuelo during their summit in Beijing last December, to further develop the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in depth and width and to consolidate our Great Friendship on the fundamental bedrock of the One-China Principle.

Mr. Brendy Carl and His Majesty Herbert Hebel appreciated the donation of 2 school buses, taking them as a solution to a long-term problem. They extended sincere thanks for China's generous selfless help to the FSM in FSM people's struggle for national independence and the pursuit of economic and social development. They said, Chinese aid stays close to grass-root communities which constitute the FSM society from the bottom up, and attends to ordinary people's most pressing needs, therefore, it is practical, timely and effective. It also lays a firm social and public opinion foundation for the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and our Great Friendship. Bearing in mind the kindness received from its Chinese friends, the FSM will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation with Chinese localities, including Zhongshan City, and Chinese people from all walks of life, elevate the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to new heights and jointly build a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity.

At the handover, religious leaders blessed the school buses and the wife of His Majesty Herbert Hebel cut the rainbow, abiding by a unique matriarchal custom of Pohnpei State.



The 2 school buses are funded by Zhongshan Municipal Government of China's Guangdong Province and were manufactured by China's Zhengzhou Yutong Bus Co.,Ltd.. The donation agreement was signed by Zhongshan and Madolenihmw representatives last year during the visit to the FSM by Mr. Feng Yurong, Vice Chairman of Zhongshan People's Congress Standing Committee.

...Repatriation

Continued from front page

Right now it looks like approximately 30 people could be part of the October 10 flight. No passengers will be allowed to disembark in Chuuk.

The FSM has made financial arrangements with the Santa Fe Hotel to be used as a quarantine center for passengers who will be the first to return to Pohnpei. They will be required to quarantine at that facility for 14 days before the October 10 flight which means they would have to entered quarantine by September 26 at the latest.

Gallen said that the FSM has also contracted Health Services of the Pacific to do medical monitoring and testing for COVID-19 at the quarantine facility in Guam. Palau earlier also hired the company to test its citizens before they were allowed to return home.

On landing in Pohnpei, the passengers will immediately enter quarantine for another 14 days and will also be tested before they will be allowed to return to their homes.

Gallen says that it is trying to coordinate another simulation exercise a few days before the scheduled return of the flight. Though she says that it is expected that the simulation exercise will go well because of the exercises that preceded it and lessons learned there, another exercise would give the Task Force opportunity to make any of the corrections that are caught on that day. "The likelihood is very small that it won't go well," Gallen said.

The FSM government, MiCare, and the FSM Consulate in Guam is currently in the process of informing FSM citizens in Guam of the requirements for this first re-entry.

Gallen said that the Pohnpei government will base future repatriation plans on the success of the currently schedule repatriation procedure.



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Fishing vessel runs aground on reef in Yap

Yap State Department of Youth & Civic Affairs

Colonia, Yap. 9/18/2020. Around 2:00am on Thursday, September 17, 2020, a fishing boat operated by Liancheng Overseas Fishery Co., Ltd and owned by Huang, Shau-Chou went aground at the mouth of Peelaek Channel near Gagil and Tomil in Yap with nine crew members on board. No injuries were reported but the vessel was taking on water, according to Paul Ayin, General Manager of the Yap Fishing Authority, who received the first call.

Following established Covid-19 protocols, to minimize contact, the crew transferred themselves to their life raft and were towed to safety where they disembarked at YFA dock into a cordoned off section of the dock on the eastern side of Colonia.

At this time, it is reported that there is no spill of any type of hazardous materials, but the boat has 4,000 to 5,000 gallons of fuel on board. A salvage team is transferring the fuel into containers to minimize the risk of a spill. In addition, there is an estimated 4 tons of catch on board.

A team from the Department of Health Services wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) performed Covid-19 testing and other related procedures. Yap has no cases of Covid-19 and is taking every precaution to ensure the public's safety. Temporary housing has been set up to isolate them from the general public near the old YFTI facility. The departure date of the captain and crew is pending the completion of the ongoing investigation.

Yap State Governor Henry Falan stated, "I want to assure the citizens of Yap that everything is being done to ensure the safety and security of our island from the Covid-19 virus. We are very grateful that there were no injuries and no fuel or oil spill, but we are taking every precaution to isolate the crew and test them for the virus while preventing contact with local workers. The Health Crisis Task Force has been working for several months to prepare and contain the virus if and when it arrives. The members of the task force have been thoroughly trained and are acting quickly and efficiently alongside the other agencies to mitigate the situation."

Liancheng works with YFA to operate fishing boats from YFA's dock. The catch is flown out once a week on Asia Pacific Air. This is the second time this vessel has visited the state.

In addition to YFA and OHS, the other responding agencies are Yap State Department of Resource & Development, Office of Planning & Budget, Department Public Works & Transportation, Yap Health Crisis Task Force, Public Safety and the Environmental Protection Agency.

FSM citizen repatriation process discussed in Committee to Wait on the President

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— The 21st Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) began its Fifth Regular Session on September 14th, 2020. After the opening session, His Excellency David W. Panuelo and the Honorable Yosiwo P. George received the Committee to Wait, chaired by the Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker of the 21st FSM Congress, with committee member the Honorable Ferny S. Perman, Chair of the Congressional Committee on Health and Social Affairs.

The bulk of the Committee to Wait discussed the proposed repatriation process for FSM citizens stranded abroad, as well as the National Government's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021. Regarding the latter, it was noted that the Government's operations budget has a proposed increase of five percent (5%), primarily to reflect the restructuring of the Department of Justice (such as its new Division of Anti-Human Trafficking), as well as the establishment of a field office for the National Public Auditor in Chuuk State, and additional staff in the Office of the President's Division of Public Information.

The Honorable Livingston A. Taulung, Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Affairs and Chair of the FSM COVID-19 Task Force, described where the Government is with regards to beginning a formal repatriation process for FSM citizens stranded abroad.

"We are finalizing the development of a Pre-Quarantine process in [the U.S. Territory of] Guam. Our Memorandum of Agreement with the hotel has reached legal sufficiency with the Department of Justice, and as of this morning we finalized our proposed text for the Memorandum of Agreement with the medical provider," Secretary Taulung said.

The Secretary explained that, pending the formalization of these agreements, a successful simulation exercise in Pohnpei State, a round of COVID-19 tests for prospective repatriating citizens, the concurrence of the FSM COVID-19 Task Force and Pohnpei State's COVID-19 Task Force, and the approval of the President, that repatriation-related activities might begin in the coming weeks with the first wave of repatriating citizens to potentially arrive sometime in October. The National Government has yet to designate a specified date to formally begin repatriating stranded FSM citizens.

"As for the simulation exercises in Yap," Secretary Taulung continued, "We are hoping to secure a flight through a domestic carrier soon. As you know, Chuuk State is still not ready to accept our teams, but we're advised that, once Yap is finished, then Chuuk will most likely accept our assessment team."

The remainder of the meeting targeted discussion on pending and proposed legislation, such as the bill to include renewable energy into FSM Petroleum Corporation/Vital's mandate, as well as brief discussion on nominations for advice and consent positions.

"We need to put somebody that can head our Consulate in Honolulu," the President said, noting that the relative lack of coordination on the part of the FSM National Government in Hawaii when compared to Guam is due to the lack of a Consul General. "Shanty Asher Sigrah is a fine candidate and I endorse her without any reservation. I urge Congress to pass a resolution for resubmission."



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...Pohnpei Liberation

Continued from front page into book form.

During the ceremony, the Kitti singers performed two traditional songs from the days of occupation. Miguel explained the significance of the songs during his speech.

FSM President David Panuelo addressed the crowd as well. His speech, quite often extemporaneous, began with his recalling his own memories of exploring World War II relics as a young boy, and evolved into a solicitation for all peoples and nations to practice empathy and embody peace with one another.

“It is a blessing that today Micronesians are joined by their American, Japanese, Chinese, and Australian friends alike,” President Panuelo said, “Because today we share enduring friendship and partnership, committed to peace, friendship, cooperation, and—most of all—love in our common humanity. It is the memory of our collective suffering that we recognize that empathy is strength—not weakness.”

Addressing His Excellency Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, President Panuelo said: “During my visit to Japan last October, to celebrate the Enthronement of His Majesty, the Emperor, I was most impressed with the peacefulness of Japan and the Peaceful Harmony of our Reiwa Era. While I read stories and history of a Japan that once knew war, the Japan that I know and have experienced is a Japan committed, and entirely devoted to, the promotion of peace and harmony amongst all peoples and nations throughout the world. It’s one of the reasons we truly support Japan becoming a new and permanent member of the UN Security Council. It’s why the FSM and Japan share a lasting special bond of Kizuna.”

“...Today, we are also celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the reminder of the Second World War,” President Panuelo said. “What is needed in 2020 and beyond is World solidarity with one another. As we know in our hearts and have seen reinforced from our past, all human life is priceless and valuable. Empathy is not weakness—empathy is courage, and empathy is strength. It is through empathy, and a multilateral global community, that our World can overcome any challenge, including COVID-19 and Climate Change.”

“I conclude,” the President said, “by wishing everyone here peace in their hearts, and that war remains something that we imagine but never something that we have to experience again.”

US Ambassador Cantor also addressed the crowd, beginning first with lengthy greetings in the Pohnpeian language, which onlookers claimed she did very well.

“WWII made an immense impact on virtually all the Micronesian islands,” she said. “All were scarred by their experiences, Pohnpeians, Chuukese, Yapese, Kosraeans, Americans, and Japanese. Micronesians were caught in the middle of what for them was a foreign conflict and suffered incredibly...In the 75 years that followed WWII, the Pacific has enjoyed relative peace, prosperity, and friendships. Where once animosity existed between the United States and Japan, and enduring alliance and partnership has grown. Former enemies have joined together to ensure a stable, free, and prosperous region, dedicated to the idea that together we can deter the spectre of war.

“Liberation not only reunited families but it led to the unification of a nation—the beginning of a federation of states with a unique and special relationship with the United States. Our bonds are strong...Let us never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms, our values, and our way of life. And let us celebrate the peace and partnership their sacrifice created for us today,” she said.

Capping off the Embassy reception was a flyover by a KC-135 stratotanker refueling aircraft. It was the same plane that recently successfully spotted three missing fishermen from Chuuk State on Pikelot during a search and rescue operation earlier this year.

Many traditional, political, and diplomatic leaders and other invited guests attended the reception which ended after food was served.



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PUBLIC NOTICE 09/08/2020

This public notice is hereby made to inform the General Public that the Pohnpei Port Authority is proposing the following amendments to its Airport Rules and Regulations:

PART 12 SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES.

1. **SECTION 12.2 DEPARTURE FACILITY SERVICES CHARGE**
 - Proposing to amend Departure Facility Service Charge from \$20.00 to \$40.00.
 - Proposing to amend Exceptions by deleting “on the same flight and aircraft”.
2. **SECTION 12.20 SECURITY SCREENING FEE.**
 - Proposing to add Section 12.20 Security Screening Fee, by imposing a security screening fee of, \$16.75 per passenger charged to airlines for all security screening services performed by PPA certified personnel.
3. **SECTION 12.21 EQUIPMENT USAGE FEE**
 - Proposing to add Section 12.21 Equipment Usage Fee, by imposing usage fee of PPA’s Aircraft Tow Truck \$150.00 per use, and PPA’s Aircraft Stair \$100.00 per use.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed amendments in writing directed to Pius Roby, General Manager, Pohnpei Port Authority. All comments must be received by the office of the General Manager no later than 4:00 p.m., October 8, 2020.

Copies of the proposed amendments of the Airport Rules and Regulations can be obtained at Pohnpei Port Authority located at the Pohnpei International Airport. For further information, please contact Luciano Abraham, Marketing Manager, at (691)320-2793, email: luciano.abraham@ppa.fm.

Signed: 
Pius Roby
General Manager

Date: September 8, 2020

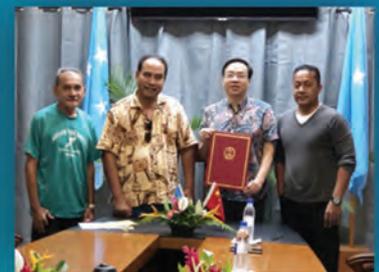


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& the 31st Anniversary of the Establishment of
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" Joint Pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative
and the Building of A Community with A Shared Future for Humanity "

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EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



Hainan- Pohnpei standardized coconut plantation makes steady progress



Pohnpei Pilot Farm

The plantation began operation in 2019, which is jointly built by the Hainan Provincial government and The Pohnpei Government, and jointly implemented by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences and the Pohnpei Resource Development Bureau , with the purpose of enhancing agricultural cooperation between the two sides.

For more than a year, steady progress has been made. Planting a total of 250 coconut trees of 3 excellent local varieties. The coconut trees are growing

well. During this period, a training course on standardized coconut cultivation was held, which was attended by 20 people from The Agricultural office staff of Pohnpei ,students, and local farmers. The wide-narrow row planting technique was emphatically explained to them. This training course has been recognized by the trainees.

The wide-narrow row planting technique of coconut plantation can improve the utilization rate of land. Since coconuts have a nutritional growth period of at least three years, farmers cannot reap no economic benefits during the early



years of coconut plantation. By using the wide-narrow row planting technique, farmers can increase their income by interplanting other cash crops in the in the wide row of coconuts, such as pasture grass,coffee,banana ,pineapple .

Routine coconut garden management, including weed removal, pest and disease

control, water pipe laying, fencing construction and so on, will better promote the construction of coconut plantation.

The successful construction of the standardized coconut plantation will continue to benefit the two peoples and consolidate the friendship between China and the FSM.

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Opening Date: Sept 18, 2020
Closing Date: Oct 2, 2020

Israel-Pacific Food Security Alliance virtual call with Pohnpei State

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 3, 2020

Pohnpei—On September 3, 2020, Governor Oliver, Director of the Department of Resources and Development, Mr. Hubert Yamada, and Chief of Agriculture, Mr. Mark Kostka met with officials from Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MASHAV, on a Zoom virtual conference call. The purpose of the call was to follow up on the virtual launch of the Israel-Pacific Food Alliance that took place virtually on July 2, 2020, in which Governor Oliver as Honorary Consul for the State of Israel in FSM, Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development’s Director, Mr. Hubert Yamada, and Chief of Agriculture, Mr. Mark Kostka, attended.

In this follow up meeting, Agricultural

experts, Danny Zonshine and Oded Halamit, from MASHAV spoke with Chief of Agriculture, Mr. Mark Kostka, and Director Yamada to better understand Agriculture and Food conditions in Pohnpei. Chief of Agriculture, Mr. Mark Kostka, advised the Israelis that most farming is subsistence farming and agroforestry, not for cash sales. Another condition is the high amount of rain, which can damage vegetable crops.

Director Yamada reiterated Chief Kostka’s advice on farming in Pohnpei. He noted that consistency of supply is a challenge as much of the food supply is imported. He said farming behavior, from subsistence to commercial farming, will help with increased production and was thankful for Israel’s expertise in these areas.

Mr. Zonshine and Mr. Halamit said MASHAV wants to assist by

transferring proven agricultural technologies focusing on vegetable farming that can yield quicker results than bigger staple crops like wheat or rice. The idea is to develop and co-produce the same crop and plants in Pohnpei and Israel, providing online/virtual guidance with the Division of Agriculture and even the COM-FSM Land Grant program.

At the conclusion of the meeting, H.E. Tibor Shalev-Schlusser, Israeli Ambassador to the FSM and Pacific Island States thanked Governor Oliver, for the continued cooperation and support of this food security alliance, and encouraged the other states to participate in this food alliance.

FSM Department of Resources and Development (R&D) is the focal point for the Israel-Pacific Food Alliance in the country. Pohnpei State Director of the Department of Resources

and Development, Hubert Yamada, coordinates all engagements with MASHAV through FSM R&D.



Governor Oliver receives Committee to Wait on the Governor from the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 15, 2020

Pohnpei—On September 15, 2020, Governor Reed B. Oliver, received the Committee to Wait on the Governor chaired by Senator Marvin Yamaguchi of Kolonia with members Senator Mitaro Simina of Sokehs and Senator Kasinda Ludwig of Kapingamarangi.

Chairman Yamaguchi, on behalf of the Speaker and 10th Pohnpei State Legislature, informed Governor Oliver that the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature started its third and final regular session for this fiscal year, on September 14, 2020, which will run for 30 days. He further advised Governor Oliver that this regular session would focus mainly on the FY-21 budget. Senator Simina highlighted the need for the new members of the Board of Education.

Governor Oliver and the Committee discussed FY-21 Budget, COVID-19 continuing preparations and activities, Pohnpei State Government administration building renovations, Government housing renovations, and a briefing done by the members of the FSM Joint Committee on Compact Renegotiations. He emphasized the need to complete

the nomination process of the remaining members of the Boards, Commissions, and Authorities including the Board of Education and several others for Legislature’s appropriate action.

On the COVID-19 and repatriation updates, Governor Oliver advised the Committee that the Pohnpei State Government is working with the FSM National Government to repatriate Pohnpei medical referral patients and students from Guam. There will be a pre-14 day quarantine in Guam with COVID-19 testing and additional 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Pohnpei with further COVID-19 testing. The exact numbers of residents and date of arrival have not been confirmed but will be decided in conjunction with the FSM National Government.

Governor Oliver thanked Chairman Yamaguchi and the Committee for their visit and the opportunity to share updates between the Legislative and Executive branches.

For more information on this post please call the Public Information Officer at 320-2235 or email at patrick.pedrus@pohnpei.gov.fm



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Joint Committee for Compact Renegotiations provides updates to Pohnpei

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 10, 2020

Pohnpei—On Thursday, September 10, Pohnpei’s representatives on the Joint Committee for Compact Renegotiations (JCRP), Mr. Bethwel Henry, and FSM Vice Speaker Esmond Moses visited Governor Oliver, Lt. Governor Perman, and members of the cabinet at the Governor’s Conference Room. The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the ongoing compact of free association re-negotiations.

JCRP Chairman and former Ambassador, Mr. Asterio Takesy, gave a brief overview on the status of negotiations with the United States. Ambassador Takesy said the expiring economic provisions which include sector grants, certain federal programs, and the FSM trust fund, are the focus of negotiations with the US. Ambassador Takesy said that the US has expressed interest in the continuation of the compact and that the presence of China in the Pacific has commanded the interest of the U.S.A, particularly in Micronesia. Ambassador Takesy said the negotiators on both sides have agreed to an ambitious work schedule to have a presentation ready for the US and FSM Congress by the end of this year.

Governor Oliver thanked Ambassador Takesy, former Speaker Bethwel Henry, Vice Speaker Esmond Moses, and Mr. Epel Ilon for the updates.

Kitti presents its COVID-19 Emergency Response and Preparedness plan

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 7, 2020

Pohnpei—On Monday, September 7, 2020, the Kitti COVID-19 Task Force presented their Emergency Response and Preparedness plan to Governor Oliver, Lt. Governor Perman, and the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force.

Kitti Task Force Chairman, Mr. Herman Semes, Nahnmadau en Dehd Kitti, led the presentation which included their mission, vision, and goals. Governor Oliver thanked the Chairman and Task Force for the plan, highlighting one of their goals listed, social distancing, as an important component of prevention and spread of COVID-19. He urged the Kitti Task Force and Pohnpei Task Force members to lead the way for others to observe and follow with social distancing, asking “mah Kaiden kitail, ihs? Mah Kaiden met, iaht?”



Pohnpei Outer Island presents COVID-19 response plan

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 4, 2020

Pohnpei—On Friday, September 4, 2020, Pohnpei outer islands governments presented the Joint Outer Islands Municipal Government COVID-19 Response Plan. The government contracted Mr. Patrick Blank to help draw up the response plan and he made the presentation. The Joint Outer Island Response Plan is modeled after the State’s response plan addressing food and

water security, COVID condition levels, movement, quarantine, and isolation.

The governments presented the plan to Governor Reed Oliver, Lt. Governor Feliciano Perman, and the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force. Representing the Outer Islands Municipal Government were the Honorable Smithy Clark, Mayor of Pingelap, and the Honorable Senard Leopold, the Mayor of Nukuoro.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

CONSULTANT’S QUALIFICATIONS BASED SELECTION (CQS)

Project: Federated States of Micronesia Maritime Investment Project (P163922)
Grant No.: IDA-D4500
Assignment Title: Review of Institutional and Governance Arrangements for Port Management
Reference No.: FM-PIU-MIP, DOTCI-133385-CS-CQS

The Federated States of Micronesia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Micronesia Maritime Investment Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the following consulting services.

The Government of FSM is seeking a firm to assess how the maritime sector is governed in FSM and identify measures to improve and streamline port management. The consulting services (“the Services”) will focus on a comprehensive review of the current institutional and regulatory setting of the maritime sector and develop a detailed set of priority recommendations for GoFSM to manage immediate and emerging issues. Term of Reference can be obtain from the contact below

It is expected that the consulting assignment shall take four months to complete and will require a total of six person-months input by three key experts to complete. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached below.

The Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DoTC&I) now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers”, dated July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 (“the Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The best qualified firm to carry out the services will be selected in accordance with the Consultant’s Qualifications Based Selection (CQS) method set out in the Regulations, and based on the following criteria:

- i. General experience advising on institutional review and governance arrangements for port management or management of other major infrastructure facilities (a minimum of 10 years’ experience will be required).
- ii. Experience on similar assignments as per the Terms of Reference (at least 3 similar assignments over the past 10 years).
- iii. Proof of technical, managerial and financial capacity of the firm.
- iv. Responsiveness to this REOI and demonstrated understanding of the key elements of this assignment.
- v. Experience in the Pacific Region is desired.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by **Friday, 16th October, 2020.**

Gerard Osborne,
Project Manager
Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DoTC&I)
Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)
Tel: (+691) 320 2080
Email: gerard.osborne@tci.gov.fm
Web: www.tci.gov.fm

And cc to:
ciu.fmip@gov.fm
Central Implementation Unit

Pohnpei Rotary Club hosts annual Fun Run

Pohnpei Rotary Club

September 5, 2020

Pohnpei—It was the first Fun Run of this Covid infected year, but it was a good one. The Pohnpei Rotary Club held its annual Fun Run on September 5, 2020.

There was a big turnout and at least a hundred persons participated. Given the current situation, the event was held outside with social distancing for the runners, including staggered starting times.

Additionally, no times were given out due to the staggered starting times, so the participants were only participating for fun and the awesome shirts donated by Budweiser/Ambros, Inc.

Also for one of the only times there wasn't a tropical storm during the run.

We want to thank all of our sponsors who supported this run, Ambros Inc., Guam/Budweiser, Palm Terrace, Drops of Life, FSM Olympic Committee, Pohnpei Track and Field Club, Bank of FSM, True Value, Ace Hardware, Yapese Community of Pohnpei and Kolonia Town and the Mayor and Police Chief for Security.



The Rotary Club uses fund raising money to support our projects in Pohnpei, including scholarships for deserving Micronesian College Students, Medical Projects, including helping diagnose and treat rheumatic heart disease, the Pohnpei Little Library, sports equipment projects, and hopefully the annual Spelling Bee. We thank everyone for their support of this fund raising project.

Unfortunately everyone left as soon as they finished the run, which was good for social distancing, but they missed the 40 minutes of prepared remarks by this year's president of the Rotary Club.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, and thanks to everyone for their support.

President Panuelo joins Presidents Remengesau Jr. of Palau, Maamau of Kiribati, Kabua of the RMI, and Aingimea of Nauru, in informal virtual Micronesian Presidents' Summit (MPS) discussions

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On September 9th, 2020, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—joined the Presidents of the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of Kiribati, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in a virtual and informal engagement of the Micronesian Presidents Summit (MPS). Topics discussed in the meeting ranged from the sovereign Micronesian nations continued status as COVID-19 free jurisdictions, the region's solidarity and commitment behind His Excellency Gerald Zackios as the

candidate for the next Secretary-General of the Pacific Island Forum, and other matters of regional and international import, such as proposed dates and times for a potential in-person iteration of the 20th MPS.



Rotary Club of Pohnpei presents the winners of the 2020 Rotary Scholarship Program



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc., wants to congratulate the following winners of this year's Rotary Scholarship program.

- *Jennaia Chonmon UH Hilo
- * Jessica Moufa Scranton University
- *CeeCee Keppin Saint Joseph's University
- *Rianna Richards Eastern Oregon University
- * Macmillan Willyander Saint Louis University
- Diana Shigeta Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
- Mermly Yamada Walla Walla
- Trevor Talimeluw Saint Martins University

These students were selected from numerous applicants and they all exhibited high standards and had numerous achievements.

The Rotary Scholarship is a self funded program from money raised in Pohnpei.

It goes to FSM citizen students for college or post graduate studies. Each year we select a number of deserving students for the scholarship to assist them in their studies. The Rotary Club awarded \$8,000.00 in scholarships this year.

We want to thank all our various sponsors and supporter who assist us throughout the year.

We also wish to thank the public that has supported us with our various fundraising activities.

We are more limited due to COVID 19, but we are trying to be creative. Calendars will go on sale this month. Please support your local Rotary Club.

Delineation of Kitti Watershed Forest Reserve closing ceremony, Pohnpei

FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project

KITTI, Pohnpei – On Friday, September 4, 2020, a traditional ceremony was held at the WKS Community Center in Enipein Pah, Kitti to celebrate and acknowledge the field team responsible for completing the long-awaited delineation of the Watershed Forest Reserve within the boundaries of Kitti Municipality.

Pohnpei State Public Law No. 1L-128-87, known as Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve and Mangrove Protection Act of 1987, was established to create and provide for the protection and maintenance of an effective watershed forest reserve, to protect important watershed areas, and to provide for the conservation and management of mangrove forests. It also called for a Watershed line to be delineated and demarcated on the ground to protect native forests from human encroachment. This particular law had an initial history of resistance from Pohnpeians, as community involvement in the development of the law was virtually nonexistent in the early years after it was passed, and the proposed rules and regulations failed to recognize traditional Pohnpei resource use and authority. It was

met with fierce confrontations between Government officials and local sakau farmers. Many prominent environmental experts and advocates attempted to carry out the provisions of the law but were unsuccessful.

In 2017, the FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project helped revitalize the need to complete the delineation of the Kitti Watershed Forest Reserve. It all began with a small outreach and awareness team that visited communities throughout Kitti Municipality to galvanize support for the work to continue after so many years of dormancy. The community outreach efforts culminated in a decision made by the Kitti Pwihnen Wahu (Council of Traditional Leaders) for the delineation of the watershed. In 2019, the R2R Project contracted CSP to take the lead in facilitating all activities associated with the delineation of the watershed.

Friday, September 4, 2020, brought together all who played key roles in the achievement of such a significant milestone for natural resource management here in Pohnpei State. The next step is to identify and rehabilitate highly degraded areas of the forest.



The R2R Project acknowledges CSP, Kitti Municipal Government, Pohnpei State Government field team members and other partners for their hard work, commitment and continued support.

Stay tuned for our next R2R update! For more details on the R2R in FSM project, please contact:

- Project Manager, Rosalinda Yatilman, rosalinda.yatilman@decem.gov.fm, Tel:+691 320-8815
- Technical Coordinator, Rachael Nash, nash.fsmr2r@gmail.com, Tel: +691 350-4020
- Financial Administrator, Fitzgerald

Weilbacher I, fritzweilbacher@gmail.com, Tel:+691 320-8815

- Kosrae State Coordinator, Marston Luckymis, mluckymis@gmail.com, Tel: +691 370-3646
- Pohnpei State Coordinator, Jorg Anson, jorgyson@gmail.com, Tel: +691 320-1780
- Chuuk State Coordinator, Kriskitina Kanemoto Marar, krizk66@gmail.com, Tel: +691 330-6729
- Yap State Coordinator, Debra Laan, debra.laan@gmail.com, Tel:+691 330-2113

US Ambassador presents supplies for World Micronesia Clean-Up Day

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

September 10, 2020

Pohnpei—On Thursday, September 10, Governor Oliver welcomed H.E. Carmen Cantor, U.S. Ambassador to FSM, to the Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office. The purpose of Ambassador Cantor’s visit was to present boxes of trash bags and bottles of water for World Micronesia Clean-Up Day on September 12, 2020.

Governor Oliver thanked Ambassador Cantor on behalf of EPA and the people of Pohnpei for the donations to help clean up Pohnpei. He thanked Ambassador Cantor for strengthening the bonds of friendship between USA and FSM, particularly Pohnpei with her recent traditional leader’s visits across Pohnpei. Ambassador Cantor thanked Governor Oliver for his Office’s cooperation and collaboration with these visits.

ADB vows to be developing Asia’s partner for recovery from COVID-19

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (18 September 2020) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to partnering with developing economies in Asia and the Pacific to achieve their recovery goals from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, President Masatsugu Asakawa said in an address to ADB’s Board of Governors today.

“ADB will continue to earn your trust as a steadfast partner during the uncertain times we still face in our region as we build for a strong and lasting recovery,” said Mr. Asakawa. “Our work toward a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive recovery stands on a foundation of mutual trust formed over decades of cooperation with you, our members.”

He was speaking at the opening of the Business Session of the second part of ADB’s 53rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, this year held in a virtual and

abbreviated format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADB announced in April a \$20 billion package to help its developing members address COVID-19. This included rapid emergency grants and technical assistance to help governments meet urgent medical needs; a new COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option (CPRO), which is supporting countercyclical expenditure programs; and assistance for the private sector.

ADB has so far committed about \$11.2 billion in financial and technical assistance to fight the pandemic. Working closely with development partners, ADB has also mobilized about \$7.2 billion in cofinancing.

As the region moves forward toward recovery, Mr. Asakawa said ADB will build on its relationship with its members to support them in six key areas.

First, ADB will promote regional

cooperation and integration to help members seize the opportunity that renewed globalization can offer in a post-pandemic new normal. “While there are some who suggest that recent border closures and travel restrictions are signs that globalization has ground irreversibly to a halt, I do believe that globalization will return, but it will take a different shape,” Mr. Asakawa said. ADB will work with developing members to secure more diversified value and supply chains, and to promote regional public goods for better collective prevention of disease outbreaks, mitigation of climate change impacts, and enhancement of the regional financial safety net.

Second, since COVID-19 has contributed to an increase in income inequality and absolute poverty, ADB will strengthen investments in health, education, and social protection, which will better ensure safety and opportunities for all, while building the human capital that economies need to thrive in the long term.

Third, ADB will accelerate its efforts to tackle climate change in order to reach the goals established in its long-term Strategy 2030—to reach \$80 billion in cumulative climate investments and 75% of the total

See “ADB partner” on next page

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command forces come together for Valiant Shield 2020

*U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs
Posted September 10, 2020*

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii - U.S. Indo-Pacific Command forces are participating in exercise Valiant Shield (VS), Sept. 14- 25, on Guam and around the Mariana Islands Range Complex.

Participants include USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), USS America (LHA 6), USS New Orleans (LPD 18), USS Germantown (LSD 42) and multiple surface ships -- approximately 100 aircraft and an estimated 11,000 personnel from the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps.

Valiant Shield focuses on integration of training in a blue-water environment. This training enables real-world proficiency in sustaining joint forces through detecting, locating, tracking, and engaging units at sea, in the air, on land, and cyberspace in response to a range of mission areas.

“It is vitally important that we demonstrate to our allies and partners our strong commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

Rear Adm. Michael Boyle

“Exercises such as Valiant Shield allow U.S. forces the opportunity to integrate warfighting concepts such as all-domain strike group operations in a joint high end warfare training environment to continuously improve joint lethality,” said Rear Adm. Michael Boyle, director maritime operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet. “It is vitally important that we demonstrate to our allies and partners our strong commitment to a free and open Indo-



USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and a U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress lead a formation during during Valiant Shield 2018. (U.S. Navy/MC3 Erwin Miciano)

Pacific.”

The participating forces will exercise a wide range of warfighting capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility and capability of U.S. naval fleet operations and integration of joint forces. The range of capabilities include maritime security operations,

anti-submarine and air-defense exercises, amphibious operations, and other elements of complex warfighting.

In coordination with military medical personnel and public health personnel, every aspect of Valiant Shield 2020 has been analyzed to ensure the appropriate mitigation measures are taken against COVID-19. The planning focused on protecting service members and their families; preventing the spread of the virus to U.S. forces, local residents, allies, or partners; and ensuring warfighting readiness in order to accomplish assigned missions.

since all key areas of development require that governments improve their capacity to mobilize financial resources while managing debt sustainability. And last, ADB will support the efforts of its developing members to secure safe and effective vaccines, and to formulate strategies for equitable delivery. To accomplish this, ADB will continue to strengthen collaboration with the World Health Organization; the World Bank; GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance; vaccine experts; and pharmaceutical companies.

Over two days of online Annual Meeting events, ministers from ADB members, development and industry experts, journalists, and nongovernment

The lessons learned from exercises like Valiant Shield assists U.S. forces in developing regional and global power projection capabilities by integrating warfighting concepts that provide a full range of options to succeed in defense of U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners around the world.

Valiant Shield is a series of military exercises that promote integration among joint forces. Each successive exercise builds on lessons learned from the previous training to enhance complementary capabilities and develop new tactics, techniques, and procedures. This training will provide the deterrence and stabilizing effects of a force-in-being, ready at the outset of a contingency, without the need for force buildup or extensive mission rehearsal.

This is the eighth exercise in the Valiant Shield series that began in 2006.

Media queries regarding Valiant Shield 20 prior to exercise commencement should be directed to the U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office at (808) 471-3769. Contact information for the Valiant Shield Joint Information Bureau will be made available prior to the beginning of the exercise. Imagery and stories regarding Valiant Shield can be found here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/ValiantShield>.

organizations have discussed a range of issues confronting Asia and the Pacific. Other events today included the CNBC Debate, Resetting Asia: Technology, Investment, and Sustainability; and the Governors’ Seminar on Developing Asia Beyond the Pandemic.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

FFA to increase focus on gender equality and social inclusion in Pacific fisheries

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

HONIARA, 16 September 2020 - The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) has announced an initiative to create more focus on gender equality and social inclusion within the region’s tuna fisheries sector.

Announcing the initiative as part of FFA’s new five-year Strategic Plan, FFA Director General, Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen, said while FFA has had gender-related policies in place since 2016, more must be done to ensure women and minority groups can fully participate in the tuna fisheries sector.

“We need to make every effort to understand the specific barriers faced by women and other marginalised demographic groups in the fisheries supply chain, so policies and practices are more intentionally inclusive,” Dr Tupou-Roosen said.

“What’s missing from our tuna fisheries work is regular gender and social inclusion analysis. Without this data, it remains difficult to understand the role and relations of women and minority groups within the broader fisheries supply chain.”

Dr Tupou-Roosen noted that sustainable fisheries are vital for achieving food and nutrition security, alleviating poverty, enhancing economic growth, and delivering social development.

“Data that better quantifies the contributions of women, people with disabilities and other relevant demographic groups will provide a platform for more inclusive policies and decision-making processes. This initiative will enable FFA to influence transformative change in the Pacific region.”

In early September, a workshop on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) was hosted at FFA which involved all employees. The “Walking the Talk” session was aimed at building a common understanding of gender equality and social inclusion within the context of FFA’s work.

“The workshop was very valuable,” said Dr Tupou-Roosen. “It has helped all of us at FFA develop a deeper understanding of how discrimination or bias related to gender and other factors such as age, ethnicity, socio-economic background, religion and disability can prevent certain groups contributing to decision-making or accessing opportunities.”

FFA hopes to support a range of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion training and awareness workshops in future within its Membership countries and the wider regional fisheries sector. The Agency is also planning a Gender Forum in Fisheries in 2021, to develop strategies for greater inclusion.

...ADB partner

Continued from previous page

number of committed operations by 2030.

Fourth, ADB will invest in information technology and data for health; education; financing for micro, small, and medium enterprises; and remote work—while also addressing both the digital divide and cyber security.

Fifth, ADB will help its members strengthen domestic resource mobilization through international tax cooperation,

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Linear measures
- 5. Exchange
- 10. Table support
- 13. Lowest female voice
- 14. Large black bird
- 15. 10-cent coin
- 16. Diplomacy
- 17. Representative
- 18. Wicked
- 19. Increase
- 21. Wobbles
- 23. Plot of ground
- 24. _cotta
- 25. Avarice
- 28. Father
- 29. Female relative
- 33. Clutch
- 34. Play on words
- 35. Companion
- 36. Strange
- 37. Unmarried persons
- 39. How _you?
- 40. Viewing
- 42. Statutes
- 43. Heavenly body
- 44. Trunk of body
- 45. Scarlet
- 46. Strips off rind
- 47. Enticed
- 49. Strike
- 50. Formal discussions
- 53. Fights
- 57. Baking chamber
- 58. Essentials to life
- 60. Strong affection
- 61. Conduct.
- 62. Decree
- 63. Biblical garden
- 64. Be wrong
- 65. Onionlike vegetables
- 66. Lease

DOWN

- 1. End or outcome
- 2. Verve
- 3. Engrave
- 4. Added up
- 5. Expanse of land
- 6. Furious anger
- 7. Hail!
- 8. Made depressions in
- 9. Go in
- 10. Have life
- 11. Moslem ruler
- 12. Solid jellylike substance
- 15. Small part
- 20. Bow head briefly
- 22. Sea eagles
- 24. Snarled
- 25. Apparition
- 26. Cowboy's exhibition
- 27. Senior
- 28. Pester for payment
- 30. Raise spirits of
- 31. Yellowish red
- 32. Water pitchers
- 34. Hog
- 35. Not many
- 37. Animal's muzzle
- 38. Boy
- 41. Manhattan —
- 43. Colonist
- 45. Dwell
- 46. "The — and the Pendulum"
- 48. Make merry
- 49. Stops
- 50. Relief
- 51. Always
- 52. Grizzly —
- 53. Part behind
- 54. Rich ore source
- 55. Level
- 56. Caused to go
- 59. Knot

Word Search - BOXES

All the words in the list are found in the diagram in an unusual way. Each word reads either clockwise or counterclockwise around the edges of a box (sometimes a square and sometimes a rectangle).

- ANTIQUES
- BATHROBE
- BOXING
- CATTAILS
- CHANCERY
- DESERT
- DETAIL
- DETECTIVES
- ELEVATOR
- FAVORITE
- FOOTGEAR
- FOOTPATH
- GALAXY
- GRILLAGE
- HORSECAR
- ICEHOUSE
- KEESHOND
- LIFEBOAT



- LINGUIST
- MARRIAGE
- MOSAIC
- NESTLING
- RHYTHMIC
- ROLLER
- SPARERIB
- SQUEEGEE
- STARRY
- TAILWIND
- TOOLROOM
- TREATY
- TRUSTY
- VOLLEYBALL
- WALLET
- WINGSPAN
- YEOMAN



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PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the College of Micronesia-FSM to construct a FSM Entrepreneurship Initiative; Phase II in Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties.

The project aims to help increase small- and large-scale agriculture production in the FSM by building 4 (four) 23x40 ft. hydroponic greenhouse, which will serve as a training hub to provide business training for farmers interested in starting their hydroponic farms. The project is expected to grow the economic capacity of peasant farmers and address issues of food self-sufficiency in our communities and food security at national level.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen issues of food security worsen and if not anticipated this crisis may have a particularly severe impact on FSM territories that are ever so reliant on imported consumables. This project therefore also hopes to curb the gap at the national stage by following the footsteps of many other countries in mounting special efforts to keep agriculture safely running (or as in our case revive our local agricultural industry) as an essential business, markets well supplied with affordable and nutritious food, and consumers able to access and purchase food despite of movement restrictions and income losses due to the pandemic.

The project will be located at the College of Micronesia-FSM National Campus in Pohnpei, as well as the 3 other state campuses located in Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. Project information is available for review at the Center for Entrepreneurship at the College of Micronesia-FSM National Campus, +691-320-2480 ext. 149 and/or 150.

If you have any information regarding the potential impacts, environmental resources or historic properties associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
US Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174
rdefato@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm eastern on (insert date) will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional office.

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